

20th AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

20th Air Corps Ferrying Squadron constituted, 18 Feb 1942

Activated, 1 Mar 1942

Redesignated 20th Transport Squadron, 19 Mar 1943

Disbanded, 1 Sep 1943

Reconstituted and redesignated 20th Air Transport Squadron, Medium, 20 Jun 1952

Activated, 20 Jul 1952

Redesignated 20th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 18 Apr 1954

Redesignated 20th Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 1 Jan 1965

Redesignated 20th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 1 Jul 1965

Redesignated 20th Military Airlift Squadron, 15 Jan 1966

Redesignated 20th Airlift Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Houlton AAB, ME, 1 Mar 1942–1 Sep 1943

Westover AFB, MA 20 Jul 1952

Dover AFB, DE, 15 May 1955

Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Aug 1973

Travis AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1993

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Corps Ferrying Command, 1 Mar 1942
23rd AAF Ferrying Wing (later, North Atlantic Wing, ATC), 19 Jun 1942–1 Sep 1943
1600th Air Transport Group, 20 Jul 1952
1607th Air Transport Group, 15 May 1955
1607th Air Transport Wing, 18 Jan 1963
436th Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966
437th Military Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1973
437th Operations Group, 1 Oct 1991
60th Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Unkn, 1942–1943
C-54, 1952–1954
C-124, 1954–1965;
C-141, 1965

COMMANDERS

Maj James E. Nelson, #1957
LTC Mark J. D. Gehri
LTC Dennis A. Balkham, 25 Jun 1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989–1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
13 Nov–18 Dec 1967
1 Jan 1968–31 Dec 1969
1 Sep 1971–30 Jun 1972
1 Jul 1982–30 Jun 1984
1 Jul 1984–30 Jun 1986
1 Jul 1988–30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1990
21 Sep 1989–31 Oct 1989

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966–28 Jan 1973.

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, a Roman numeral XX, Tenne, in fess, between a cloud formation, in chief, proper, and a point in base embattled Or, edged of the last. (Approved, 5 Dec 1956)

MOTTO

FIRMITAS PER MOBILITATEM—Strength through Mobility

OPERATIONS

Ferried aircraft to the United Kingdom along the North Atlantic route, 1942–1943.

Inter-theater and strategic airlift to Europe, North Africa, and Canada, 1952–1965.

11 May 1964: A mercy mission was flown by a C-124 and crew of the 20th ATS; the emergency evacuation of a Danish boy, who had been mauled by Husky dogs, from a remote site in Greenland. The C-124 flew a helicopter to Kulusk where it was assembled and flown to the boy's home village. The boy was transported to the hospital by the helicopter.

Worldwide airlift, beginning 1965, including support of operations in Southeast Asia, 1965–1973; the evacuation of South Vietnam, Apr 1975; Grenada, Oct–Dec 1983; Panama, 18–27 Dec 1989; Southwest Asia, Aug 1990–Dec 1991.

20 Airlift Squadron launched their C-141 aircraft in support of cooperative nugget, a North Atlantic Treaty Organization sponsored exercise marking the first ever peacekeeping exercise on United States soil. 1995

20 Airlift Squadron participated in emergency evacuation mission to the Caribbean island of Antigua, anticipating the arrival of Hurricane Luis. 1995

C-141 aircraft from the squadron provided transportation in support of exercise Bright Star 95, a multi-national exercise that featured air, land, and sea troops from the United States, Egypt, England, France, and the United Arab Emirates. 1995