

53rd AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

53rd Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942
Activated, 1 Jun 1942
Redesignated 53rd Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1945
Activated, 30 Sep 1946
Redesignated 53rd Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Jul 1948
Redesignated 53rd Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 15 Aug 1948
Redesignated 53rd Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966
Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Jul 1966
Activated, 8 Jan 1972
Redesignated 53rd Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1992
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1993
Activated, 1 Oct 1993

STATIONS

Pope Field, NC, 1 Jun 1942-3 May 1943
Lourmel, Algeria, 15 May 1943
Kairouan, Tunisia, Jun 1943
Licata, Sicily, 6 Aug 1943
Sicacca, Sicily, 6 Oct 1943-12 Feb 1944

Barkston, England, 18 Feb 1944
Abbeville, France, 13 Mar-18 May 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, 29 May-31 Jul 1945
Orly Field, France, 30 Sep 1946
Eschborn AB, Germany, 14 Dec 1946
Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 8 Aug 1947
Templehof AB, Germany, 20 Jan 1948
Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 22 Apr 1948-21 Jul 1950
McChord AFB, WA, 26 Jul-12 Dec 1950
Ashiya AB, Japan, 13 Dec 1950
Johnson AB, Japan, 13 Sep-18 Nov 1952
Larson AFB, WA, 21 Nov 1952
Donaldson AFB, SC, 21 Aug 1954
Hunter AFB, GA, 1 Apr 1963-8 Jul 1966
Norton AFB, CA, 8 Jan 1972-30 Apr 1993
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Oct 1993

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Rhein-Main AB, Germany, Aug 1958-Feb 1959, Feb-Jul 1960, and 5 Jan 1961-Apr 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

61st Transport (later, 61st Troop Carrier) Group, 1 Jun 1942-31 Jul 1945
61st Troop Carrier Group, 30 Sep 1946
63rd Troop Carrier Group, 8 Oct 1959
63rd Troop Carrier (later, 63rd Military Airlift) Wing, 18 Jan 1963-8 Jul 1966
63rd Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1972
63rd Military Airlift Group, 1 Oct 1978
63rd Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1980
63rd Operations Group, 1 Jan 1992-30 Apr 1993
314th Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

ATTACHMENTS

Airlift Task Force, Provisional, Aug 1958-Feb 1959, Feb-Jul 1960, and 5 Jan 1961-Apr 1962

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
C-47A
C-47, 1946-1948
C-54, 1948-1952
C-54D
C-124, 1952-1966
C-124A
C-124C
C-141, 1972-1993

COMMANDERS

2Lt Glen A. Myers, 1 Jun 1942
Cpt Richard P. Carr, 2 Jul 1942
Cpt S. W. Tobiason, 22 Oct 1942
Cpt Howard M. Betts, 10 Jan 1943
Maj Charles L. Haruff, 24 Oct 1944
1Lt Harry W. Know Jr., 1-31 Jul 1945
Maj Ralph P. Gentry, 5 Sep 1947-unkn
Maj Albert H. Schneider, 1 Aug 1948
Maj William B. Colson, 9 Aug 1949
LTC Andrew E. McDavid, 3 Oct 1949
Maj Arthur L. Ethridge Jr., 1 Aug 1951
LTC Andrew E. McDavid, Oct 1951-unkn
LTC John A. Briggs, c. Feb 1952-unkn
LTC Ernest W. Burton, unkn-unkn
LTC Robert E. Harrington, unkn-Oct 1952
Maj Frank E. Tarasko, Oct 1952
LTC Norman R. Crosson, 1955
Maj Dan L. Collie, 1956
Maj Dixon J. Arnold, 1957
Maj Lawrence F. Uebel, 1958
Maj James S. Liptak, Apr 1959
LTC Sidney G. Smith, Mar 1960
LTC William E. Kunz, Jun-c. 20 Dec 1960
LTC Donald L. Brooks, Dec 1960-unkn
LTC Sidney G. Smith, 23 Jan 1961
LTC Donald L. Brooks, 3 Apr 1961
LTC David B. Smith, 20 Jul 1961
LTC William T. Johnson, 12 Mar 1962
LTC Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 17 Jun 1962-unkn
LTC Sidney G. Smith, Jun 1962
LTC W. Daniels, Jan 1963
LTC Sidney G. Smith, Apr 1963
LTC James S. Liptak, 1964
LTC Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 1964
LTC James S. Liptak, 1965
LTC Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 17 Feb 1965
LTC Gerald Linscheid, 1965-1966
LTC George B. Powers, 8 Jan 1972
LTC Frederick L. Breitingner, 27 Jun 1973
LTC Allan R. Christensen, 9 Apr 1975
LTC William J. Roth Jr., 2 Jul 1976
LTC Donald G. Lawson, 1 Nov 1976

LTC Herbert K. Bevelhymmer, 26 Mar 1979
LTC Albert W. Estes, 17 Aug 1981
LTC Allen A. Pichon, 26 Jul 1982
LTC Robert D. Geeman, 21 Feb 1984
LTC Leonard C. Lyle Jr., 20 Jun 1986
LTC Arthur S. Irwin, 1 Jul 1987
LTC Robert M. Zeluff, 1 Mar 1989
LTC Gary L. Pudwill, 16 Nov 1990
LTC William H. Mills, 17 Jun 1991-30 Apr 1993
LTC Keith A. Feigh, 1 Oct 1993
LTC Leslie L. Chapman, 25 Aug 1994
LTC John A. Tappan, 29 May 1996
LTC Dale D. Wyant, 29 May 1997
LTC John C. Sleight, 20 Nov 1998
LTC Carl E. McDaniel Jr., 27 Jul 2000
LTC Jeffrey Hoffer, 10 Nov 2001
LTC Brian E. O'Connor, 15 Nov 2002
LTC Paul M. Kucharek, 27 May 2004
LTC Thomas C. Gilster, 2 Jun 2006-11 Jan 2008
LTC Sean S. Bordenave, 16 May 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Korea
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Sicily, 11 Jul 1943

France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Korea, 13 Dec 1950-21 Apr 1951

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1957-10 Dec 1962

1 Jun 1978-31 May 1980

1 Jan-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan- 31 Dec 1987

1 Jan 1990-30 Apr 1991

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-31 Mar 1997

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

1 Jul 1951-18 Nov 1952

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-[8 Jul 1966]

EMBLEM





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MOTTO

PRIMUS CUM PLURIMI-First with the Most

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

World War II: Included airborne assaults on Sicily, Normandy, Holland, and Germany; aerial transportation in MTO and ETO. Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949.

Korean War: Aerial transportation from US to Japan, Aug-Dec 1950, and between Japan and Korea, 13 Dec 1950-Nov 1952. Airlift, 1953-1966, including resupply to the Antarctic, (Project Deep Freeze), 1957-1958, and missions to Southeast Asia during the conflict in Vietnam.

Worldwide airlift, 1972-1993, into Grenada, 23 Oct-9 Nov 1983, during the invasion of Panama, 20 Dec 1989, and to Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Jun 1991.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Sep 2010

Updated: 28 Aug 2016

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Larson AFB, WA, 62 Troop Carrier Wing, 1953*. Army and Navy Publishing Company. Baton Rouge, LA. 1953.