

49 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

49 Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942
Activated, 15 Jun 1942
Redesignated 49 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 22 Sep 1945

STATIONS

Daniel Field, GA, 15 Jun 1942
Bowman Field, KY, 21 Jun 1942
Florence, SC, 4 Aug 1942
Maxton, NC, 13 Dec 1942-25 Apr 1943
Oujda, French Morocco, 9 May 1943
Kairouan, Tunisia, 16 Jun 1943
Trapani/Milo Airfield, Sicily, 23 Aug 1943-17 Feb 1944
Folkingham, England, 5 Mar 1944
Achiet, France, 6 Mar-5 Aug 1945
Camp Myles Standish, MA, 21-22 Sep 1945

ASSIGNMENTS

313 Transport (later Troop Carrier) Group, 15 Jun 1942-22 Sep 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
C-46, 1945

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Sicily, 11 Jul 1943

France, 16-71 Jun 1944

EMBLEM

On a white disc, border green, a transport aircraft brown, wings and tail green, having the head and forepaws of a cat, face and paws green, grasping in the left forepaw a brown "cat-0-nine tail." The cat symbolizes the swift, fearless out of the air striking power of airborne infantry and paratroops. The particular styling of the large, windowless plane is characteristic of the swift, American designed cargo and troop transport. The cat-0-nine tail carried in the fore paw designates the number of the organization "49". The colors suggest flight during all seasons. (Approved, 13 Jan 1943)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Included airborne assaults on Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Holland, and Germany, and aerial transportation in MTO and ETO.

Reserve pilots and loadmasters from Duke Field, Fla., are cross training to the Dornier C-146 Wolfhound light airlifter and preparing for the stand up a new squadron to operate it, officials announced. A total of six pilots and four loadmasters from Air Force Reserve Command's 5th Special Operations Squadron have thus far completed Wolfhound training at Cannon AFB, N.M. AFRC and Air Force Special Operations Command plan to activate the 49th SOS as a new associate unit to provide aircrew training with the aircraft at Duke. "This is a continuation of what the 5th has been doing for the past seven years" partnering with AFSOC, said Maj. Austin White, 5th SOS

Det. 1 commander in a release. Duke has already received a C-145/C-146 cockpit trainer, according to the release. AFSOC is replacing the smaller Skytruck in the forward special operations support role, and expanding the Wolfhound fleet from 16 to 23 aircraft as part of its overall fleet recap, according to officials at AFA's Air Warfare Symposium in Orlando, Fla. 2015

C-145 Skytrucks began departing Air Force Reserve Command's 919th Special Operations Wing flight line at Duke Field, Fla., for the boneyard last month. Duke will retain five aircraft for its Aviation Foreign Internal Defense mission, retiring the rest of the 16-strong fleet through August. The slimmed-fleet will ensure air advisors "stay current in an aircraft" while Air Force Special Operations Command plans to lease AvFID aircraft more tailored to the specific capacity-building needs of partner air forces. "It's cheaper to do that ... the chances you're going to buy the right airplane for the country you're going to work with was pretty slim," AFSOC Commander Lt. Gen Bradley Heithold explained earlier this year. Duke plans to stand up a new squadron, the 49th SOS, this fall to take on a new non-standard aviation mission flying the larger Dornier C-146 Wolfhound. 2015

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.