

427th AIRCRAFT SUSTAINMENT GROUP

MISSION

B-1 Sustainment

LINEAGE

27th Air Transport Group constituted

Activated, 15 Apr 1943

Inactivated, 15 Oct 1945

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

Reconstituted and redesignated 427th Tactical Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 427th Aircraft Sustainment Group

Activated, 11 Jan 2008

Inactivated, 30 Jun 2010

STATIONS

RAF Hendon, England, 14 Apr 1943

RAF Heston, England, Jan 1944

RAF Grove, England, 6 Sep 1944

Le Bourget Airport, France, Nov 1944

Villacoublay Airfield, France, Mar 1945–5 Oct 1945

Tinker AFB, OK, 11 Jan 2008–30 Jun 2010

ASSIGNMENTS

VIII Air Force Service Command (later Air Service Command, United States Strategic Air Forces),
15 Apr 1943

302nd Transport Wing, 1 Sep 1944

Unknown, 5 Apr 1945

302nd Transport Wing, 18 Jul 1945–15 Oct 1945

327th Aircraft Sustainment Wing, 11 Jan 2008–30 Jun 2010

COMMANDERS

Col A. J. Pierce

Col Leslie P. Arnold

LTC Kenneth A. Reecher

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

European-African-Middle East

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 26 months, the 27th Air Transport Group carved its name deep into the journals of Uncle Sam's air arms in the European Theater of Operations. Long before D-Day, it helped to set the stage for the invasion, hustling supplies throughout the United Kingdom England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. Its big C-47s had roamed far from home to undertake emergency missions in almost every corner of Europe to Sweden, to Italy, to Iceland and even into Africa and Russia. They winged their way across the Atlantic to bring back urgently needed material.

Then the Allied forces began to forge their way across the continent, the 27th carried gasoline, blood plasma, whole blood, ammunition, and other high priority cargo wherever it was needed on the battlefields in France and Germany.

Even V-E Day failed to halt the activities of the 27th Air Transport Group and while operational air force units paused for a well-deserved rest, the 27th continued to fly into Germany to bring back liberated prisoners of war and repatriates.

The record of the 27th Air Transport Group will long remain a tribute to the men who worked go untiringly that Victory in Europe might not be delayed by as much as a single day. It is a tribute not alone to pilots and air crews, but to every man who did his job... the ground men, mechanics, cooks, clerks, carpenters and all those who made up this great team called the 27th Air Transport Group.

Originally occupying half of the activities of the 27th Air Transport Group, ferrying of replacement aircraft in this theater has always been a major and important function. Major Remlin was the first director of ferrying for the 27th Air Transport Group back in 1942. At one

time all ferrying squadrons assigned to that organization were used in ferrying rather than transport work as was later necessary.



Col A. J. Pierce, First group commander and Col Leslie P. Arnold, his successor. (USAAF photo)



Col Leslie Arnold (USAAF photo)

In 1985, the group was reconstituted and redesignated the 427th Tactical Airlift Group. However, the group remained inactive until January 2008, when it was activated at Tinker Air Force Base as the 427th Aircraft Sustainment Group and assigned to the 327th Aircraft Sustainment Wing. Its mission was logistical support for the Rockwell B-1 Lancer bomber, acting as the Systems Program Office for the Lancer. The group refurbished approximately thirteen Lancers a year and implemented programs to reduce the time the aircraft spent in depots and to improve the availability of engines for forward deployed expeditionary units. It also managed the installation of laser "sniper pods" on the B-1 to enable it to target and engage in real time and perform instant bomb damage assessment. It was activated in 2008 as the 427th Aircraft Sustainment Group and provided support for the Boeing B-52 Stratofortress.

In 2010, Air Force Material Command returned to its traditional organizational structure and the group was inactivated and replaced by the B-1 Sustainment Division of Oklahoma City Air

Logistics Center. Its three squadrons became the division's Production Support, Logistics Support, and Modification Support Branches.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 16 Feb 2012

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit History. *Gooney Birds and Ferry Tales; The 27th Air Transport Group in World War II*. Jon A. Maguire. Schiffer Military History. Atglen, PA. 1998.

Unit history. *302 Transport Wing*. Nd.