

52 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

52 Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942

Activated, 15 Jun 1942

Redesignated 52 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942

Disbanded, 14 Apr 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 52 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 9 May 1951

Redesignated 52 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 19 Mar 1953

Activated, 20 Jun 1953

Redesignated 52 Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966

Inactivated, 8 Feb 1969

Activated, 1 Jun 1988

Redesignated 52 Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1992

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1992

Activated, 1 May 1994

INACTIVATED 16 SEP 1997

STATIONS

Camp Williams, WI, 15 Jun 1942

Dodd Field, TX, 17 Sep 1942

Stuttgart, AR, 18 Nov 1942

Victorville, CA, 25 Dec 1942
Lawson Field, GA, 5 May 1943
Grenada AAFld, MS, 3 Jun 1943
Sedalia AAFld, MO, c. 19 Jan-14 Apr 1944
Floyd Bennett NAS, NY, 27 Jun 1949-9 May 1951
Altus AFB, OK, 20 Jun 1953
Donaldson AFB, SC, 15 Oct 1953
Hunter AFB, GA, 30 Jun 1963
Dover AFB, DE, 8 Jan 1967-8 Feb 1969
Norton AFB, CA, 1 Jun 1988-30 Sep 1992
Moody AFB, GA, 1 May 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 29 Jan-1 Aug 1960-8 Feb 1969

ASSIGNMENTS

63 Transport (later, 63rd Troop Carrier) Group, 15 Jun 1942-14 Apr 1944
63 Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-9 May 1951
63 Troop Carrier Group, 20 Jun 1953
63 Troop Carrier (later, 63rd Military Airlift) Wing, 18 Jan 1963
436 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1967-8 Feb 1969
63 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jun 1988
63 Operations Group, 1 Jan-30 Sep 1992
347 Operations Group, 1 May 1994

ATTACHMENTS

322 Air Division, 29 Jan-1 Aug 1960 and Jan 1962 to 8 Feb 1969

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DC-3, 1942
C-39, 1942
C-53, 1942
C-47, 1942
T-6, 1949
T-7, 1949
T-11, 1949
C-47, 1949
C-124, 1953
C-141, 1988

COMMANDERS

Maj Joseph W. Paul, 15 Jun 1942
Maj Charles W. Smith, 7 Jul 1942
Capt R. G. Delaney, 5 Feb 1943

Capt J. D. Kausel, 7 Jun 1943
1Lt Thomas H. Wheat, 21 Nov 1943-14 Apr 1944
Lt Col Otto Krumbach, 1949-Unkn
Unkn, 20 Jun 1953-Dec 1954
Lt Col Cadman V. Padgett, By 31 Dec 1954
Lt Col Cicero J. Ellen Jr., 1955
Maj Raymond J. Daugherty, Apr 1959
Lt Col Harold E. Krout, 1960
Lt Col Ned G. Munsey, 1960
Lt Col Sydney G. Smith, 3 Apr 1961-Unkn
Lt Col William T. Johnson, 12 Mar 1962
Lt Col Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 17 Jan 1962
Lt Col James S. Liptak, 1962
Lt Col William T. Johnson, 4 May 1963
Lt Col Ned G. Munsey, 14 Oct 1963
Lt Col Sydney G. Smith, C. 1964
Lt Col Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 29 Aug 1964
Lt Col James S. Liptak, 17 Feb 1965
Lt Col Carl J. Roeser, 22 Jul 1965
Lt Col Kenneth D. Johnson, 11 Jan 1966
Lt Col Edward F. Mcduffie, 1 Jul 1966
Lt Col Lawrence R. Hileman, 1 Dec 1966
Lt Col David B. Smith, 21 Jan 1967
Lt Col Edwin W. Gramkow, 8 Jul 1968-8 Feb 1969
Lt Col James S. Parker, 1 Jun 1988
Lt Col Jack S. Peters, 7 Jun 1990 (Acting)
Lt Col Mark A. Volcheff, 27 Jun 1990-30 Sep 1992
Lt Col Gregory A. Bricker, 1 May 1994
Lt Col Mark H. Fritzsche, 1 Aug 1996-16 Sep 1997
Lt Col Jason Terry
Lt Col Patrick L. Schlichenmeyer

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

2 Mar-31 May 1955

1 Jul 1957-10 Dec 1962

2 Oct-12 Nov 1958

8 Jul-1 Aug 1960

1 Sep 1962-15 Apr 1963

20-28 Nov 1964

1 May-13 Jun 1967

13 Nov-18 Dec 1967

1 Jan 1990- 30 Apr 1991

1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966- 8 Feb 1969

EMBLEM



On a White disc, bordered Green, a kangaroo proper, wearing Black boxing gloves on forepaws,

carrying three young kangaroos in pouch, wearing Green helmets and carrying a Black gun with fixed bayonet, revolver, and "tommy" gun respectively from right to left. (Approved, 14 May 1943)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Replacement training, 1943-1944.

