

1608 AIR TRANSPORT WING (HEAVY)



MISSION

The primary mission of the 1608 Air Training Wing is to provide airlift support for the Department of Defense and other agencies of the United States government. To effect this it is charged with operating the necessary base functions, aircraft, maintenance facilities, and aerial port to accomplish the mission.

The Wing is responsible for maintaining operational readiness through intensive training; it is organized to provide for sustained operations and mobility and flexibility in keeping with modern military concepts.

The Wing provides logistical support for tenant units including the 444 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1968 AACS Squadron, and 792 AC&W Squadron.

LINEAGE

1608 Air Transport Wing (Medium)

1608 Air Transport Wing (Heavy)

STATIONS

Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Mar 1955-8 Jan 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-121

COMMANDERS

Col Clinton C. Wasem, #1957

Col Franklin Henley

Col James Sherrill



Col Franklin Henley (USAF photo)



Col James Sherrill (USAF photo)

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 1608th Air Transport Wing was activated and assumed command of Charleston AFB on 1 March 1955. At that time the base passed from the Tactical Air Command to the control of the Military Air Transport Service. At activation, the Wing consisted of ten organizations, a number which has almost trebled in less than two years.

One year after activation of the Wing, the base was designated an aerial port of embarkation for overseas traffic and the Wing assumed responsibility from Continental Division for the Caribbean and South American phases of MATS operations.

An extensive construction program, commenced shortly after activation, has provided personnel with an outstanding physical plant, and Charleston AFB has grown in a phenomenally short time into an enormous and vital installation.

Military Air Transport Service General Order Number 49 (21 June 1957) relieved the 1608th Air Transport Wing, Medium of assignment to the Atlantic Division of MATS and reassigned the wing and its internal units to the Continental Division of the command, effective 1 July 1957. A subsequent General Order from Headquarters MATS transferred jurisdiction of Charleston AFB and associated auxiliary locations from MATS Atlantic Division to MATS Continental Division, also effective 1 July 1957.



1608 Air Transport Wing headquarters (USAF photo)

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *1608 Air Transport Wing (M), Charleston AFB, SC. 1957.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1957.
Unit yearbook. *Charleston AFB, SC. 1961.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1961.