

53 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

53 Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942
Activated, 1 Jun 1942
Redesignated 53 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1945
Activated, 30 Sep 1946
Redesignated 53 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Jul 1948
Redesignated 53 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 15 Aug 1948
Redesignated 53 Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966
Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Jul 1966
Activated, 8 Jan 1972
Redesignated 53 Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1992
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1993
Activated, 1 Oct 1993
Inactivated on 11 Jan 2008
Activated on 15 May 2008.

STATIONS

Pope Field, NC, 1 Jun 1942-3 May 1943
Lourmel, Algeria, 15 May 1943
Kairouan, Tunisia, Jun 1943

Licata, Sicily, 6 Aug 1943
Sicacca, Sicily, 6 Oct 1943-12 Feb 1944
Barkston, England, 18 Feb 1944
Abbeville, France, 13 Mar-18 May 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, 29 May-31 Jul 1945
Orly Field, France, 30 Sep 1946
Eschborn AB, Germany, 14 Dec 1946
Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 8 Aug 1947
Templehof AB, Germany, 20 Jan 1948
Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 22 Apr 1948-21 Jul 1950
McChord AFB, WA, 26 Jul-12 Dec 1950
Ashiya AB, Japan, 13 Dec 1950
Johnson AB, Japan, 13 Sep-18 Nov 1952
Larson AFB, WA, 21 Nov 1952
Donaldson AFB, SC, 21 Aug 1954
Hunter AFB, GA, 1 Apr 1963-8 Jul 1966
Norton AFB, CA, 8 Jan 1972-30 Apr 1993
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Oct 1993
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Oct 1993-11 Jan 2008
Little Rock AFB, AR, 15 May 2008

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Rhein-Main AB, Germany, Aug 1958-Feb 1959, Feb-Jul 1960, and 5 Jan 1961-Apr 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

61 Transport (later, 61 Troop Carrier) Group, 1 Jun 1942-31 Jul 1945
61 Troop Carrier Group, 30 Sep 1946
63 Troop Carrier Group, 8 Oct 1959
63 Troop Carrier (later, 63 Military Airlift) Wing, 18 Jan 1963-8 Jul 1966
63 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1972
63 Military Airlift Group, 1 Oct 1978
63 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1980
63 Operations Group, 1 Jan 1992-30 Apr 1993
314 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993
314 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993-11 Jan 2008
463 Airlift Group, 15 May 2008-

ATTACHMENTS

Airlift Task Force, Provisional, Aug 1958-Feb 1959, Feb-Jul 1960, and 5 Jan 1961-Apr 1962

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
C-47, 1946-1948
C-54, 1948-1952

