

21st AIRLIFT SQUADRON



LINEAGE

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
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
483rd Troop Carrier Group, 18 Sep 1956
483rd 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
6122nd Air Base Wing, 28 Mar–14 Apr 1952
403rd Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr–1 Dec 1952

374th Troop Carrier Wing, 3 Feb 1956–1 Jul 1957
483rd 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-119, 1956–1959
C-130, 1958–1971, 1971
C-5, 1993
C-17, 2006

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

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
Cpt Conrad A. Rowland, 5 Mar 1945
Unkn, Nov 1945-31 Jan 1946
Cpt Robert T. Best, 15 Oct 1946
Maj Joseph Mooney, Jan 1947
Maj Jack E. Stephens, 17 Jul 1947-unkn
LTC Phil B. Cage, c. 1950-unkn

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

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

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

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

None

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

Gules, within an annulet, its inner edge a lightning flash Or, a hurt its outer edge a lightning flash and charged with a stylized bee displayed Sable garnished Or; all within a diminished bordure of the third. (Approved, 31 Jul 1959 and modified, 9 Dec 1994; replaced emblem approved, 30 Oct 1942)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

BEE LINERS

OPERATIONS

Included paratroop drops at Nadzab, New Guinea, in Sep 1942 and airborne assault on Sukchon/Sunchon, Korea, in Oct 1950, as well as aerial transportation in South and Southwest Pacific during World War II and in Far East during Korean War. Continued troop carrier and transport operations in the Far East after 1953. Furnished aircraft and crews for transport and

special operations in Southeast Asia, 1962–1973. 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.

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 mighty C-5 to the C-17A On Aug. 8, 2006, the 21st will welcome its first C-17, "The Spirit of Solano".

- OPERATION SHINING EXPRESS
- OPERATION STABILIZE
- OPERATION PHOENIX SPRUCE
- OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE
- OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM
- OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM
- JOINT ENDEAVOR
- DECISIVE ENDEAVOR
- BRIGHT STAR
- PITCH BLACK
- PALACE BLITZ
- DEEP FREEZE
- SUPPORT HOPE
- PHOENIX JACKAL
- SEA SIGNAL
- PROVIDE PROMISE
- DENY FLIGHT
- PHOENIX DAGGER
- PHOENIX TUSK
- PHOENIX BANNER
- PHOENIX SILVER
- PHOENIX MOAT
- PHOENIX DART
- JOINT GUARDIAN
- ASSURED RESPONSE
- FREEDOM BANNER, Phoenix Scorpion I and II

TEAM SPIRIT, FOAL EAGLE, TANDEM ORBIT, and COPE THUNDER.

The 21st was selected for the 1991 Military Airlift Command's Outstanding Tactical Airlift Unit Award and best Active Duty Tactical Airdrop Award at the 1993 Rodeo competition.

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.

During the 1960's the squadron began airlift missions in support of operations in Southeast Asia. In 1968, during the siege of Khe San, crews from the 21st performed massive airdrops and assault landing supporting the besieged outpost.

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

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In 1967, the squadron was redesignated the 21st Tactical Airlift Squadron. In 1968, during the siege of Khe San, crews from the 21st performed massive airdrops and assault landing supporting the besieged outpost. Through 1973 and 1974, the "Bee liners" were instrumental in repatriating American POW's to US soil.

During the 80's, the 21st frequently participated in exercises including TEAM SPIRIT, FOAL EAGLE, TANDEM ORBIT, and COPE THUNDER. The 21st has earned five Distinguished Unit Citations, one Presidential Unit Citation, and four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. The 21st was selected for the 1991 Military Airlift Command's Outstanding Tactical Airlift Unit Award and best Active Duty Tactical Airdrop Award at the 1993 Rodeo competition.

On Oct. 1, 1993, the 21st was transferred from Yokota AB, Japan to Travis AFB, Calif. On that historic day, the conversion from the C-130 Hercules to the mammoth C-5 Galaxy was made. Since the conversion to the C-5 Galaxy in 1993, the 21st has helped avert conflict between North and South Korea by 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. With the awesome combination of the C-5 and aerial-refueling, the 21st delivers heavy and outsized cargo from the cold of Russia to the heat of Indonesia.

