

81st TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

81st Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 23 Mar 1943
Activated, 1 Apr 1943
Inactivated, 15 Nov 1945
Activated in the reserve, 16 Jul 1947
Redesignated 81st Troop Carrier Squadron (Medium), 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 1 Apr 1951
Inactivated, 16 Apr 1951
Activated in the reserve, 22 Aug 1955
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957

STATIONS

Baer Field, IN, 1 Apr 1943
Alliance AAFld, NE, 2 May 1943
Laurinburg-Maxton AAB, NC, 4 Aug 1943
Baer Field, IN, 16-28 Dec 1943
Bottesford, England, Jan 1944
Membury, England, 3 Mar 1944-Feb 1945 (operated from Voltone Airfield, Italy,
20 Jul-23 Aug 1944)
Melun, France, Feb-Jul 1945
Baer Field, IN, 13 Aug 1945
Malden AAFld, MO, 8 Sep 19 Nov 1945
Evansville Mun Aprt, IN, 16 Jul 1947
Godman AFB, KY, 27 Jun 1949
Standiford Mun Aprt, KY, 10 Oct 1950-16 Apr 1951
Grenier AFB, NH, 22 Aug 1955-16 Nov 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

436th Troop Carrier Group, 1 Apr 1943-15 Nov 1945
436th Troop Carrier Group, 16 Jul 1947
434th Troop Carrier Group, 1 Jul 1948
436th Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-16 Apr 1951
436th Troop Carrier Group, 22 Aug 1955-16 Nov 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1943-1945
C-47A

COMMANDERS

LTC Gardner W. Mills

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Airborne assaults on Normandy, Southern France, Holland, and Germany; relief of Bastogne; transportation of cargo and personnel in ETO and MTO during World War II

Rehabilitation work was completed on the base by June, 1949, and the Indianapolis unit began moving in along with the 81st Troop Carrier Squadron from Evansville, Indiana. One the move was completed, the first of the Air Force Reserve Wings, the 434th Troop Carrier Wing, began training here.

Since its return to Reserve status, the operations of Bakalar's 434th Wing have grown with crews flying thousands of hours-both on routine training missions and with active duty Air Force Wings.

A major milestone in the life of the Hoosier Wing came during 1957 when the wing traded its C-46 Curtiss Commando aircraft for the newer, faster and bigger C-119 'Flying Boxcars'.

22 Aug 55-The 81st Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS) Medium (M) activated in the Air Force Reserve (AFR) at Grenier AFB. This unit operated Curtiss C-46 Commando transports and was assigned to the 436th Troop Carrier Wing (TCW) at Naval Air Station (NAS) New York (Floyd Bennet Field), Brooklyn, NY.

12 Oct 55-Lt. Col. Gardner W. Mills assumed command of 81st TCS. In addition to previous Air Force Reserve service as Maintenance Officer of the 89th Fighter Bomber Wing (FBW), Mills was the Aeronautical Inspector for the State of New Hampshire.

01 Jul 56-The 81st TCS was assigned five C-45 and 4 C-46 aircraft. Flying training consisted of local transition flights, instrument flights, and cross-country flights.

Jul-Dec flying hours accumulated by 81st TCS were 3318.15. C-45H 52-10567 248:25 hrs; C-45H 52-10568 182:00 hrs. Northeast airlines logged 660 landings during this period.

28 Feb 57-The first of 18 Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar medium transports arrived to equip the 81st TCS. This aircraft, 51-8041 was built by Fairchild at Hagerstown, MD.

July 57-The C-119G transition school was attended by personnel of the 81st TCS and 436th TCW. During this period these units flew 1191 hours, and accomplished 1767 landings in the C-119.

26 Oct 57-Two 81st TCS C-119s flew to Forbes AFB, Kansas to pick up large generators which were then delivered to Loring AFB, ME.

15 Nov 57-The 81st TCS was inactivated in accordance with First Air Force order #65. The 732nd TCS was activated on the same day in accordance with First Air Force order #62. Manning document was USAF General Order #54, 24 Oct 57. Authorized strength was 56 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, and 393 enlisted men. To the military personnel of the flying squadron, in effect this simply meant they were now members of the 732nd TCS, there being no change of personnel or equipment. The 732nd was assigned to the 94th TCW at Hanscom AFB, MA. The mission of the 732nd was to become manned, equipped, and operationally ready to provide

airlifts for troops and equipment to theatres of operation, either by parachute or air landings, and to provide airlift support for such forces until they could be supplied by other means.

The Air Force Reserve (AFR) played a key role at Grenier Field for the latter half of the 1950s and into the 1960s. On August 22, 1955 the 81st Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS) of the *AFR* was activated at Grenier, operating Curtiss C-46 Commando transports. By late October, Lt. Col. Gardner W. Mills assumed command of the 81st TCS. Days later, concurrent with the transfer of Grenier Field to the CONAC, the 2235th Air Reserve Flying Center was activated to oversee control of the base and its units. Lt. Col. Robert A. Carter commanded the 2235th and Lt. Col. Raymond G. Thompson was director of operations

"01 Sep 57-The C-119G conversion program at Grenier AFB was declared completed. A total of 190 pilots were certified in the C -119 in less than three months.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

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