C-124, 1952-1966

C-141, 1972-1993

COMMANDERS

2nd Lt Glen A. Myers, 1 Jun 1942

Capt Richard P. Carr, 2 Jul 1942

Capt S. W. Tobiason, 22 Oct 1942

Capt Howard M. Betts, 10 Jan 1943

Maj Charles L. Haruff, 24 Oct 1944

1st Lt Harry W. Know Jr., 1-31 Jul 1945

Maj Ralph P. Gentry, 5 Sep 1947-Unkn

Maj Albert H. Schneider, 1 Aug 1948

Maj William B. Colson, 9 Aug 1949

Lt Col Andrew E. Mcdavid, 3 Oct 1949

Maj Arthur L. Ethridge Jr., 1 Aug 1951

Lt Col Andrew E. Mcdavid, Oct 1951-Unkn

Lt Col John A. Briggs, C. Feb 1952-Unkn

Lt Col Ernest W. Burton, Unkn-Unkn

Lt Col Robert E. Harrington, Unkn-Oct 1952

Maj Frank E. Tarasko, Oct 1952

Lt Col Norman R. Crosson, 1955

Maj Dan L. Collie, 1956

Maj Dixon J. Arnold, 1957

Maj Lawrence F. Uebel, 1958

Maj James S. Liptak, Apr 1959

Lt Col Sidney G. Smith, Mar 1960

Lt Col William E. Kunz, Jun-C. 20 Dec 1960

Lt Col Donald L. Brooks, Dec 1960-Unkn

Lt Col Sidney G. Smith, 23 Jan 1961

Lt Col Donald L. Brooks, 3 Apr 1961

Lt Col David B. Smith, 20 Jul 1961

Lt Col William T. Johnson, 12 Mar 1962

Lt Col Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 17 Jun 1962-Unkn

Lt Col Sidney G. Smith, Jun 1962

Lt Col W. Daniels, Jan 1963

Lt Col Sidney G. Smith, Apr 1963

Lt Col James S. Liptak, 1964

Lt Col Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 1964

Lt Col James S. Liptak, 1965

Lt Col Charlton W. Winchester Jr., 17 Feb 1965

Lt Col Gerald Linscheid, 1965-1966

Lt Col George B. Powers, 8 Jan 1972

Lt Col Frederick L. Breitinger, 27 Jun 1973

Lt Col Allan R. Christensen, 9 Apr 1975

Lt Col William J. Roth Jr., 2 Jul 1976
Lt Col Donald G. Lawson, 1 Nov 1976
Lt Col Herbert K. Bevelhymer, 26 Mar 1979
Lt Col Albert W. Estes, 17 Aug 1981
Lt Col Allen A. Pichon, 26 Jul 1982
Lt Col Robert D. Geeman, 21 Feb 1984
Lt Col Leonard C. Lyle Jr., 20 Jun 1986
Lt Col Arthur S. Irwin, 1 Jul 1987
Lt Col Robert M. Zeluff, 1 Mar 1989
Lt Col Gary L. Pudwill, 16 Nov 1990
Lt Col William H. Mills, 17 Jun 1991-30 Apr 1993
Lt Col Keith A. Feigh, 1 Oct 1993
Lt Col Leslie L. Chapman, 25 Aug 1994
Lt Col John A. Tappan, 29 May 1996
Lt Col Dale D. Wyant, 29 May 1997
Lt Col John C. Sleight, 20 Nov 1998
Lt Col Carl E. Mcdaniel Jr., 27 Jul 2000
Lt Col Jeffrey Hoffer, 10 Nov 2001
Lt Col Brian E. O'connor, 15 Nov 2002
Lt Col Paul M. Kucharek, 27 May 2004
Lt Col Thomas C. Gilster, 2 Jun 2006-11 Jan 2008
Lt Col Sean S. Bordenave, 16 May 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Korea
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990.

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Sicily, 11 Jul 1943

France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Korea, 13 Dec 1950-21 Apr 1951

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1957-10 Dec 1962

1 Jun 1978-31 May 1980

1 Jan-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan- 31 Dec 1987

1 Jan 1990-30 Apr 1991

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-31 Mar 1997

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

1 Jul 1951-18 Nov 1952

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-[8 Jul 1966]

EMBLEM





Azure the Jack of Spades playing card bendwise sinister surmounting another card bendwise proper, all within a diminished bordure Or. (Approved, 10 Sep 1953 and slightly modified, 9 Dec 1994)

MOTTO

PRIMUS CUM PLURIMI-First with the Most

OPERATIONS

World War II: Included airborne assaults on Sicily, Normandy, Holland, and Germany; aerial transportation in MTO and ETO. Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949.

Korean War: Aerial transportation from US to Japan, Aug-Dec 1950, and between Japan and Korea, 13 Dec 1950-Nov 1952. Airlift, 1953-1966, including resupply to the Antarctic, (Project Deep Freeze), 1957-1958, and missions to Southeast Asia during the conflict in Vietnam.

Worldwide airlift, 1972-1993, into Grenada, 23 Oct-9 Nov 1983, during the invasion of Panama, 20 Dec 1989, and to Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Jun 1991.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Larson AFB, WA, 62 Troop Carrier Wing, 1953*. Army and Navy Publishing Company. Baton Rouge, LA. 1953.