

2 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

Organize, train and equip to form combat-ready aircrews operating C-130 aircraft to conduct single-ship or formation airdrop, airland, and aeromedical missions in adverse weather to deliver and sustain combat and combat-support troops in forward areas of operation.

LINEAGE

2 Provisional Transport Squadron constituted, 1 Mar 1935
Redesignated 2 Transport Squadron and activated, 28 Jun 1935
Redesignated 2 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 24 Dec 1945
Redesignated 2 Airlift Squadron and activated, 1 Jun 1992
Inactivated, 14 Jul 2016

STATIONS

Columbus, OH, 1934-1935
Olmsted Field, PA, 28 Jun 1935
Stout Field, IN, 21 May 1942
Kellogg Field, MI, 1 Jul 1942
Bowman Field, KY, 4 Aug 1942
Pope Field, NC, 1 Oct 1942–23 Jan 1943
Yangkai, China, 17 Feb 1943
Dinjan, India, 1 Jul 1943
Shingbuiyang, Burma, 14 Aug 1944
Dinjan, India, 1 Jun 1945
Chihkiang, China, 24 Aug 1945
Hankow, China, 25 Sep–21 Nov 1945

Camp Anza, CA, 23–24 Dec 1945
Pope AFB, NC, 1 Jun 1992–14 Jul 2016

ASSIGNMENTS

1 Transport Group
Middletown Air Depot, PA, 28 Jun 1935
10 Transport (later, 10 Troop Carrier) Group, 20 May 1937
Tenth Air Force, 17 Feb 1943
Assam Air Base Command, c. 1 Jul 1943
443 Troop Carrier Group, 6 Mar 1944–24 Dec 1945
23 Operations Group, 1 Jun 1992
43 Airlift Wing, 1 May 1997
440 Airlift Wing, 1 Jun 2005–14 Jul 2016

ATTACHMENTS

India-China Wing, Air Transport Command, 9 Mar–1 Jul 1943
Troop Carrier Command, Eastern Air Command, 20 Dec 1943–6 Mar 1944

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-27, 1935–1937
C-33, 1936–1939
C-39
Various civilian and military modifications of DC-3, 1939–1941
C-47, 1942–1945
C-46, 1945
C-130, 1992

COMMANDERS

Capt Charles H. Deerwester, 15 Jun 1937–4 Jul 1937
Maj George G. Lundberg, 26 Jul 1937
Maj Charles B. DeShields, 18 Oct 1937
Maj John R. Drumm, 1 Feb 1939
Unknown, 1 Feb 1940–7 Dec 1941
Capt Sterling G. Harvey, Jul 1942
Capt Robert O. Butler, Jr., Oct 1942
Maj Ralph A. Hering, Oct 1942
Capt Albert E. Bivings, Jan 1943
Maj Frank E. Sears, Jr., Feb 1943
Capt Warren D. Rode, Jan 1944
Capt Eugene J. Comontofsky, Feb 1944
Maj Allan L. Dickey, May 1944
Maj Benjamin F. Beauman, Dec 1944
Capt Ralph B. Voorhis, Apr 1945
Maj Edgar R. Owen, May 1945

Lt Col Randall E. Honnet, 2 Jun 1992
Lt Col Jerome S. Macken, Oct 1992
Lt Col Kent K. Kysar, Aug 1994
Lt Col Mark W. Gibson, May 1996
Lt Col Robert L. English, Jun 1998
Lt Col Paul J. Montgomery, Jul 1999
Lt Col Scott K. Cummings, Jun 2001
Lt Col John R. Romero, Jun 2003
Lt Col Jeffrey G. Brown, Mar 2005
Lt Col Walter H. Ward, Jr., Sep 2006
Lt Col Leslie T. Smith, Jr., Jun 2008
Lt Col Larry A. Floyd, Jr., Jun 2010
Lt Col Amy K. Jardon, Jun 2012
Lt Col Patrick M. O'Sullivan, Jun 2014

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
India-Burma with Arrowhead
China Defensive
Central Burma
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
China, Burma, and India, [25 Feb]–31 Dec 1943
Burma, 1–29 Feb 1944
China, 5–30 Sep 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

6 Jul 1992-5 July 1994
31 May 1995- 31 Mar 1997
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006
1 Sep 2011-31 Aug 2012

EMBLEM



Upon a disc per bend indented yellow-orange and azure, a left-facing brown spear in fesse, headed gold, red winged gules (Approved, 5 May 1942); modified 1 Jun 1992, design encircled in white and red with '2d Airlift Squadron' in arc at top; modified 1 May 1997, removal of red and white outlines and original 1942 design encapsulated in yellow-orange with unit designation moved to a rocker below.



