

61 AIR BASE WING



MISSION

The 61 Air Base Wing is the host unit at Los Angeles Air Force Base. It provides administrative and base services to the personnel assigned to the Space and Missile Systems Center. The 61 Medical Group provides responsive, quality, cost-effective healthcare in a competitive environment. It ensures mission readiness and healthy lifestyles through proactive healthcare programs. The 61 Mission Support Group provides personnel, family support, services, communications, contracting, civil engineering and security forces services for base organizations and personnel. Key staff divisions falling under the wing include Chaplain Services, Command Post Operations, Military Equal Opportunity, Legal, Protocol and Public Affairs

LINEAGE

61 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established and activated, 1 Jul 1948
Redesignated 61 Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy, 15 Aug 1948
Inactivated, 2 Jun 1951
Redesignated 61 Military Airlift Wing and activated, 27 Dec 1965
Organized, 8 Jan 1966
Redesignated 61 Military Airlift Support Wing, 22 Dec 1969
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1980
Redesignated 61 Air Base Wing, 20 Jun 2006
Activated, 1 Aug 2006

STATIONS

Rhein Main AFB (later, AB) Germany, 1 Jul 1948-2 Jun 1951
Hickam AFB, Hawaii, 8 Jan 1966-1 Apr 1980

Los Angeles AFB, California, 1 Aug 2006

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jul 1948

1 Airlift Task Force, 10 Jul 1949

United States Air Forces in Europe, 26 Sep 1949

Twelfth Air Force, 21 Jan-2 Jun 1951

Military Air Transport Service (later, Military Airlift Command), 27 Dec 1965

Twenty-Second Air Force, 8 Jan 1966

834 Airlift Division, 1 Oct 1978-1 Apr 1980

Space and Missile Systems Center, 1 Aug 2006

ATTACHMENTS

Berlin Airlift Task Force, 1-29 Jul 1948

Airlift Task Force, Provisional, 29 Jul-4 Nov 1948

1 Airlift Task Force, 5 Nov 1948-9 Jul 1949)

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1948

C-54, 1948, 1949-1950

C-82, 1949-1951

B-17, 1948-1949

L-5, 1948-1949, 1950

C-74, 1948

YC-97, 1949

C-47, 1949-1951

C-119, 1950

C-54, 1951

C-121, 1966

C-124, 1966-1969

None, 1969-1980

COMMANDERS

Col Walter S. Lee, 1 Jul 1948

Col Auby C. Strickland, 4 Aug 1949

Brig Gen Edward H. Alexander, 3 Oct 1949

Col Auby C. Strickland, 13 Jan-2 Jun 1951

None (Not Manned), 27 Dec 1965-7 Jan 1966

Brig Gen Herman Rumsey, 8 Jan 1966

Col Jesse A. Irwin, 27 Feb 1967

Brig Gen Ernest J. White, 1 Jul 1967

Col Jesse A. Irwin, 2 Jul 1967

Brig Gen Ernest J. White, 1 Aug 1967

Col Lyle S. Thomas, 18 Jun 1970

Col Robert H. Campbell, 15 Jun 1971
Col Douglas L. Campbell, 15 Aug 1973
Col Paul E. Gardner, 23 May 1974
Col Franklin A. Ross, 2 Jun 1976
Col Robert H. Dixon; 10 Oct 1978
Col Bird Royce Brownfield, 11 Jun 1979-31 Mar 1980
Col Joseph H. Schwarz, 1 Aug 2006
Col Anita E. Latin, 22 Jul 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Berlin Airlift

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8-23 Jan 1966

8 Jan-30 Jun 1966

1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1972

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display the honors earned by the 61 Troop Carrier Group prior to 1 Jul 1948

Service Streamers

World War II

American Theater

Campaigns

World War II

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Sicily, 11 Jul 1943

France, [6-7] Jun 1944

EMBLEM



61 Military Airlift Support Wing

61 Air Base Wing emblem: Barry of six Or and Azure, a pale nebuly all counterchanged, all within a diminished bordure of the first. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "61 AIR BASE WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The field of the shield is equally divided into six horizontal bars plus a single vertical pale to represent the historical numerical designation of the 61 Troop Carrier Group and the 61 Air Base Group. The horizontal bars are symbolic of strength and endurance. The pale, used to represent protection, is formed by two nebular lines drawn from top to bottom of the shield. The nebular lines represent clouds and symbolically portray the mission of the unit. (Approved for 61 Troop Carrier Group, 20 Aug 1951; approved for Wing, 30 Nov 2006)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Participated in Berlin Airlift (Operation Vittles), 1 Jul-4 Nov 1948 and 10 Jul-17 Oct 1949. Operated Rhein Main AB, Germany, Jul 1948-Jun 1951 and Templehof AB, Germany, 1 Jul-5 Nov 1948. Also operated Tulln Airport in Austria from 1 Jul-10 Dec 1948.

Flew theater airlift missions and participated in numerous exercises, Aug 1949-Jun 1951. The wing's primary group (61 Troop Carrier) deployed to South Korea for combat, Jul 1950-Jan 1951.

Replaced the 1502 Air Transport Wing in Hawaii in Jan 1966. Provided air transport and support functions for airlift operations in the entire Pacific Ocean area, from Alaska to Antarctica, and US to Southeast Asia. Lost its last flying squadron in Dec 1969; thereafter, concentrated entirely upon the support of airlift operations in the Pacific until 1980.

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.