

57th WEAPONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

57th Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 12 Nov 1942

Activated, 18 Nov 1942

Inactivated, 25 Mar 1946

Activated in the Reserve, 3 Aug 1947

Redesignated 57th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 27 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 15 Oct 1950

Inactivated, 14 Jul 1952

Activated in the Reserve, 14 Jul 1952

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1954

Redesignated 57th Military Airlift Squadron, Training and activated, 27 Dec 1965

Organized, 8 Jan 1966

Redesignated 57th Airlift Squadron, 27 Aug 1991

Inactivated, 30 Sep 2001

Redesignated 57th Weapons Squadron, 30 May 2003

Activated, 1 Jun 2003

STATIONS

Bowman Field, KY, 18 Nov 1942

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 23 Jan 1943

Laurinburg-Maxton AAB, NC, 5 May 1943

Baer Field, IN, 3-17 Jun 1943

Port Moresby, New Guinea, 29 Jun 1943

Dobodura, New Guinea, 2 Aug 1943
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 20 Dec 1943
Nadzab, New Guinea, 22 Apr 1944
Biak, 23 Sep 1944 (operated from Peleliu, 9-26 Jan 1945)
San Jose, Mindoro, 18 Feb 1945
Porac, Luzon, 20 May 1945
Okinawa, 20 Aug 1945
Tachikawa, Japan, 20 Sep 1945-25 Mar 1946
Greater Pittsburgh Apt, PA, 3 Aug 1947
Greenville (later, Donaldson) AFB, SC, 16 Oct 1950-14 Jul 1952
Pittsburgh, PA, 14 Jul 1952-1 Apr 1954
Tinker AFB, OK, 8 Jan 1966
Altus AFB, OK, 21 Apr 1969-30 Sep 2001
McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Jun 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

375th Troop Carrier Group, 18 Nov 1942-25 Mar 1946
375th Troop Carrier Group, 3 Aug 1947-14 Jul 1952
375th Troop Carrier Group, 14 Jul 1952-1 Apr 1954
443rd Military Airlift (later, 443rd Airlift) Wing, 8 Jan 1966
443rd Operations Group, 1 Oct 1991
97th Operations Group, 1 Oct 1992-30 Sep 2001
USAF Mobility Weapons School, 1 Jun 2003

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
B-17, 1944
C-46, 1944-1946
C-46, 1947-1950
C-82, 1950-1952
C-46, 1953-1954
C-141, 1966-2001
C-46D
C-82A

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 18-19 Nov 1942
Cpt Lucian N. Powell, 20 Nov 1942
1Lt Benjamin C. King, 22 Mar 1943
Cpt James C. Smith, 27 Nov 1944
Cpt Fred M. Starr, 24 Jun 1945
Unkn Maj George F. Swearingen, 3 Aug 1947
Maj James M. Thomas, 20 May 1949
Cpt George Kacsuta, 15 Oct 1950

Maj Earl J. Smith, 7 Nov 1950
Cpt Robert W. Smith, Dec 1951-unkn
Unkn, 14 Jul 1952-1 Apr 1954
LTC Therman C. Weir, 8 Jan 1966
Col Roger P. Larivee, 11 Oct 1966
LTC Ralph D. Haaf, 1 Aug 1968
LTC Thomas J. Overton, 28 Nov 1969
LTC Barney J. Milner, 31 Dec 1970
LTC Kenneth E. Klein, 1 Dec 1971
LTC Leonard W. Dasbach, 23 Nov 1972
LTC Richard L. Davis, 24 May 1973
LTC Roy B. Dille Jr., 20 May 1974
LTC Gary S. Baker, 2 Feb 1976
LTC Francis J. Almeter, 2 Jul 1976
LTC Joseph L. Bergeron, 13 Feb 1978
LTC Carleton R. Philbrick, 9 Apr 1979
LTC Larry R. Winchell, 25 Aug 1980
LTC John C. Tait, 26 May 1981
LTC Bobby O. Floyd, 14 Jul 1982
LTC James C. Schaffer, 1 Jun 1984
LTC Richard B. Bundy, 27 Jun 1986
LTC Martin D. Amelung, 4 Apr 1988
LTC Robert A. Saunders, 27 Mar 1990
LTC Stephen B. Frye, 15 Jun 1992
LTC Mark C. Wido, 18 Jun 1993
LTC John H. Christ, 23 Jun 1994
LTC Russell J. Deluca, 13 Jun 1995
LTC Frederick H. Martin, 31 Mar 1997
LTC Bruce E. Card, 30 Jun 1998
LTC Richard J. Walberg, 3 Apr 2000-30 Sep 2001
Lt Col Richard J. Walberg, 3 Apr 2000-30 Sep 2001
Lt Col John J. Sullivan, 1 Jun 2003
Lt Col John J. Roscoe, 27 Jun 2005
Lt Col Walter C. Daniels, II, 2 Jul 2007
Lt Col Christopher B. Collett,
Lt Col Brian J. Wald

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Japan
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
Ryukyus

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr 1967-31 Mar 1969

1 Apr 1970-31 Mar 1972

1 Jul 1979-30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2000-[30 Sep 2001]

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



Azure, a pair of wings Or, garnished Gold Brown surmounted by two arrows saltwise of the like, overall a torch of the third flamant Proper fimbriated Argent, all between in base three double mullets, Yellow offset on White, each issuing a four lined contrail arcing to the flame of the torch of the last; all within an inner bordure Or and an outer diminished bordure of the first.

(Approved, May 1966)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Aerial transportation in Southwest and Western Pacific during World War II; airborne assault on Nadzab, New Guinea, 5 Sep 1945.