Worldwide Airlift, 1953-1969.

Supported Project Deep Freeze in the Antarctic, 1956-1958.

Eight of the wing's C-124s were specially equipped to support "Operation DEEP FREEZE", beginning in September 1956. All eight planes were named for particular states or cities and were operated from Christchurch, New Zealand. They flew to McMurdo Sound to pick up their cargoes and air dropped them at the South Pole. The first drop took place on November 2, and was accomplished from a 52 TCS Globemaster II named "State of Oregon" (Serial No. 52-1015). Among the items dropped during these support flights was a 7-ton Caterpillar tractor, which landed intact and allowed the tractor to be put to immediate good use.

The squadron participated in Exercise COLD WINTER, which was conducted from 20 February to 15 March 1967. This was a four-nation training exercise held in Northern Norway. Between February 19th and 26th, the squadron flew six missions in the deployment phase to Bodo and Bardufoss, Norway. The squadron flew an additional six missions in March during the redeployment phase. The squadron also flew six missions in support of the deployment phase of Exercise GREEN GRASS during the month, as well.

Between 26 August and 16 September 1967, the 436th MAW's 31st MAS and 52 MAS participated in Exercise SUNSHINE EXPRESS. 48 C-124 missions were flown.

In December 1968, the squadron's C-124 crews flew 53 missions in support of operation PATHFINDER EXPRESS II. In January 1969, 12 Globemaster II missions were flown in support of REFORGER/CRESTED CAP I. The unit disbanded during the same month, the aircraft departing Rhein Main in groups of four and the last aircraft leaving on the 19th.

Worldwide airlift, 1988- 1992, including airdrop of troops and equipment in Operation JUST CAUSE in Panama on 20 Dec 1989.

20 February 1989 C-141B Starlifter, *66-0150* crashed in stormy weather four miles N of Hurlburt Field, Florida while trying to land, killing seven crew and one military retiree. The plane's crewmen were identified as Capt. Mark J. Chambers, 30; Capt. John F. Young, 30; Master Sgt. Robert E. Wright Jr., 37; Tech. Sgt. Ronald D. Grubbs, 29; Staff Sgt. Karl M. Kohler, 32; Airman 1st Class Scott D. Craig, 22; Staff Sgt. John W. Remerscheid, 33. Remerscheid was assigned to

the 14th Military Airlift Squadron at Norton. The others were assigned to the 52 Military Airlift Squadron. The eighth man on board was identified by Hurlburt Field spokeswoman as retired Air Force Capt. John G. Galvin of Jacksonville, Florida.

52 Airlift Squadron participated in Joint Airlift/Air Transportability Training with 82d Airborne Division at Pope AFB, NC, Jan 96.

52 Airlift Squadron deployed aircraft and personnel to Prince Sultan Ab and Ceeb, Oman, in support of Osw, 7 Oct 96 through 10 Jan 97.

52 Airlift Squadron competed in Big Drop III (airdrop portion of Combined Joint Task Force Exercise) at Myrtle Beach International Airport, SC.

The Combat 'Roos are back in the fight, said former commander Lt. Col. Carlos Ortiz in his speech which was given during the 52 Airlift Squadron's stand up ceremony in October of 2009. But the 'Roos aren't just back, they're back with a vengeance. After only two years and with numerous deployments and accomplishments under their belts, the 52 Airlift Squadron became fully operational on Oct. 1, 2011.

On Oct. 3, 2009 a second flying squadron joined the ranks of the 302nd Airlift Wing, bringing an Air Force active duty/reserve association to Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The association between the active duty's 52 AS and the Air Force Reserve's 302nd AW is the ninth association for the Air Force that fuses together active duty and Guard or Reserve wings, maintaining, and flying the same aircraft, working towards one common goal, "Global Reach."

The 52 AS is now under the command of Lt. Col. Patrick Schlichenmeyer and fully manned and fully operational. With the guidance of the 302nd Airlift Wing, the 52 AS has been able to lead or tie almost every statistic measured, said Schlichenmeyer. "We have not only met but we have exceeded goals set forth, we have deployed eight months ahead of schedule, we actually have three combat deployments under our belts and one on the horizon," said Schlichenmeyer. "Because of Total Force Integration, we have the best maintenance in AFRC [Air Force Reserve Command], they've achieved three Black Letter Aircraft, and we have one of the best ops in the C-130 world," said Schlichenmeyer.

