

535th AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

535th Fighter Squadron constituted, 24 Sep 1943
Activated, 1 Oct 1943
Disbanded, 10 Apr 1944
Reconstituted and redesignated 535th Fighter Squadron, Two-Engine, 16 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 535th Fighter-Escort Squadron, 16 Mar 1950
Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 25 Jun 1951
Redesignated 535th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1953
Redesignated 535th Troop Carrier Squadron and activated, 12 Oct 1966
Organized, 1 Jan 1967
Redesignated 535th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Aug 1967
Inactivated, 24 Jan 1972
Redesignated 535th Airlift Squadron, 1 Apr 2005
Activated, 18 Apr 2005

STATIONS

Richmond AAB, VA, 1 Oct 1943
Camp Springs AAFld, MD, 21 Jan-10 Apr 1944
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 27 Jun 1949-25 Jun 1951
Atterbury AFB, IN, 15 Jun 1952-1 Feb 1953

Vung Tau Airfield, South Vietnam, 1 Jan 1967
Cam Ranh Bay AB, South Vietnam, 21 Jun 1970-24 Jan 1972
Hickam AFB, HI, 18 Apr 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

87th Fighter Group, 1 Oct 1943-10 Apr 1944
87th Fighter (later, 87th Fighter-Escort) Group, 27 Jun 1949-25 Jun 1951
87th Troop Carrier Group, 15 Jun 1952-1 Feb 1953
Pacific Air Forces, 12 Oct 1966
483rd Troop Carrier (later, 483rd Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1 Jan 1967-24 Jan 1972
15th Operations Group, 18 Apr 2005

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47, 1943-1944
P-47C
P-47D
A-24, 1943-1944
F-82, 1949-1950
T-6, 1950
T-33, 1950
F-84, 1950-1951
C-46, 1952-1953
C-7A, 1967
C-7B
C-17A

COMMANDERS

Cpt George G. Dewey, 6 Oct 1943
Maj George V. Williams, 3-10 Apr 1944
Unkn, 27 Jun 1949-25 Jun 1951
Unkn, 15 Jun 1952-1 Feb 1953
LTC Leo J. Ehmman, 1 Jan 1967
LTC Edwin B. Owens, 4 Jan 1967
LTC Joseph Faulkner, 15 Dec 1967
LTC Harry F. Hunter, 21 Jun 1968
LTC Richard D. Kimball, 12 Apr 1969
LTC Clem B. Myers, 1 Nov 1969
LTC John J. Hanley, 13 Nov 1969
LTC John D. Pennekamp, 18 Jul 1970
LTC Thomas D. Moyle, 3 Oct 1970
LTC Rupert S. Richardson, 31 Dec 1970
LTC Dean S. Downing, 12 Sep 1971
LTC James S. Knox, 8 Dec 1971-24 Jan 1972

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969

Vietnam Winter/Spring

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)

21 Jan-12 May 1968

1 Apr-30 Jun 1970

Navy Presidential Unit Citation

Vietnam, 20 Jan-31 Mar 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Jan-30 Apr 1967

1 May 1967-30 Apr 1968

1 Jul 1970-31 Dec 1971

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Jan 1967-24 Jan 1972

EMBLEM



On a disc Gules, a globe Azure gridlined Or issuant from sinister chief and perched upon the globe a crouching and snarling tiger facing to dexter with sinister claw extended bend sinisterwise Proper, all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disk, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "535TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON" in Black 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 globe symbolizes the worldwide commitments of the 15th Airlift Wing. The ferocious tiger represents the 535th Airlift Squadron as a unique unit in the Pacific theater. (Approved, 11 Jun 1968)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

CALL SIGN

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OPERATIONS

Replacement crew, advanced flying, and basic flying training, Dec 1943-Apr 1944.

Reserve flying training, Jun 1949-Apr 1951.

Reserve flying training, Jun 1952-Feb 1953.

On activation in 1967, took over C-7A aircraft of 57 Aviation Company (USA) and tactical airlift mission in South Vietnam. Operated from several locations in addition to its primary base. Airlifted routine cargo and passengers, provided support for Army special forces and radio relay for ground units, airdropped troops and cargo, performed emergency resupply and medical evacuations, and flew other combat airlift missions. Last mission flown the day of inactivation.

The first USAF C-7 Caribou lost to enemy action was shot down by VC ground fire while on a resupply flight. A single bullet severed a fuel manifold causing the engines to stop through fuel starvation. The pilot crash-landed the Caribou in a rice paddy near Binh Thuy and all the crew escaped.

Earned a Navy PUC, as well as PUC combat device for airlift support of Khe Sanh and other forward bases from Jan to May 1968. Earned a second PUC between Apr and Jun 1970 for participation in aerial resupply of Dak Seang Special Forces Camp, evacuation of over 2000 refugees from Cambodia, and transportation of the Presidential Southeast Asia Investigation Team to various remote locations in South Vietnam.

One C-17 from Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and a second Globemaster III from Elmendorf AFB, Alaska, delivered about 226,000 pounds of humanitarian supplies to Shanghai, China, on Feb. 8. The US sent the supplies after severe winter storms hit 19 of China's provinces. 2008

C-17 Drops Special Ops Boat Over Pacific: Members of the 535th Airlift Squadron from JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, joined forces with the Navy's Special Warfare Unit One from Guam to drop a 19,000-pound, rigid-hull inflatable boat from the back of a C-17 transport. Airmen utilized the maritime craft aerial delivery system, or MCADS, to dispense the boat during the January drill. "With today's military going joint, it is essential that we merge our technologies and capabilities," said SMSgt. Chuck Baker, plans and programs superintendent and airdrop loadmaster with Hickam's 15th Wing. He added, "Each branch has their own specialties, but we need each other to make the overall mission a success. This is why the training in Guam was so important." MCADS is designed to enable covert delivery of the specially designed boat without detection by enemy sensors or patrols. 2011.