

63rd AIR EXPEDITIONARY WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

63rd Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 9 May 1951

Redesignated 63rd Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy, 18 Dec 1952

Activated, 8 Jan 1953

Redesignated 63rd Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966

Redesignated 63rd Airlift Wing

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1994

Redesignated 63rd Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, 12 Jun 2002. Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 12 Jun 2002

STATIONS

Floyd Bennett NAS, NY, 27 Jun 1949-9 May 1951

Altus Muni Aprt (later, AFB), OK, 8 Jan 1953

Donaldson AFB, SC, 15 Oct 1953

Hunter AFB, GA, 1 Apr 1963

Norton AFB, CA, 1 Apr 1967

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-9 May 1951

Eighteenth Air Force, 8 Jan 1953

Continental Division, Military Air Transport Service (later, Western Transport Air Force), 1 Jul 1957

Eastern Transport Air Force (later, Twenty-First Air Force), 1 Oct 1958

Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1967-

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993-1 Apr 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

T-6, 1949

T-7, 1949

T-II, 1949

C-A1, 1949

C-119, 1953

C-124, 1953

H-19, 1954

H-21, 1956

C-141, 1967

COMMANDERS

BG Robert L. Copsey, Jun 1949

Col Clayton Stiles, 9 Sep 1950-May 1951

BG Glynne M. Jones, 8 Jan 1953

Col Eston E. Selvey, Jan 1953

BG Glynne M. Jones, Mar 1953

BG Edgar W. Hampton, Feb 1955

Col Chester C. Moomaw, Sep 1958

BG Andrew B. Cannon, 15 Sep 1958

Col Roland J. Barnick, 29 Sep 1961

Col Leland W. Johnson, 24 Jun 1964

Col Gilbert L. Curtis, 8 Jul 1964

Col Lopez J. Mantoux, 7 Apr 1966

Col James A. Evans, Jr., 4 Nov 1966

BG Gilbert L. Curtis, 1 Apr 1967

BG Louis G. Griffin, 6 Jul 1968

BG John F. Gonge, 1 Feb 1970

BG Lester T. Kearney, Jr., 28 Feb 1971

BG Erskine Wigley, 12 Mar 1973

BG Benjamin F. Starr, Jr., 15 Aug 1974

BG William E. Carson, 15 Jul 1975

BG George B. Powers, Jr., 9 Jul 1976

Col John D. Hopper, Jr., 1993

Col Gary R. Underwood, 17 Dec 1993-31 Mar 1994

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

2 Mar-31 May 1955

1 Jul 1957-10 Dec 1962

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971

1 Jun 1978-31 May 1980

1 Jan-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan-31 Dec 1987

1 Jan 1990-30 Apr 1991

EMBLEM



On a light blue shield with a green embattled base, a red lightning flash striking from upper right corner and crossing the corner of one embattlement and a white parachute with shroud lines touching the tip of the flash; above the parachute three white aircraft, on the green base a circle of six yellow stars at the left and a triangle of three yellow stars. (Approved, 2 Oct 1953)

MOTTO

OMNIA UBIQUE SEMPER—Anything, anywhere, anytime

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained in the Reserve, 1949-1951, performed limited troop carrier operations from mid-1950 until ordered to active service and inactivated in 1951.

While wing stationed at Altus AFB, Okla, tactical components underwent C-124 training, Jun-Oct 1953.

Performed global airlift missions, including occasional humanitarian or mercy missions, using C-124s as primary carriers Oct 1953-Mar 1967, but also using C-119s, 1953-1954, and helicopters, 1954-1957.

Switched to C-141s as primary aircraft in Apr 1967, upon moving to Norton AFB, Calif.

Among the wing's notable operations were airlifts and airdrops in the North American arctic during construction and subsequent operation of the distant early warning (DEW) line, 1954-1956, and on floating ice islands in support of scientific stations in the Arctic Ocean, 1957-1966; airlift and airdrop support in the Antarctic in support of the Navy's Operation Deep Freeze, 1956-1966; maintenance of a complete tactical squadron on rotation in Europe, Aug 1956-Jan 1967; airlift missions to the Far East and Southeast Asia during the Southeast Asia conflict, 1967-1973; evacuation of former American prisoners of war from North Vietnam (Operation Homecoming) in early 1973; and support of airlift of Vietnam refugees from their homeland to the United States (Operation New Life) in 1975.

From 1976 until wing inactivated in 1994, commanded airlift and supporting units to airlift troops, cargo, equipment, passengers, mail and aeromedical evacuation/airlift to and from areas around the world.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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

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