

## 516<sup>th</sup> AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS WING



### MISSION

The 516th AESW is responsible for modernization, development, test, production, deployment and sustainment of new and existing aircraft systems to meet Air Mobility Command, Air Force Reserve Command, Air National Guard, and Special Ops Forces Global Mobility mission areas. The wing executes a \$16.9 billion budget.

### LINEAGE

516<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 16 Apr 1951

Inactivated, 16 Jan 1953

Activated, 19 Jul 1962

Organized, 1 Jan 1963

Redesignated 516<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Mar 1966

Redesignated 516<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 May 1967

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1972

Mobility Systems Wing constituted, 23 Nov 2004

Activated, 18 Jan 2005

516<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing and Mobility Systems Wing consolidated, 23 Jun 2006

Redesignated 516th Aeronautical Systems Wing, 14 Jul 2006

Inactivated, 30 Jun 2010

### STATIONS

Memphis Muni Aprt, TN, 26 Jun 1949-16 Jan 1953

Dyess AFB, TX, 1 Jan 1963-1 Jun 1972

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 18 Jan 2005 – 30 Jun 2010

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Fourteenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1947  
Tactical Air Command, 17 Apr 1951  
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Jun 1951-16 Jan 1953  
Tactical Air Command, 19 Jul 1962  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jan 1963  
839<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Jul 1963  
838<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 9 Nov 1964  
Twelfth Air Force, 24 Dec 1969  
834<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 15 Mar-1 Jun 1972  
Aeronautical Systems Center, 18 Jan 2005 – 30 Jun 2010

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

T-7, 1949-1951  
T-11, 1949-1951  
C-46, 1949-1953  
C-119, 1952-1953  
C-130, 1963-1972  
C-7, 1969-1972

### **COMMANDERS**

BG Everett H. Cook, 26 Jun 1949-unkn  
Col Willis W. Mitchell, (by May 1950)-16 Jan 1953  
None (not manned), 19 Jul-31 Dec 1962  
Col Burl W. McLaughlin, 1 Jan 1963  
Col William G. Duncan, 18 Jan 1965  
Col Vernon W. Froehlich, 7 Oct 1965  
Col William G. Duncan, 3 Dec 1965  
Col Albert W. Jones, 10 Jun 1967  
Col Charles W. Borders, 25 Jan 1968  
Col Joel C. Stevenson, 13 Jan 1970  
Col Robert F. Coverdale, 31 May 1971  
Col Richard T. Drury, 15 Jun 1971-1 Jun 1972

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

None

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1964-31 Dec 1965

## EMBLEM



516<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing emblem: On a shield azure, issuing from sinister in fess, a cloud formation proper, thereover a parachute gules, lines and ropes argent and shaded, carrying a howitzer proper; in dexter chief a small parachute bendwise argent carrying a box of supplies; in sinister chief a small parachute sinister bendwise, carrying an airman argent; all within a diminutive bordure or. (Approved, 5 Jun 1952)

516<sup>th</sup> Aeronautical Systems Wing emblem: Azure, a stylized bald eagle volant Sable, head Argent, eyed, beaked, and legged Or, highlighted Celeste, grasping a globe of the second, gridlined of the fourth, axis bendwise sinister and encircled from behind a contrail bendwise Gules, terminating in an aircraft silhouette ascending to dexter of the third, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "516TH AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS WING" 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 eagle represents freedom, honor and valor. The eagle's spread wings represent airlift superiority. The aircraft represents the various mobility aircraft systems the Wing manages. The aircraft's contrail surrounding the globe signifies the unit's excellence in providing global mobility capabilities for the Nation.

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## **OPERATIONS**

Performed Reserve troop carrier training under supervision of 2584th Air Force Reserve Training Center, Jun 1949-Apr 1951. Upon entering active duty in Apr 1951, assumed responsibility for operating and maintaining Memphis Muni Aprt and participated in tactical exercises and worldwide airlift. Converted from C-46 to C-119 aircraft in 1952. Replaced by 463d Troop Carrier Wing in Jan 1953. Replaced 64th Troop Carrier Wing in Jan 1963. Until replaced by 463d Tactical Airlift Wing in Jun 1972, performed worldwide tactical airlift and participated in a constant stream of tactical exercises and operations. Frequently deployed squadrons overseas in Europe, die Far East, and the Canal Zone. Conducted C-7 combat crew training in addition to other missions, Aug 1969-May 1972 (for USAF personnel) and Aug-Oct 1971 (for South Vietnamese crews).

1953 From January 7 through January 14th, about 2,000 members of the 296th Regimental Combat Team, U.S. Army, supported by 14 C- 119 aircraft of the 516th Troop Carrier Wing, participated in a simulated combat exercise, Operation Fleetfoot at Ramey AFB. On January 8th, the first RB-36 for the 72nd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron arrived, starting a flow of aircraft to that unit.

During the second phase of the Ardmore base, the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing (Medium), 16th Troop Carrier Squadron (Assault Fixed Wing), 309th Troop Carrier Group (Assault Fixed Wing), 456th Troop Carrier Group and 419th Troop Carrier Group of the 18th Air Force were stationed here during part or all of the activation period.

The majority of the 463rd personnel were formerly with the 516th Troop Carrier Wing stationed at Memphis Municipal Airport, Tennessee. The 516th, a reserve unit called to active duty April 16, 1951, was inactivated January 16, 1953 and replaced January 16, 1953 by the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing (Medium). Colonel Willis W. Mitchell, commander of the 516th, retired January 16 and presented Colonel George L. Holcomb as commander of the 463rd.