MOTTO

Second to None

OPERATIONS

The 2 Provisional Transport Squadron was constituted in October 1933, and by March 1934, it had become a 'Regular Army Inactive' unit at Norton Field, Ohio, with reserve officers assigned. On 2 July 1935, the 2 Transport Squadron was activated at Olmsted Field, Pennsylvania as a Regular Army Active unit flying the single-engine Bellanca C-27C, transporting personnel and supplies throughout North and South America. Between 1937 and 1942, the Squadron had transitioned through the twin-engine Douglas C-33, C-39, to the C-47 aircraft.

In May 1942, the 2 Transport Squadron was transferred to Stout Field in Indianapolis, Indiana, providing transition training for new pilots into multi-engine cargo aircraft. In July of 1942, the Squadron moved to Kellogg Field, Battle Creek, Michigan and was designated the 2 Troop Carrier Squadron. In October 1942, the Squadron moved to Pope Field, Fayetteville, North Carolina to provide air and ground training of Airborne Infantry and Parachute Troops.

On 17 February 1943, the 2 Troop Carrier Squadron, was transferred to the China-Burma-India theater of operations to serve under the 10th Air Force to support Merrill's Marauders and the Mars Task Force in the battle for Burma. It also supported the British forces in their battle for Mandalay. After liberating Burma, the Squadron returned to India to fly supplies to China on the route over the Himalayas known as the "Hump."

At the conclusion of World War II, the 2 Troop Carrier Squadron moved to its new home in

Chinkiang, China on 24 August 1945 to transport the Chinese 6th Army from the interior of China to port cities of Peiping, Nanking, and Shanghai for occupational duty. On 25 September 1945, the Squadron moved to Hanker, China to airlift the 93d Chinese Army to Peiping. On 4 December 1945, the Squadron returned to the United States and was deactivated on 24 December 1945.

On 2 June 1992, the unit was activated at Pope Air Force Base (AFB), North Carolina as the 2 Airlift Squadron flying the Lockheed C-130E Hercules as part of the 23rd Fighter Wing "Flying Tigers," a composite wing formed under Air Combat Command. The Squadron ramped up quickly, participating in Operation Southern Watch and exercises such as Sand Eagle, REFORGER, Agile Provider, Market Square, Ocean Venture, Bright Star, Red Flag, and Maple Flag. The Squadron also earned "Best Overall Squadron" at the 1994 Airlift Rodeo sponsored by Headquarters Air Mobility Command (AMC), and "Best Aircrew" at the 1996 Rodeo.

In the spring of 1997, the 2 Airlift Squadron reorganized under Air Mobility Command (AMC), assigned to the newly activated 43d Airlift Wing at Pope AFB. The Squadron continued to distinguish itself in numerous joint/combined exercises and peacekeeping operations in Europe and Southwest Asia, to include, Provide Hope, Joint Gard, Desert Calm, and Vigilant Warrior, as well as US-presidential and vice-presidential support and exercises such as Purple Dragon, Red Flag, Capstone, and more. In 1998, the squadron rotated to-and-from European bases in support NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of Operations Joint Forge and Provide Promise.

On 15 October 2001, while on Air Expeditionary Force deployment to Oman, the 2 Airlift Squadron flew the first AMC C-130 combat and combat support missions in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The squadron remained on continuous, rotational deployment to Southwest Asia for two years through the opening months of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After distinguishing itself in combat with a perfect safety record, the Squadron returned home to Pope AFB in the fall of 2003. Shortly thereafter, Headquarters AMC awarded the Squadron the 2003 General Joseph Smith Trophy as the Command's Outstanding Airlift Squadron of the Year.

In 2005, pursuant to Base Realignment and Closure Commission directives, the 2 Airlift Squadron reorganized as an active duty associate unit under the new Air Force Reserve Command host at Pope AFB, the 440th Airlift Wing (formerly based at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station, Wisconsin). With the new wing came the Squadron's transition to newer C 130H2 aircraft. Under the 440 AW, the Squadron continued its mission supporting humanitarian, combat, combat support, and aeromedical evacuation operations around the globe.

The 2 AS has distinguished itself in numerous multinational cooperative efforts, humanitarian relief, combat, and combat support operations such as Provide Promise, Provide Hope, Desert Calm, Vigilant Warrior, Joint Guardian, Joint Forge, Cooperative Key, Southern Watch, Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Eventually, continued downsizing of the US Air Force resulted in the 2 Airlift Squadron's systematic drawdown from operational service. Finally, after 24 years of proud service, the Squadron was inactivated again on 14 July 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Mobility Command History Office, Scott AFB, IL

Air Combat Command History Office, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, VA

Unit History, *2 Airlift Squadron*, Pope AFB, NC, circa 2016.