

304 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

304 Transport Squadron constituted, 4 Jun 1943

Activated, 21 Jun 1943

Disbanded, 1 Dec 1943

4 Strategic Support Squadron constituted, 3 Feb 1953

Activated, 18 Feb 1953

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Mar 1961

304 Transport Squadron and 4th Strategic Support Squadron consolidated and redesignated
304 Special Operations Squadron, 19 Sep 1985. Not activated

Redesignated 304 Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron, and converted to provisional
status, 24 Jan 2005

Withdrawn from provisional status, and redesignated 304 Special Operations Squadron, 30 Mar
2011

STATIONS

Mohanbari Airport, India, 21 Jun-1 Dec 1943

Rapid City (later, Ellsworth) AFB, SD, 18 Feb 1953

Dyess AFB, TX, 15 Jun 1957–15 Mar 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

30 Transport Group, 21 Jun-1 Dec 1943

Eighth Air Force, 18 Feb 1953

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1955

96 Bombardment Wing, 1 Sep 1959-15 Mar 1961

Air Force Special Operations Command to activate any time after 24 Jan 2005

Withdrawn from Air Force Special Operations Command, 30 Mar 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1943

C-46

C-124, 1953-1961

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 304 TCS was a transport squadron which served primarily in the China-Burma-India Theater. It participated in the airlift of supplies and equipment from India to China over the Himalayan Mountains ("The Hump").

The squadron was activated by Tenth Air Force in India and equipped with C-47 Skytrains. It was assigned to the 30th Transport Group in the Assam Valley of eastern India, to aid in moving supplies to China by Air Transport Command (ATC). The squadron supplemented the ATC aircraft flying over "The Hump" into airfields in China. As more and more ATC aircraft arrived for the logistics mission to China, the 30th Transport Group was inactivated, and the assets of the unit

were re-designated Station No. 9, India-China Wing, ATC.

The mission of the 4th Strategic Support Squadron is to maintain the unit in a state of readiness so that the squadron will at all times be capable of conducting world-wide airlift operations in support of Strategic Air Command units. This logistic support must be capable of instantaneous reaction and capable of airlifting personnel, spares, and equipment of any nature, thus providing the command with a capability to launch an immediate offensive with a prime portion of the strategic force from any location. Specialized airlift of nuclear weapons and experimental or high priority cargo during peacetime in support of this or other commands to insure that aircrews maintain a high degree of proficiency in wartime operational requirements. Operations individually or in conjunction with other agencies in disaster relief or other domestic emergencies. Conduct continuous ground and flying training to insure that a high level of proficiency is maintained by the flight and maintenance crews. Conduct other special support missions as may be directed."

The 4th SSS was activated at Rapid City AFB on 18 February 1953. The unit was assigned to the 8th AF and attached to the 28th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing for administrative and logistical support. The unit was scheduled to be equipped with C-124Cs. To help get the squadron on its feet, three experienced C-124 crews from each of the existing Strategic Support Squadrons, for a total of nine crews, were transferred to the unit.

Completion of squadron manning was expected not later than 1 August. Six C-124s were expected in August, with six more arriving in September. From the 15th to the 26th of August five 4th SSS crews ferried six brand-new C-124Cs to the squadron. The new airplanes were used to provide transition training for aircrews who, though qualified on the C-124A, had not been qualified on the "C" model.

In September, the squadron received its last six C-124Cs. They were aircraft Serial Nos. 52-984 through 52-989.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 29 Jan 2017

Updated:

Sources

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