

6 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 6 Airlift Squadron continues a fine heritage of answering America's call for combat airlift and humanitarian relief around the globe.

LINEAGE

6 Transport Squadron constituted, 1 Oct 1933

Activated, 14 Oct 1939

Redesignated 6 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942

Redesignated 6 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 21 May 1948

Redesignated 6 Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966

Discontinued and inactivated, 8 Jun 1968

Activated, 8 Apr 1970

Redesignated 6 Airlift Squadron, 1 Nov 1991

STATIONS

Olmstead Field, PA, 14 Oct 1939

Camp Williams, WI, 23 Mar 1942

Dodd Field, TX, 16–23 Sep 1942

Port Moresby, New Guinea, 13 Oct 1942

Garbutt Field, Australia, 2 Oct 1943

Nadzab, New Guinea, 26 Aug 1944

Biak, 20 Oct 1944

Tacloban, Leyte, 12 Mar 1945

Nielson Field, Luzon, 1 Jan 1946

Okinawa, 10 Jun 1946

Tachikawa AB, Japan, 13 Apr 1947
Harmon Field, Guam, 1 Dec 1947
Tachikawa AB, Japan, 5 Mar 1949
Hickam AFB, HI, 22 Jun 1964–8 Jun 1968
McGuire AFB, NJ, 8 Apr 1970

ASSIGNMENTS

10 Transport Group, 14 Oct 1939
60 Transport Group, 1 Dec 1940
61 Transport Group, 19 May 1941
315 Transport Group, Mar 1942
63 Transport (later, 63rd Troop Carrier) Group, Jun 1942
374 Troop Carrier Group, 12 Nov 1942
403 Troop Carrier Group, 15 May 1946
374 Troop Carrier Group, 15 Oct 1946
1503 Air Transport Wing, 18 Nov 1958
1502 Air Transport Wing, 22 Jun 1964
61 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966–8 Jun 1968
438 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Apr 1970
438 Military Airlift Group, 1 Oct 1978
438 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jun 1980
438 Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991
305 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-33, 1940–1942
C-39, 1940–1942
C-53, 1941–1942
C-47, 1942–1945
C-46D, 1945–1947
C-54D, 1946–1952
C-124A, 1952
C-141, 1970

COMMANDERS

Maj John R. Dunn, 14 Oct 1939
Maj George J. Cressey, 4 Nov 1939
Capt John J. Keough, 28 Mar 1940
1st Lt Hamisch McClelland, 10 Jun 1940
Maj John H. Lackey Jr., 17 Feb 1942
Capt Frank W. Smith (acted as commanding officer of ground echelon while air and ground echelons were separated), 23 Sep-1 Dec 1942
Capt William D. Wells, 22 May 1943
Capt William A. Peterson, 3 Dec 1943

Maj Harry E. Rehrer, Feb 1944
Maj Isaac W. Smith, 15 Sep 1944
Capt Donald K. Hartley, 15 May 1945
Col John L. Sullivan, Unkn
Lt Col James L. Cole, 19 Jun 1946
Capt Fred H. Towne, 7 Apr 1947
Lt Col Roland J. Barnick, 5 May 1947
Lt Col William R. Calhoun Jr., 25 Aug 1947
Maj Albert W. Brownfield, 30 Jun 1949
Maj Thomas R. Keeny, 26 Jun 1950
Lt Col Albert W. Brownfield, 14 Sep 1950
Lt Col Alexander D. Macniven, Apr 1951
Maj Richard E. Becker Jr., Apr 1952
Lt Col Courtney L. Faught, Unkn
Lt Col Charles G. Ferran, 1954
Lt Col Philip C. Sprawls, 1955
Lt Col Charles M. Mills, Jul 1957
Maj Haskell D. Coffey; 26 Aug 1958
Lt Col John D. Nichols, 20 Aug 1959
Lt Col William K. Smith, 23 May 1960
Lt Col Erich E. Shleier Jr., 15 Aug 1961
Lt Col Robert W. Denomy, 14 May 1964
Lt Col Joseph E. Nutt, 9 May 1966
Lt Col Louis F. Gessner, Jul 1966
Col Alva E. Nixon, 8 Aug 1966-8 Jun 1968
Lt Col Otto L. Marsh, 8 Apr 1970
Lt Col Richard G. Ohlheiser, 1 Jun 1971
Lt Col Kenneth E. Klein, 9 Dec 1972
Lt Col Bland B. Simmons, 1 Jun 1973
Lt Col Donald M. Taylor, 23 Oct 1974
Lt Col Richard W. Thompson, 15 Aug 1975
Lt Col Stanley A. Cooper, 9 Sep 1977
Lt Col William H. Sistrunk, 1 Dec 1978
Lt Col Paul E. Gallo, 29 Feb 1980
Lt Col David O. Williams, 18 Sep 1981
Lt Col Joseph A. Petrazio Jr., 20 Oct 1983
Lt Col William Welser Iii, 18 Dec 1985
Lt Col Barry F. Creighton, 22 Jun 1987
Lt Col Norman Schaule, 9 Jan 1990
Lt Col William T. Payne Iv, 25 Jul 1991
Lt Col Robert L. Cambrell Jr., 18 Aug 1994
Lt Col Carl D. Evans, 1 Mar 1996
Lt Col Jack C. Gundrum, 9 Jun 1997
Lt Col John Brunhaver, 19 Apr 1999

