

355 TACTICAL AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

355 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Jun 1942
Inactivated, 10 Apr 1944
Redesignated 355 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 27 Jun 1944
Activated, 7 Jul 1944
Inactivated, 15 Apr 1946
Redesignated 355 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 16 May 1949
Activated in the reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 355 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 28 Jan 1950
Ordered to active service, 1 Jun 1951
Inactivated, 8 Jun 1951
Redesignated 355 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 26 May 1952
Activated in the reserve, 14 Jun 1952
Ordered to active service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from active duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 355 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1967
Redesignated 355 Special Operations Squadron, 25 Jan 1970
Redesignated 355 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 26 Jul 1971
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1982

STATIONS

Geiger Field, WA, 1 Jun 1942

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 23 Jun 1942
Wendover Field, UT, 30 Jul 1942
Pueblo AAB, CO, 30 Sep 1942
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Dec 1942
Clovis, NM, 29 Jan 1943
Langley Field, VA, 17 Dec 1943
Chatham AAFld, GA, 9 Mar-10 Apr 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 7 Jul 1944
McCook AAFld, NE, 22 Nov 1944-8 Apr 1945
Northwest Field, Guam, 12 May 1945-15 Apr 1946
McChord AFB, WA, 27 Jun 1948-8 Jun 1951
Clinton County AFB 14 Jun 1952-26 Jul 1971
Rickenbacker AFB (later ANGB) 1982

ASSIGNMENTS

302 Bombardment Group, 1 Jun 1942-10 Apr 1944
331 Bombardment Group, 7 Jul 1944-15 Apr 1946
302 Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-8 Jun 1951
302 Troop Carrier Group, 14 Jun 1952
302 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
906 Troop Carrier Group (later 906 Tactical Airlift Group, 906 Special Operations Group, 906 Tactical Airlift Group) 11 Feb 1963-1 Sep 1975
302 Tactical Airlift Wing -1 Apr 81
906 Tactical Airlift Group

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1942-1944
B-17, 1944
B-29, 1945-1946
C-119, 1962
C-123

COMMANDERS

Col Ed Kunner, 1952
Maj Darrell C. Brickner, 1958
Maj James Hanauer, 1959
Maj Emory T. Judy, 1963
Lt Col Carl Yerian, 1967
Lt Col Bob Hatfield, 1969
Lt Col Tom Lentz, 1972
Lt Col Harry Jones, 1973
Lt Col John Wenzelberger, 1975
Lt Col Don Snyder, 1976
Lt Col Dana Caldwell, 1978

Lt Col Virgil Fryburger, 1981

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Japan, 22-29 Jul 1945

EMBLEM



355 Bombardment Squadron emblem

355 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, emblem: on an Air Force blue disc bordered white, three white parachutes palewise, carrying cargo, one large one between two smaller ones, all between four stars, one in dexter, one in chief, one in sinister, and one in base, all white; outlines and details Air Force blue throughout. (Approved, 7 Jul 1961)

MOTTO

YOU CALL, WE HAUL

OPERATIONS

Operational and later replacement training unit, 1943-1944. Combat in Western Pacific, 7 Jul-14 Aug 1945.

Trained as a reserve squadron as part of the 302 Troop Carrier Wing from Jun 1952. Began flying airlift operations in the United States and overseas in the mid-1950s. On active duty during Cuban missile crisis of 1962. From Apr 1968 to Mar 1973, provided C-119 gunship training for pilots, navigators, flight engineers, and mechanics of USAF active units and similar personnel from Jordan, Morocco, Ethiopia, and South Vietnam. By the mid-1960s, wing aircraft and crews performed worldwide airlift missions and participated in numerous tactical exercises.

In Apr 1973, the wing assumed a rotational airlift task in support of USAF Southern Command, continuing this mission through Jan 1976. Also in Apr 1973, the wing assumed a UC-123 aerial spraying mission, which frequently took wing crews to Central America, the Caribbean, the Azores, North Africa, islands of the Pacific, and to many U.S. points for insect-spraying missions.

The aerial spray mission was transferred to Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) from the 4500th Aerial Spray Flight, Langley Air Force Base Va. on April 1, 1973. The 355 Tactical Airlift Squadron (AFRC) gained the mission using UC-123K and an active-duty Air Force entomologist. The unit's first spray mission took place at Langley Air Force Base on May 22, 1973 to control mosquitoes.

During the first year, two research missions were conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Army at Camp Drum, N.Y. to test the efficacy of black fly control by aerial spray.

The Panamanian government requested assistance from the United States in July 1973 to combat an outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in the Canal Zone. Later that month the unit sprayed the Canal Zone for control of the migratory salt-marsh and adult freshwater mosquitoes with excellent results.

On May 13, 1975, the Air Staff directed Headquarters AFRES to provide a detachment of two UC-123K to Guam to rid an interim refugee camp site of dengue fever-bearing mosquitoes. Ten days later, the 355 Tactical Airlift Squadron sprayed 3,535 gallons

During 1977 and 1978, the unit conducted five missions for Japanese beetle control at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores. These beetles are an internationally quarantined pest that was firmly established in the Lajes local area.

Since we have the only aerial spray unit in the U.S. Air Force we have had more than a passing interest in the problem California has had with the Mediterranean Fruit Fly, according to Col. William Widdows, Deputy commander for Operations for the 906th and 907 TAGs. The spray branch of the 355 TAS has had a busy summer spraying to control insects at military installations, mostly along the east coast. However, as the California spray problems rose and fell there has been a distinct possibility that the Rickenbacker spray experts might be called upon.

Lt. Col. George Rowcliffe, spray branch chief, pointed out that an emergency would have to be declared since our military unit cannot compete with civilian contractors if they can do the job. Training and re-training of spray crews was stepped up to make

certain that more qualified spray crews than usually required would be available if needed. Maps of the west coast areas were reviewed and an unofficial "semi-alert" was put in effect.

"Our headquarters people were watching the situation closely too and talked to us about it often," said Colonel Widdows. "They didn't alert us but they didn't object when, early in the game, we sent two C-123s out to Lincoln, Nebraska on a weekend training mission that put them in a position to get to California in a shorter time." Officials here agree that our chances of getting into the Med Fly situation now is remote but not necessarily over. 1981

In 1981, the spray planes flew missions for gypsy moth control at West Point N.Y. and Fort Dix/McGuire Air Force Base N.J. They also flew additional missions at various locations for Japanese beetle and mosquito control.











On 17-31 May 1982 The 355 Tactical Airlift Squadron trained aircrews from El Salvador On C-123k. From 16 May to June, the 355 TAS (906th TAG) conducted some of its last flight training. Aircrew training was conducted for eight members of the El Salvadoran Air Force. The U.S. aircraft to the El Salvadoran government to replace some the continuing guerrilla war in El

Salvador. Two of the aircraft will be C-123K Providers. Despite some language problems, the students learned quickly and showed great enthusiasm and skill in flying the Provider.

In 1982, the Air Force scheduled its C-123K's for inactivation except for four which were retained at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio to support the aerial spray mission. With the deactivation of the 355 TAS the aerial spray mission transferred to the 907th TAG.

DEPARTMENT OF THE 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.