

21st AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

21st Transport Squadron, constituted, 7 Mar 1942

Activated, 3 Apr 1942

Redesignated 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, 5 Jul 1942

Inactivated, 31 Jan 1946

Activated, 15 Oct 1946

Redesignated 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 21 May 1948

Redesignated 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 2 Feb 1951

Redesignated 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 1 Dec 1952

Redesignated 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 18 Sep 1956

Redesignated 21st Troop Carrier Squadron, 8 Dec 1966

Redesignated 21st Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Aug 1967

Redesignated 21st Airlift Squadron, 1 Apr 1992

STATIONS

Archerfield, Australia, 3 Apr 1942

Port Moresby, New Guinea, 18 Feb 1943

Archerfield, Australia, 28 Sep 1943

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

374 Troop Carrier Group, 1942-1945. Edward T. Imparrato. Turner Publishing Co. Paducah, KY. 1998.

Nadzab, New Guinea, 26 Aug 1944
Biak, 14 Oct 1944
Atsugi, Japan, 20 Sep 1945
Manila, Philippines, Dec 1945–31 Jan 1946
Harmon Field (later, AFB), Guam, 15 Oct 1946
Clark AFB, Philippines, 27 Jan 1950
Tachikawa AB, Japan, 29 Jun 1950
Ashiya AB, Japan, 21 Jul 1950
Brady AB, Japan, 3 Sep 1950
Itazuke AB, Japan, 24 Oct 1950
Tachikawa AB, Japan, 25 Jan 1951
Ashiya AB, Japan, 26 Jul 1951
Tachikawa AB, Japan, 18 Oct 1951
Ashiya AB, Japan, 28 Mar 1952
Tachikawa AB, Japan, 1 Dec 1952
Naha AB, Okinawa, 15 Nov 1958
Ching Chuan AB, Taiwan, 31 May 1971
Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Nov 1973
Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Oct 1989–1 Oct 1993
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1993

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Kisarazu AB, Japan, 14–20 Nov 1955
Advanced party at Naha AB, Okinawa, 18 Aug–14 Nov 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Transport Command, US Army Forces in Australia (later, Air Carrier Service, Air Service Command, Fifth Air Force), 3 Apr 1942
374th Troop Carrier Group, 12 Nov 1942–31 Jan 1946
374th Troop Carrier Group, 15 Oct 1946
483d Troop Carrier Group, 18 Sep 1956
483d Troop Carrier Wing, 8 Dec 1958
315th Air Division, 25 Jun 1960
374th Troop Carrier (later, 374th Tactical Airlift) Wing, 8 Aug 1966
374th Operations Group, 1 Apr 1992
60th Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

ATTACHMENTS

54th Troop Carrier Wing, 2 Jul–c. 1 Sep 1944
Guam Air Materiel Area, Provisional, 1 Feb–31 Aug 1947
Twentieth Air Force, 5 Mar–15 May 1949
19th Bombardment Wing, 16 May 1949–31 Jan 1950
Thirteenth Air Force, 1–16 Feb 1950
18th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 17 Feb–8 Jun 1950

Far East Air Forces Combat Cargo Command, Provisional, 16 Oct 1950–25 Jan 1951
374th Troop Carrier Wing, 29 Jun 1951–27 Mar 1952
6122d Air Base Wing, 28 Mar–14 Apr 1952
403d Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr–1 Dec 1952
374th Troop Carrier Wing, 3 Feb 1956–1 Jul 1957
483d Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jul 1957–7 Dec 1958)
Detachment 1, HQ, 315th Air Division, 25 Jun 1960–20 Oct 1964
6315th Operations Group, 20 Oct 1964–7 Aug 1966

WEAPON SYSTEMS

DC-2
DC-3
C-39
C-40
C-49
C-50
C-53
C-56
C-60
B-17
B-18
LB-30, 1942
C-47, 1942–1946
C-46, 1945–1946
C-46, 1946–1949, 1950, 1952
C-54, 1946–1950, 1952–1956
C-47, 1950–1952
C-119C, 1956–1959
C-130, 1958–1971, 1971