Lt Col Robert D. Thomas, 2 Mar 2001
Lt Col Eric J. Wydra, 21 Jan 2003
Lt Col Mark D. Camerer, 20 Sep 2004
Lt Col Joseph L. Wolfer, 16 Jun 2006
Lt Col John F. Price, 30 Jun 2008
Lt Col William D. Hall, 9 Jun 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Japan
Papua
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines

Korea
UN Defensive
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

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989–1990

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Papua, [Oct] 1942–23 Jan 1943
Papua, 12 Nov–22 Dec 1942
Wau, New Guinea, 30 Jan–1 Feb 1943
Korea, 27 Jun–15 Sep 1950

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan–31 Dec 1961
1 Jul 1964–30 Jun 1966
23 Dec 1965–23 Jan 1966
1 Jul 1966–30 Jun 1967
1 Jul 1967–[8] Jun 1968
1 Jul 1982–30 Jun 1984

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
1 Jul 1951–27 Jul 1953

EMBLEM



6 Transport Squadron emblem approved, 14 Apr 1942



On a disc Blue, narrow bordered Black, over a representation of a tin "Bully Beef" White, edged Red, caricatured bull's head front face Brown, mouth and horns Yellow, beard Black eyeballs White, pupils Black, nose Red and with a fighting mad expression and snorting detail White from nose. (Approved, 1 Dec 1952)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Aerial transportation in the South, Southwest, and Western Pacific, during World War II and in the Far East during the Korean War and after to 1968.

During the middle of October 1942, a very concentrated movement was made from Milne Bay and Port Moresby for the final Allied drive on Buna. The 6 Squadron arrived during the movement, three of its ships making trips the day after its arrival. During the Buna Campaign a continual flow of men and supplies was maintained by Group aircraft. The 33rd Squadron arrived in November of 1942 and just in time for the final Allied assault on Buna. Fighter cover was very slight during the Buna Campaign and several of our transports were shot down by Japanese aircraft.

29 May 1947 C-54D, 42-72553, of the 6 Troop Carrier Squadron, with 33 passengers and eight crew on board crashes into a mountain SW of Tokyo, Japan. An Army announcement said that it had not been determined whether or not there were any survivors. A revised count reported that there were 40 aboard the C-54, 28 enlisted, eight officers, and four civilians, all killed in the crash. They were reported to be burned beyond recognition. The flight, inbound from Korea, had apparently exploded as it approached Tachikawa Airfield for a landing.

1959 was the year of Operation Handclasp V, a joint US-Australian airpower display conducted to demonstrate the spirit of cooperation between the two countries through a mutual aerial display of military might. The exercise was held in conjunction with Australia's commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea and ANZAC day. The exercise, conducted from April 25 through May 7, saw C-124s from the 6 and 22nd Troop Carrier Squadrons deliver 72,000 pounds of communications equipment to various sites in Australia, to be set up prior to the arrival of RF-101S, RB-66s, KB-50s and C-130s which were used for aerial demonstrations, flybys and static displays throughout the operation. These activities took place in Brisbane, Sydney, Richmond, Amberly, East Sale and Melbourne.

In August, the 6 TCS suffered a major accident at Komaki Air Base. At just after 1 o'clock in the afternoon, on the 24th, the C-124 crashed while landing. There were no crew injuries or deaths.

Worldwide airlift operations, Apr 1970.

Resupplied scientific stations in the Antarctic during Operation Deep Freeze, 1971–1974.

Evacuated Vietnamese refugees during the fall of Saigon, Apr–Jun 1975.

Supported US forces in Grenada, Oct–Dec 1983; during the invasion of Panama, Dec 1989–Jan 1990; and during the Gulf War, Aug 1990–Mar 1991.

In October, 1942, the air echelon of the 6 Troop Carrier Squadron had begun to operate in the Southwest Pacific theater with thirteen C-47s. Late in November, 1942, the 33rd Troop Carrier Squadron had begun to operate its eleven C-47s in the Southwest Pacific Theater.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

374 Troop Carrier Group, 1942-1945. Edward T. Imparrato. Turner Publishing Co. Paducah, KY. 1998.