Today, the 21st Airlift Squadron continues its long history of service to the nation. On April 3, 2006, the 21st Airlift Squadron celebrated its 64th anniversary. On the same day, the squadron officially transferred from the mighty C-5 Galaxy to America's Premier Airlifter, the C-17A Globemaster III. On Aug. 8, 2006, the 21st will welcome its first C-17, "The Spirit of Solano". With the arrival of that aircraft, the men and women of the 21st Airlift Squadron will continue to uphold the fine tradition of the "Bee liners" as part of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, America's

First Choice.

374th TCG (V AF): Nose numbers assigned in order of squadron arrival. C-46s from April 45. Rudder trim tab colors: 6th TCS (Red)(Bully Beef Express). 21st TCS (White/Red/Yellow stripes). 22nd TCS (Yellow). 33rd TCS (White): Indian tribe nicknames.

The 374th TCW was activated at Harmon Air Force Base, Guam, Marianas Air Materiel Area (Provisional) in August 1948. In February 1949, the wing was transferred from Harmon AFB to Tachikawa AB, Japan. The unit remained there, under the 20th Air Force, until 14 August. At the time, the unit's 21st TCS, flying C-54s, was the only squadron in PACAF equipped with four-engine cargo planes.

510319	C-47D	45-1029	21TCS	314TCG	Tachikawa AB, JPN	WAC	Selleck, Richard W.	20 Mi S Chungju
431119	C-60	42-32175*	21TCS	347TCG		LAC	Kominis, George J	
431010	L-4B	43-852	21TCS	374TCG		TAC	Davis, William H	Archerfield, QNSLD
431201	C-47A	42-24227	21TCS	374TCG		GAC		Garbutt Fld
431201	C-47A	43-30752	21TCS	374TCG		LAC	Reyers, Anthony (NMI)	Garbutt Fld
431201	C-47A	43-30755	21TCS	374TCG		GAC		Garbutt Fld
440516	C-47A	43-30758	21TCS	374TCG		GAC	[parked aircraft]	Archerfield
461025	C-46D	44-78415	21TCS	374TCG		KCR	Smith, Joseph L	Mt Banahao
500421	C-54D	42-72704	21TCS	374TCG	Clark AB, PHI	KCRGC	Fennessey, James D.	21 Mi SW Tachikawa AB
500713	C-47D	45-0890	21TCS	374TCG	Tachikawa AB, JPN	TACGL	Stout, Franklin W.	Taejon AB
500812	C-47D	43-39750	21TCS	374TCG	Ashiya AB, JPN	TOAGL	Norris, William J.	K-1 Airstrip

500824	C-47D	45-1126	21TCS	374TCG	Ashiya AB, JPN	LAC	Hoskins, James R.	K-10 Chinhae
501015	C-47A	42-100855	21TCS	374TCG	Tachikawa AB, JPN	KBOoG	Thompson, Morris F.	Southern Korea
501025	C-47D	44-9023	21TCS	374TCG	Itazuke AB, JPN	TAC	parked	Ashiya AB
501121	C-47D	43-49704	21TCS	374TCG	Itazuke AB, JPN	KSSP	Wilson, Robert V.	8 Mi SW Hyesacjin
501202	C-47	45-0949	21TCS	374TCG	Itazuke AB, JPN	TOAGL	Smith, Robert W.	Chosin Reservoir
510220	C-119C	49-0146	21TCS	374TCG	Tachikawa AB, JPN	TACMF	Young, Jas R.	Tachikawa AB
470302	C-54D	42-72563	21TCS			LAC	Catron, Thomas B	Tokyo/ 10mi SSE
470307	C-46D	44-78152	21TCS			TOA	Williams, Clyde E	Central Fld
510908	C-47D	43-49261	21TCS		Ashiya AB, JPN	DTCEF	Prince, Clarence B.	20 Mi E Tsushima
511013	C-47D	43-48481	21TCS		Ashiya AB, JPN	TAC	Sigward, William J.	K-51 Inje AB
511017	C-47D	43-48482	21TCS		Ashiya AB, JPN	LAC	Burns< Francis P.	Ashiya AB

510109	C-47A	43-15135	21CTS	374CTG	Itazuke AB, JPN	KLAC	Hughes, Richard A.	K-41 Chungju AB
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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources

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