

915 AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL GROUP



MISSION

The 915 mission is to provide airborne radar surveillance, command and tactical control for operations directed ADCOM the joint chiefs of staff and other headquarters command.

LINEAGE

915 Troop Carrier Group organized, 17 Jan 1963
activated, 17 Jan 1963
Redesignated 915 Military Airlift Group, 1 Apr 1966
Inactivated, 30 Jul 1971
Redesignated 915 Airborne Early Warning and Control Group, 30 Nov 1976
Activated, 8 Dec 1976
Redesignated 915 Tactical Fighter Group
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1981

STATIONS

Homestead AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

435 Troop Carrier Wing
445 Air Transport Wing, Heavy, 1 Dec 1965
459 Military Airlift Wing
445 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Sep 1969
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Apr 1971
Tenth Air Force

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-119

C-124
EC-121
F-4

COMMANDERS

Lt Col William A. Keaster
Lt Col Frank J. Englert
Col Clifford C. Root
Col Harry Amdur
Lt Col William R. Stack, Jr.
Col Evan E. Clements

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Jan 1968-Aug 1969
1 Dec 1976-15 Mar 1978

EMBLEM





Per bend azure and vert overall a bend bendwise with horizontal base in dexter chief gules surmounted by a bar chequy bendwise throughout alternating argent and sable, overall originating in dexter flank and arced towards sinister chief four contrails each terminating below a stylized aircraft in ascent all of the fourth, in dexter base a stylized palm tree of the last, all within a diminished bordure or. (Approved, Nov 1980) Designed by Lt Col Glenn E. Mowl, Chief of Operations Plans Division

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

1 December 1965, ordered the transfer of the 915 TCG-M, from the 435 TCW-M (inactivated) to the 445 ATW-H. Transfer to the new wing was accompanied by conversion from the C-119 to the C-124.

Designation changes continued. A Department of the Air Force Letter, dated 14 March 1966, directed the 79 TCS and 915 TCG to be redesignated 79 MAS and 915 MAG, respectively. The change was to go into effect on or about 8 April 1966.

The mission of the 915th Military Airlift Group is to achieve, through training, capabilities in: Providing military airlift of personnel and material for the Armed Forces and other governmental agencies, as directed, and aeromedical evacuation of patients; Providing supply support and supply services for assigned personnel and equipment; Providing maintenance of airframe, engines, allied accessories, and ground support equipment, including periodic, field and flight line maintenance; Providing for the operation and maintenance of base facilities in support of assigned or attached units; Operating and maintaining communications facilities and equipment required in support of flying activities at airport and air-base-type installations; Providing medical support to assigned units; Operating air terminals for the processing of personnel and cargo to be airlifted.

The Commander 915th Military Airlift Group is responsible for: Exercising command jurisdiction over assigned or attached units in accordance with directives and policies established by higher authority; Training all units and personnel to the degree of proficiency prescribed by the applicable training directives Training individuals to prescribed job standards as outlined in Air Force classification manuals; Conducting and participating in all phases of airborne operations, and fulfilling gaining command training requirements to meet wartime commitments by providing operationally ready military airlift aircraft and crews; Providing logistic and administrative guidance and support for assigned units.

Effective 1 December 1965 the 915th became a detached Group converting to C-124's under the 445th Military Airlift Wing. Although the official conversion date was 1 April 1966, the Unit lost all its C-119s in November and December and received its first C-124 in December.

Unit officially converted to C-124 aircraft and unit was redesignated 915th Military Airlift Group with MAC as the gaining command on 1 April 1966. Transition to C-124 aircraft, fully combat ready, was completed on 31 May 1967 when Unit was declared C-1. Since attaining C-1 status Unit has put an average of two aircraft a week into the MAC stream in support of MAC worldwide missions.

Change of command due to the activation of the 445th Military Airlift Wing the 915th Military Airlift Group was transferred to the 459th Military Airlift Wing and 1st Air Force Reserve Region 26 January 1968.

Twelve EC-121 aircraft and approximately 800 active duty AF personnel make up the 915th AEW&CG, Homestead AFB FL.

When the Air Force's force of EC-121s for airborne early warning and control was programmed to be reduced from 46 to 18 at the end of fiscal 1972, Air Staff officials feared the United States would be left with only minimum surveillance capability in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico regions. A potential solution appeared when Representative Bob F. Sikes asked Air Force Reserve officials to investigate the possibility of stationing a reserve unit at Eglin AFB in his Florida panhandle district.

On March 10, 1971, Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard approved an Air Staff proposal to convert an Air Force Reserve airlift unit at Homestead AFB, Florida, to EC-121s instead of to its programmed C-130s, and to assign those C-130s to a new tactical airlift unit at Eglin. These actions enabled the Air Force to solve the surveillance problem and honor Congressman Sikes' request." Headquarters AFRES activated the 79th Airborne Early Warning and Control Squadron at Homestead and assigned it to the redesignated 915 Airborne Early Warning and Control Group on July 30, 1971. The unit was equipped with six EC-121D and two transport configured C-121s for transition and support. Soon after its conversion, the 79th began flying active surveillance missions in the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, and its declared C-3 readiness as programmed in March 1973."



Col Clifford C. Root

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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