Our squadron was activated on November 18, 1942 at Bowman Field, KY as the 57th Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS)(In New Guinea the squadron was named "Biscuit Bomber). It was originally equipped with C-47 aircraft. Additional training followed in 1943 at Sedalia Army Air Field, MO, and Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base, NC.

The squadron experienced its first accident on March 10 when a glider, practicing night landings, cut loose too soon, hit a tree and crashed. The pilot and co-pilot were seriously injured and the mechanic was killed. The squadron received its final training at Baer Field, IN.

On June 14, the air echelon (part of 375th Troop Carrier Group - Tokyo Trolley) flew to Port Moresby, New Guinea, (5th AF and 54th Troop Carrier WG) arriving there June 29, 1943. The ground echelon left Baer Field on June 17 and arrived at Port Moresby on July 31. After arriving in New Guinea the squadron received the name "Biscuit Bomber. The 57th TCS moved on Aug. 2 to Dobodura, New Guinea and two days later flew the first mission to Salamaua. On September 2, nine of the 57th's planes dropped 90,000 pounds of ammunition, food and

equipment to allied troops in the area. Until December 23, 1943, the unit made flights to several locations in New Guinea, as well as Port Moresby and Australia. After October 16, the air echelon operated from Port Moresby, with the rest of the squadron moving there on December 20, 1943.

In addition to C-47s, the squadron flew a B-17F from February to May 1944 on long-range missions. On April 8, 1944, the 57th flew personnel and equipment from Guadalcanal to forward bases at Munda and Dobodura. The unit supported the invasion of Noemfoor Island on July 2 and on September 23, moved to Biak Island. They made the first trip to Morotai Island on October 5, carrying supplies forward and returning with litter patients.

An additional mission took them to Leyte, Philippine Islands on October 31 to haul supplies to the beachhead and return wounded to hospitals. In January 1945 the unit began the transition to C-46 aircraft. It also moved to San Jose, Mindoro, Philippine Islands, on Feb. 18; then to Porac, Luzon on May 19. C-46s flew from Clark Field, 15 miles from the squadron's camp. On June 16, 1945, the 57th TCS made its first flight to Okinawa, the destination of most missions for the next two months.

The war ended shortly after the move to Clark Field in August and the 57th was used to help transport the 11th Airborne Division to Okinawa. September 20 brought another move, this time to Tachikawa AB near Tokyo. Operations continued in Japan until January 21, 1946 when the last of the personnel and equipment transferred to other organizations. The 57th Troop Carrier Squadron inactivated on March 25, 1946.

The 57th activated in the Reserve at Greater Pittsburgh Airport, PA, as part of the 375th Troop Carrier Group. The Reservists trained in the C-46 operations until the unit was reactivated on October 15, 1950. Immediately, the unit moved to Greenville (later, Donaldson) AFB, SC, and began flying C-82 aircraft on operational troop carrier missions in November 1950.

Between February 20 and April 11, 1952, the unit operated on temporary duty from Brownswood Municipal Airport, TX, in support of Army maneuvers. On July 14, 1952, the 57th TCS inactivated at Donaldson AFB and activated in the Reserve at Pittsburgh, PA, with new personnel and equipment. The squadron did little training and inactivated on April 1, 1954.

Redesignated 57th Military Airlift Squadron (MAS), Training, the squadron was activated at Tinker AFB OK, on 8 January 1966 while also absorbing the men and equipment of the 1741st Air Transport Squadron.

The 57th MAS trained aircrew members (Pilots, Navigators, Flight Engineers and Loadmasters) to fly the new C-141 turbo-jet transport. They frequently carried cargo and passengers to destinations within the United States on the training flights. The unit also transported cargo and passengers overseas to Japan, Germany, Guam, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and Alaska, usually on weekend missions. In later years, additional destinations included Egypt, Korea, Italy, the Philippines, Spain and Africa.

On April 21, 1969, the squadron relocated to Altus AFB OK. From there, the squadron took part in numerous humanitarian and operational missions. The squadron regularly flew to Southwest Asia in support of U.S. forces there. Crews and aircraft flew in the Israeli airlift, October-November 1973. In 1975, the 57th flew its first mission to South America. Occasionally the 57th supported the U.S. Army with airdrop missions of paratroopers and supplies.

In December 1979, the unit received the Air Force's first C-141B, and it was given the name "the City of Altus." In addition to the stretched fuselage, the aircraft was modified for air refueling capabilities. The squadron also supported the Commander in Chief, Military Airlift Command and his staff in the late 1970s and early 80s.

Airlift missions to Beirut, Lebanon began in August 1983, in support of peacekeeping forces there. During Desert Shield, Desert Storm, 32 aircrews from the squadron flew more than 4,300 hours on 640 sorties. Additionally, the squadron flew more than 200 sorties and transported more than 3,100 tons of food and supplies in support of the Somalia relief efforts during Operation Restore Hope.

In April 1993, with the transfer of 285 flightline maintenance personnel to the 57th AS, the squadron combined aircrew operations with maintenance operations to form the largest combined maintenance and aircrew operational C-141B squadron in the Air Force.

On 28 July 2001 AETC inactivated the 57th Airlift Squadron at Altus AFB, Oklahoma, which at that time was the Air Force's sole source for initial qualification and upgrade training for the C-141. An Air Force Reserve Command unit would assume responsibility for this mission in the future.

Redesignated 57th Weapons Squadron (WPS) on 30 May 2003 and activated on 1 June 2003 at McGuire AFB, NJ. The 57th WPS would provide graduate-level instructor academic and flying courses to C-17 crew members.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 19 Nov 2010
Updated: 16 Sep 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.