COMMANDERS

Maj Edgar W. Hampton, 3 Apr 1942
Maj Fred M. Adams, 12 Oct 1942
Maj Philip M. Eckberg, 23 May 1943
Maj Myron J. Grimes, 23 Sep 1943
Maj Joseph H. Moore, 3 Jul 1944
Capt Conrad A. Rowland, 5 Mar 1945
Unkn, Nov 1945-31 Jan 1946
Capt Robert T. Best, 15 Oct 1946
Maj Joseph Mooney, Jan 1947
Maj Jack E. Stephens, 17 Jul 1947-Unkn
Lt Col Phil B. Cage, C. 1950-Unkn
Lt Col William F. Kelleher, Jun 1951
Maj Kenneth C. Farmsted, Jul 1951

Lt Col James F. Hogan, 31 Jul 1951
Maj Frank E. Loftus, 31 Dec 1951
Maj Vernon L. Scott, 16 May 1952
Lt Col Henry G. Althaus, 7 Jun 1952
Lt Col Robert E. Harrington, 1 Dec 1952
Lt Col Harry S. Coleman, 10 Jan 1954
Lt Col Jack D. Dieckman, 19 Oct 1954
Maj Howard Stillwell, 5 Jul 1956
Lt Col Maurice E. Lee Jr., 18 Sep 1956
Lt Col David T. Fleming, 23 Aug 1958
Lt Col Leon A. Smith, 10 Oct 1960
Lt Col Ned M. Letts, 21 Jul 1961
Lt Col Donald. C. Carlson, 24 Dec 1963
Lt Col Jack D. Dieckman, 16 May 1965
Lt Col John F. Ohlinger, 24 Mar 1967
Lt Col Richard J. Warner, 18 May 1968
Lt Col Richard E. Hansen, 30 Jun 1970
Lt Col Wilfred R. Gebhart, 31 May 1971
Lt Col Daniel W. Snow, 12 Sep 1971
Lt Col Alonzo L. Sudduth, 16 Dec 1971
Lt Col John J. Bibo, 5 Apr 1972
Lt Col Howard H. Geddes, 15 Dec 1972
Lt Col Lawrence L. Brown, 16 Mar 1973
Lt Col Howard H. Geddes, 16 Apr 1973
Lt Col Bruce D. Smith, 22 Jul 1973
Lt Col Myles A. Rohrlick, 9 Dec 1973
Lt Col Jack Mcconathy Jr., 6 Nov 197
Lt Col Gerald L. Irwin, 24 Dec 1975
Lt Col Horace J. Randall, 3 Mar 1977
Lt Col Dennis A. Forgey, 28 Jun 1978
Lt Col George W. Howe, 9 May 1980
Lt Col Peter H. Jackson, 5 Feb 1981
Lt Col Ronald S. Michaels, 10 Nov 1981
Lt Col Charles R. Holland, 12 Sep 1983
Lt Col John F. Mauss, 21 Jun 1985
Lt Col Gary J. Machovina, 19 Dec 1986
Lt Col Roger D. Baskett, 16 Jun 1988
Lt Col David L. Spracher, 20 Sep 1989
Lt Col James L. White, 17 Dec 1990
Col Felix M. Grieder, 1 Oct 1993
Lt Col Richard A. Phillips, 5 Jan 1994
Lt Col David Miller, 22 May 1995
Lt Col Donald A. Scherbinske, 21 Jun 1996
Lt Col Kenneth R. Carson, 21 Jun 1997

Lt Col William D. Murdoch, 10 Jun 1999
Lt Col Michael D. Retallick, 13 Jun 2000
Lt Col Daniel G. Groeschem, 22 Jul 2001
Lt Col Paul H. Guemmer, Jul 2003
Lt Col David E. Pollmiller, 7 Jun 2005
Lt Col William A. Spangenthal, 29 Jun 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Papua

New Guinea

Northern Solomons

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Korea

UN Defensive, with Arrowhead

UN Offensive

CCF Intervention

First UN Counteroffensive

CCF Spring Offensive

UN Summer-Fall Offensive

Second Korean Winter

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea, Summer 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Papua, 23 Jul 1942–23 Jan 1943