"With the experience that the Reserve brings to the table, we are able to upgrade our crews faster, fly more hours and prepare to deploy at a greater rate," he added. Describing the 52 AS and 302nd AW partnership Schlichenmeyer said, "This association is a Reserve wing taking on the active duty, treating us as their own, embedding personnel into a seamless work force, working together towards our nation's goals and objectives." While working to achieve fully operational status, a new C-130 squadron operations workspace to support the association is under construction.

The Total Force campus at Peterson AFB. A \$5.8 million, 11,000 square foot facility is slated to open in the spring of 2012 and will house both the active duty's 52 AS and Air Force Reserve's 731st AS, providing them with a common work area to facilitate operations and training, completing the Total Force Integration between the units. "You get the experience of the Reserve wing and the flexibility of an active duty wing, that's a combination you can't beat," said Schlichenmeyer 2011

The 52 Airlift Squadron and Air Force Reserve Command's 731st AS cemented their units' association at Peterson AFB, Colo., with the opening of a new, shared operations building. The 12,500 square-foot, \$5.6 million facility will host maintenance and administration for the units' 12 jointly operated C-130H airlifters, according to a Peterson release. "From day one, the 52 AS pulled together, and since then we've been through combat together and we've been inspected together," said Col. Jay Pittman, commander of AFRC's 302nd Airlift Wing, parent unit of the 731st AS, at the facility's July 17 ribbon cutting. "This building is really going to be the icing on the cake. It's the last piece we need to look like a long-term, professional organization," added Pittman. The building's groundbreaking took place in February 2011. The 52 AS stood up in 2009 to partner with the 302nd AW, which owns the 12 C-130s, under an active association. The squadron falls under the 19th AW at Little Rock AFB, Ark. 2012

With a snip of the ceremonial scissors, Air Force Reserve and active duty Airmen ushered in the opening of a new total force C-130 Hercules operations facility July 17 here. The new \$5.6 million facility is the next milestone in the 302nd Airlift Wing's integration with the active duty 52 Airlift Squadron. The 12,500-square-foot building will house both the 52 AS and the Air Force Reserve's 731st Airlift Squadron under one roof.

The two squadrons, as well as C-130 aircraft maintenance, merged under the Air Force's Total Force Integration program. Known as 'TFI,' the integration allows active duty, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve organizations to make more efficient use of facilities, personnel and aircraft. For the 52 AS and 302nd AW, that means performing both training and real-world airlift and airdrop missions together as well as matching maintenance personnel to maintain the wing's 12 tactical airlift aircraft. Officiating the historic moment, leaders from both the Air Force Reserve and Air Mobility Command took center stage to cut the red ribbon. Grasping the scissors, Col. Jay Pittman, the 302nd AW commander here, and Col. Brian Robinson, the 19th AW commander from Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark., sliced through the ribbon, marking the official opening of the facility.

Just before the ribbon cutting, Pittman stood in front of the audience, highlighting the significance of the day's event. "We've been waiting over a year for this building to be finished. It's been worth the wait and this is a fabulous facility," Pittman said. "I love talking about this TFI; I believe in it and I'm passionate about it. "From day one, the 52 AS pulled together, and since then we've been through combat together and we've been inspected together," he said. "This building is really going to be the icing on the cake. It's the last piece we need to look like a long-term, professional organization. We used to call this (area) the Reserve campus; this is now the TFI campus." Pittman pointed out some of the highlights of the new facility, including a 200-seat auditorium, which he said was necessary for the many organizations looking for adequate space on Peterson Air Force Base. The colonel said he was also excited to see continued improvements in the area, with a newly-landscaped courtyard, lighting and a partially-covered area.

"This campus is going to be the showcase of the Air Force Reserve Command and the TFI community at large," he said. Mirroring the active duty relationship with their Air Force Reserve counterparts here, Robinson also spoke highly of the TFI partnership. "I can tell you that Colonel Pittman has the same amount of enthusiasm about this project that he had over our

very first phone call," Robinson said. "I just want to say thanks to all the organizations out here that have taken care of the 52 AS. You know, I don't worry about this unit at all. Everyone here is committed to success and they're doing it right." The 52 AS, which first activated in October 2009, has seen its share of combat deployments. The squadron has deployed several times, supporting tactical airlift and airdrop operations throughout Southwest Asia. The squadron achieved full operational capability in late 2011 as its end strength reached approximately 200 Airmen. 2012

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.