

7 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

7 Transport Squadron constituted, 1 Oct 1933
Activated, 14 Oct 1939
Redesignated 7 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 27 Nov 1945
Activated, 7 Sep 1946
Redesignated 7 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 23 Jun 1948
Redesignated 7 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 12 Oct 1949
Redesignated 7 Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 1 Jan 1965
Redesignated 7 Military Airlift Squadron, 8 Jan 1966
Inactivated, 22 Dec 1969
Activated, 13 Mar 1971
Redesignated 7 Airlift Squadron, 1 Nov 1991

STATIONS

Sacramento Air Depot (later, McClellan Field), CA, 14 Oct 1939
Kellogg Field, MI, 29 May 1942
Florence AAB, SC, 2 Jul-14 Aug 1942
Greenham Common, England, 7 Sep 1942
Keevil, England, 25 Sep-16 Nov 1942
Tafaroui, Algeria, 27 Dec 1942 (operated from bases in Egypt and Palestine, 13 Mar-19 May 1943)

Matemore, Algeria, 21 May 1943
El Djem, Tunisia, 22 Jun 1943
Goubrine, Tunisia, 26 Jul 1943
Ponte Olivo, Sicily, 6 Sep 1943
Brindisi, Italy, 12 Feb 1944
Ponte Olivo, Sicily, 29 Mar 1944
Guado Airfield, Italy, 8 May 1944
Galera Airfield, Italy, 28 Jun 1944
Brindisi, Italy, 22 Oct 1944
Tarquinia, Italy, 4 Dec 1944
Rosignano, Italy, 24 May 1945
Naples, Italy, 25 Sep-27 Nov 1945
Bergstrom Field, TX, 7 Sep 1946
McChord Field (later, AFB), WA, 5 Aug 1947 (operated from Elmendorf Field, AK, 15 Sep 1947-5 Mar 1948)
Kelly AFB, TX, 9 May 1950 (operated from McChord AFB, WA, 27 Jul 1950-18 Feb 1951)
McChord AFB, WA, 19 Feb 1951
Larson AFB, WA, 9 May 1952
McChord, AFB, WA, 13 Jun 1960-22 Dec 1969
Travis AFB, CA, 13 Mar 1971
McChord AFB, WA, 1 Oct 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

10 Transport Group, 14 Oct 1939
62 Transport (later, 62 Troop Carrier) Group, 11 Dec 1940-14 Nov 1945
Unkn, 15-27 Nov 1945
62 Troop Carrier Group, 7 Sep 1946
62 Troop Carrier (later, 62 Air Transport; 62 Military Airlift) Wing, 15 Jan 1960-22 Dec 1969
60 Military Airlift Wing, 13 Mar 1971
60 Military Airlift Group, 6 Mar 1978
60 Military Airlift Wing, 15 Feb 1979
60 Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991
62 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

ATTACHMENTS

Yukon Sector, Alaskan Air Command, 15 Sep 1947-5 Mar 1948
62 Troop Carrier Wing, 8-14 Jan 1960

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-33, 1939-1941
C-39, 1939-1942
B-10, 1939-1940
C-53, 1942

C-47A, 1942-1945
C-46D, 1946-1947
C-46F
C-61A
C-82, 1947-1949
C-54, 1949-1951
C-124, 1951
C-141, 1971
C-17

COMMANDERS

None, 14-18 Oct 1939
1st Lt Richard T. Black, 19 Oct 1939
2nd Lt Richard A. Davis, 20 Nov 1939
2nd Lt Thomas S. Algert, 23 Dec 1939
2nd Lt William W. Miller, 22 Jan 1940
1st Lt Donald J. French, 1 Jan 1941
Capt Ralph J. Moore, 12 Feb 1942
Lt Col William T. Duden, 19 Jun 1942
Maj Paul A. Jones, 25 Sep 1943
Maj Jerald B. Davis, 1 Aug 1944
Maj Joseph L. Keith, 15 Dec 1944
Capt Edward J. Wall, 8 Jun-5 Nov 1945
Unkn, 5-27 Nov 1945
Lt Col Lester L. Ferguson, 7 Sep 1946
Lt Col Stanley W. Tobiason, 11 Nov 1946
Maj Charles W. Williams, Aug 1948
Maj George P. Basel, Nov 1948
Lt Col Harold A. Bullock, 26 Oct 1949
Lt Col Courtney L. Faught, 7 Jun 1952
Lt Col Roland K. Mccroskrie, Oct 1952
Maj Henry J. Wurster, Jul 1953
Maj Harrison T. Blakey, Aug 1954
Lt Col Walter P. Carmichael Jr., Jul 1960
Lt Col Michael F. Robinson, 1961
Lt Col James H. Short, 1964
Lt Col Charles E. Clague Jr., 1965
Lt Col Jonathan K. Shafer, Jun 1967
Lt Col Bennie J. Ruffata, 1 Aug 1968
Lt Col Charles Kerr, 10 Mar-22 Dec 1969
Lt Col Raymond H. Kehl, 13 Mar 1971
Lt Col John A. Doglione, 1 Jun 1971
Lt Col Dean G. Smith, 19 Nov 1973
Lt Col Joe T. Griffith, 31 Dec 1973

