

76 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

76 Ferrying Squadron (Special) constituted, 30 Jan 1943

Activated, 8 Feb 1943

Redesignated 76 Transport Transition Squadron, 4 Jun 1943

Disbanded, 31 Mar 1944

Reconstituted and redesignated 76 Air Transport Squadron, Medium, 20 Jun 1952

Activated, 20 Jul 1952

Redesignated 76 Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966

Redesignated 76 Airlift Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Homestead AAB, FL, 8 Feb 1943-31 Mar 1944

Kelly AFB, TX, 20 Jul 1952

Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Feb 1956-1 Oct 1993

Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Oct 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

2 Operational Training Unit, 8 Feb 1943-31 Mar 1944

1700 Air Transport Group, 20 Jul 1952

1608 Air Transport Group, 1 Feb 1956

1608 Air Transport Wing, 18 Jan 1963

437 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966
437 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1991
86 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

WEAPONS SYSTEMS

C-46, 1943
C-49, 1943
AT-17, 1943
C-54, 1943-1944
C-60, 1943-1944
C-87, 1943-1944
B-24, 1943-1944
C-54, 1952-1956
C-121, 1956-1963
C-130, 1963-1966
C-141, 1966

COMMANDERS

Maj Fred F. May, #1957
LTC William J. Senser, Jr

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jan 1963-1 Feb 1964
11 Jul 1966- 10 Jul 1967
11 Jul 1967-10 Jul 1968
11 Jul 1968-12 Jun 1969
13 Jun 1969- 12 Jun 1970
1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1984- 30 Jun 1986
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1989
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1990
21 Sep 1989-31 Oct 1989

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966- 28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



On a disc divided diagonally from upper left to lower right Blue over Light Blue, the White outlines of the continents bordering the Atlantic Ocean, surmounted by a White stylized bird in flight; all within a narrow Blue border. (Approved, 11 Feb 1958, modified, 1994)

On a disc per bend Azure and Celeste, a stylized representation of a globe overall Or, charged with a stylized bird in flight Argent fimbriated of the first, all within a narrow inner border Yellow and outer border Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "SAFETY SPIRIT SERVICE" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "76TH AIRLIFT SQ" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to

the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The stylized bird flying over the continents represents the global mission of the Squadron. The light and dark areas of the patch are indicative of the day and night operations of the unit. All items combined serve to represent the motto "Safety, Spirit, Service."

MOTTO

SAFETY, SPIRIT, SERVICE

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained transport flight crews, Feb 1943-Mar 1944. Worldwide airlift beginning 1952. Transported UN troops to Suez Canal, Nov 1956. Supported Operations in Southeast Asia, 1966-1973, and the evacuation of Saigon, May 1975. Airlift Operations to Grenada, Oct-Dec 1983; Panama, 18-28 Dec 1989; and Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Dec 1991.

3 April 1996 A USAF Boeing CT-43, 73-1149 call sign IFO 21, of the 76th Airlift Squadron, 86th Airlift Wing, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on an official trade mission, crashed on approach to Dubrovnik Airport, Croatia, killing United States Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown and 34 other people. The crash board findings, announced 7 June 1996, blamed the crash on a failure of command, aircrew error and an improperly designed instrument approach procedure.

Distinguished Upgrade: The 76th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein AB, Germany, received its first C-37A, boosting US Air Forces in Europe's capabilities for distinguished visitor travel. The airplane—a military version of the Gulfstream V ultra-long-range business aircraft—arrived from Gulfstream's facility in Savannah, Ga. It can fly as high as 51,000 feet with a maximum speed of Mach 0.885 and a range of 6,000 miles. It also offers DVs an improved communication system so they may stay connected throughout the flight, according to Ramstein officials. "We currently cannot meet the demand with our aircraft inventory, and this new addition will be a great help," said Lt. Col. Tom Dowdle, 76th AS standards and evaluations chief. He added, "Our government and military's senior leaders can fly non-stop from Ramstein to San Francisco, Stuttgart to Johannesburg, or Frankfurt to Beijing." The 110-person squadron now operates C-21As, C-20Hs, C-40Bs, and, as of Dec. 7, the C-37A. 2010

C-20H Completes First Combat Tour: Members of the 76th Airlift Squadron at Ramstein AB, Germany, have returned home with their Gulfstream C-20H distinguished visitor transport aircraft from Afghanistan, marking completion of this aircraft type's first-ever deployment to a combat zone. The unit supported the ISAF commander over the course of the 10-month tour, providing him, his staff, and US and Afghan dignitaries with priority transport. In all, the squadron clocked 310 sorties and 700 flying hours while transporting 95 dignitaries and 1,100 passengers during that span, including the US ambassador and Afghan President, and NATO's secretary general. Ramstein crews rotated every 90 days, fulfilling the role "despite a 30

[percent] to 40 percent turnover," said Capt. Erik Carlson, 76th AS aircraft commander. They trained "aggressively" at Ramstein in preparation for deploying, while simultaneously managing their DV-hauling duties at home in Europe. 2011

Air Force Unit Histories

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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. *1608 Air Transport Wing (M), Charleston AFB, SC. 1957.*

Unit yearbook. *Charleston AFB, SC. 1961.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1961.