Papua, 12 Nov–22 Dec 1942

Wau, New Guinea, 30 Jan–1 Feb 1943

Korea, 27 Jun–15 Sep 1950

Korea, 28 Nov–10 Dec 1950

Presidential Unit Citation
Southeast Asia, 8 Aug 1967–7 Aug 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
12 Feb–17 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan–30 Jun 1961
1 Jul 1964–30 Apr 1966
8 Aug 1966–7 Aug 1967
1 Jul 1983–30 Jun 1985
1 Nov 1993–31 Jul 1995
1 Aug 1995–30 Jul 1997
1 Jul 1997–30 Jun 1999
1 Jul 1999–30 Jun 2000
1 Jul 2000–30 Jun 2001
1 Jul 2001–30 Jun 2003
1 Jul 2003–30 Jun 2004
1 Jul 2004–30 Jun 2005
1 Jul 2010–30 Jun 2012

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
1 Jul 1951–27 Jul 1953

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation
21 Jul–15 Aug 1972.

EMBLEM



21st Troop Carrier Squadron emblem approved, 30 Oct 1942



21st Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium) emblem



21st Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium) emblem



21st Tactical Airlift Squadron emblem



21 Airlift Squadron emblem: On a white disc bordered light golden brown, a stylized delta-winged bee, his head, body and upper wings light golden brown; eyes, lower wings, and stripes on body, red; encircling the upper part of the disc and surmounting the border a stylized stringer wreath, red. Motto: Superimposed over the border and wreath at the top of the emblem, "BEE liners," inscribed white. (Approved, 31 Jul 1959 modified, 9 Dec 1994)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

BEE LINERS

OPERATIONS

Throughout World War II the squadron remained in the New Guinea-Australia theatre airlifting various types of cargo.

Included paratroop drops at Nadzab, New Guinea, in Sep 1942.

On 22 May 1942, the 21st Transport Squadron made its first operational flight in New Guinea, carrying troops and supplies to Wau and Bulolo, Allied mountain airdromes, previously used only for very light aircraft. The 21st and 22nd Squadrons continued to operate several planes between Port Moresby and Wau at intervals despite intense Japanese activity and fighter cover consisting of only five or six P-39's. When the Japanese landed troops at Buna in July, 21st Squadron planes landed Australian reinforcements and supplies at Kokoda. During the fighting for that mountain airdrome the planes often circled the field without knowing whether Or not it was in friendly or enemy hands. In August 1942, during the Australian retreat which ended in an Allied offensive in Iorabaiwa Ridge, 30 air miles from Port Moresby, 21st and 22nd Squadron planes dropped tons of supplies and equipment to the Australian troops. Without these supplies the Jap offensive might not have been stopped. On 26 July 1942, the 21st and 22nd Transport Squadrons were redesignated the 21st and 22nd Troop Carrier Squadrons. The first large troop movement by these Squadrons was started in September, 1942, when three regiments of the Buna-busting 32nd (U.S.) Division were flown, with all of their equipment, from Brisbane and Townsville on the Australian mainland to New Guinea.

When the Korean conflict began in October 1950, the 21st was again called into action. The 21st was the first squadron to ferry supplies into marginal dirt strips. The squadron participated in all major engagements in Korea, including the massive airdrops at Sunchon in which 290.8 tons of supplies and 1,093 paratroopers were dropped in three days.

Furnished aircraft and crews for transport and special operations in Southeast Asia, 1962–1973.

In 1968, during the siege of Khe San, crews from the 21st performed massive airdrops and assault landing supporting the besieged outpost.

Flew logistical support and evacuation missions to Cambodia, 17 Mar–12 Apr 1975, and South Vietnam, 17 Mar–29 Apr 1975.

Airlift in Southwest Asia, Dec 1990–Jul 1991, and evacuation of Clark AB, Philippines, Jun–Jul 1991.

Since the conversion to the C-5 Galaxy in 1993, the 21st has been flying triple aerial-refueling mission carrying Patriot missile batteries directly to South Korea.

They were also involved in several humanitarian missions in 1994 including transportation of tons of badly needed medical supplies and food to disease-ravaged Rwanda, missions in support of the Haitian and Cuban relief efforts, and closer to home, the 21st provided the first C-5 crew to fly critically-needed firefighters equipment to earthquake-stricken Los Angeles.

On April 3, 2006, the squadron officially transferred from the C-5 to the C-17A.