Lt Col Gary H. Mears, 8 Aug 1975
Lt Col Robert W. Sample, Jr., 1 Jun 1977
Lt Col Larry D. Parsons, 18 Jul 1978
Lt Col Howard M. Epstein, 20 Jun 1980
Lt Col Bart C. Hogan, 5 Mar 1982
Lt Col Clair D. Heidler iii, 9 May 1983
Lt Col Michael R. Gallagher, 17 Jun 1985
Lt Col John A. Kent, Jr., Jul 1987
Lt Col James E. Alford, 19 Sep 1988
Lt Col David J. Skalko, 11 Jun 1990
Lt Col Robert D. Bishop Jr., 15 Jun 1992
Lt Coll William J. Mckinney, 1 Oct 1993
Lt Col James A. Fellows, 31 Mar 1994
Lt Col Michael David, 28 Jan 1995
Lt Col Ray R. Phillips, 23 Jul 1996
Lt Col Jeffery L. Frazer, 19 Mar 1998
Lt Col Timothy M. Zadalis, 3 Mar 2000
Lt Col Mark S. Hershman, 16 Jul 2002
Lt Col Chad Manske, 8 Jun 2004
Lt Col Todd A. Dierlam, 11 Jul 2005
Lt Col Brandon Westling

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

19 Apr-5 May 1954

1 Jan 1961-1 Nov 1962

1 Jul 1965-15 Jul 1966
15 Nov 1967-15 Nov 1969
1 Jul 1974- 30 Jun 1975
1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977
16 Dec 1989-31 Jan 1990
1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1992
1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1993
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1997
1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999
1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001
11 Sep 2005-10 Sep 2006

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966-[28 Jan 1973]

EMBLEM





On a disc as a globe Celeste gridlined Azure, charged in base with a fist Or detailed of the second, palm affronté grasping a double-edged sword of the last, hilt to base Verte, pommel and hand guard Argent, above and between two convexly arched olive branches in saltire of the fourth, banded of three of the third and detailed Sable, overall a lightning bolt in fess, ends truncated White; all within a narrow border Blue. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "7 AIRLIFT SQ" in Blue 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 lightning bolt symbolizes the speed and lightning stroke of airborne operations. The sword denotes the unit's strength and readiness to defend, while the olive branch alludes to peacetime. (Approved, 9 Aug 1944).

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 7th Airlift Squadron was constituted Oct. 1, 1933, as the 7th Troop Carrier Squadron. Prior to World War II, the squadron, equipped with Douglass C-33's, provided airlift throughout the U.S., Panama, Canada, and Alaska. In 1942, it was re-equipped with C-47 Skytrain transports and deployed with the Eighth Air Force. It was among the first units to deploy into the war zone and would participate in the North African campaign, the air assault and invasion of Sicily, as well as missions over "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India theater. In 1947, the squadron moved to McChord Field, trading its C-47's for C-46 Commandos, C-82 Packets, C-54 Skymasters, and, eventually, C-124 Globemaster II's. During the Korean War, the 7th flew long, over-water missions to Japan, ferrying troops, ammunition, medical supplies, and aircraft parts. The squadron later made history by landing the first aircraft the size of a C-124 on an ice runway during Operation ICE SKATE in 1957.

After being inactivated in 1969, the squadron was reactivated in 1971 as the 7th Mobility Airlift Squadron and moved to Travis Air Force Base, California, where it was equipped with its first jet aircraft, the C-141 Starlifter. It was immediately put to use ferrying troops and equipment to support the Vietnam War, and subsequently returning thousands of former POW's and fallen allies to American soil in Operation HOMECOMING. During the 1980s and 1990s, the 7th provided flood relief in Bangladesh, evacuation support after the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines, and humanitarian support after Hurricanes Hugo, Andrew, and Iniki. The squadron also provided critical airlift support during Operations RESTORE HOPE in Somalia, JUST CAUSE in Panama, as well as DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM in the Middle East. In 1991, the squadron gained its current designation as the 7th Airlift Squadron and two years later, it returned to McChord AFB, where it continued operating the C-141 until 2002.

In 1999, the 7th received its first C-17 Globemaster III, becoming the first squadron at McChord AFB to convert to the new aircraft. From there, the squadron claimed a number of other firsts: first C-17 to land on Antarctic ice, first C-17 to land in North Korea, and first C-17 squadron to deploy as an EAS. The conversion to the C-17 also afforded the squadron the ability accomplish more unique mission sets, including airdropping a ballistic missile. The 7th distinguished itself in humanitarian support when, in January 2008, a 7th crew conducted an emergency airdrop to the MV Argos Georgia, which had become stranded in Antarctic ice. Combat airlift remains a squadron mainstay, with the 7th providing combat support for Operations IRAQI FREEDOM, NEW DAWN, ENDURING FREEDOM, FREEDOM'S SENTINEL, and INHERENT RESOLVE.

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 Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Larson AFB, WA, 62 Troop Carrier Wing, 1953*. Army and Navy Publishing Company. Baton Rouge, LA. 1953.

Unit yearbook. *McChord AFB, WA, 62 Troop Carrier Wing, 1962*. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1962.