

54 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

54 Aero Squadron organized, 8 Aug 1917
Redesignated 466 Aero Squadron, 1 Feb 1918
Demobilized, 10 Feb 1919

54 School Squadron, 6 Feb 1923
Activated, 31 Jul 1927
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1931
Activated, 15 Jul 1931
Redesignated 54 Bombardment Squadron 1 Mar 1935

466 Aero Squadron reconstituted and consolidated with 54 School Squadron 1936
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1936

Activated, 1 Oct 1939
Redesignated 54 Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 6 Dec 1939
Disbanded, 1 May 1942

54 Ferrying Squadron constituted, 30 Aug 1942
Activated, 16 Sep 1942
Redesignated 54 Transport Squadron, 19 Mar 1943
Disbanded, 7 Nov 1943

Reconstituted, 19 Sep 1985

554 Reconnaissance Squadron constituted and activated, 9 Feb 1967

Organized, 25 Feb 1967

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1972

54 Bombardment Squadron (Medium) reconstituted and consolidated with the 54 Ferrying Squadron and redesignated 554 Tactical Intelligence Squadron, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 54 Airlift Flight and activated, 1 Apr 1993

Redesignated 54 Airlift Squadron, 30 Sep 2004

Inactivated, 31 Dec 2006

Activated, 19 Mar 2007

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX, 8 Aug 1917

Hazelhurst Field, NY, 21 Sep-13 Oct 1917

Issoudun, France, 4 Nov 1917

Romorantin, France, 19 Mar 1918

Brest, France, 28 Dec 1918-c. 12 Jan 1919

Garden City, NY, c. 31 Jan-10 Feb 1919

March Field, CA, 31 Jul 1927-30 Apr 1931

Maxwell Field, AL, 15 Jul 1931-1 Sep 1936

Maxwell Field, AL, 1 Oct 1939;

Orlando, FL, 2 Sep 1940

Eglin Field, FL, 29 Jun 1941-1 May 1942

Homestead AAB, FL, 16 Sep 1942-7 Nov 1943

Otis AFB, MA, 25 Feb-31 Oct 1967

Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 31 Oct 1967

Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, 15 Dec 1970-30 Sep 1972

Maxwell AFB, AL, 1 Apr 1993

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, 30 Sep 2004-31 Dec 2006

Scott AFB, IL, 19 Mar 2007

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 8 Aug-Nov 1917

Third Aviation Instruction Center, Nov 1917

Air Service Production Center No. 2, Mar-Dec 1918

Unkn, Dec 1918-10 Feb 1919

13 School Group, 31 Jul 1927-30 Apr 1931

Air Corps Tactical School, 15 Jul 1931

2 Bombardment Group (attached to Air Corps Tactical School), 1 Mar 1935-1 Sep 1936

23 Composite Group (later, Air Corps Proving Ground Detachment; Air Forces Proving Ground Group), 1 Oct 1939-1 May 1942

15 Ferrying (later, 15 Transport) Group, 16 Sep 1942-7 Nov 1943
Air Defense Command, 9 Feb 1967
553 Reconnaissance Wing, 25 Feb 1967
56 Special Operations Wing, 15 Dec 1970-30 Sep 1972
502 Logistics and Operations Group, 1 Apr 1993
502 Operations Squadron, 17 Jun 1994
42 Operations Squadron, 1 Oct 1994
457 Airlift Squadron, 1 Apr 1997
375 Operations Group, 30 Sep 2004-31 Dec 2006
375 Operations Group, 19 Mar 2007

WEAPON SYSTEMS

A-3A
A-12
B-12
B-17
B-18, 1940
B-23, 1940-1942
B-25
B-26, 1941-1942
B-4A
BT-2A
C-21, 1993
DH-4M
EC-121, 1967-1970
O-25
O-38
OA-9
PB-2A
PT-14
PT-17
PT-3
QU-22, 1970-1972
C-21, 1993-2006

COMMANDERS

Unknown, 8 Aug 1917-10 Feb 1919
Maj Louis H. Brereton, 31 Dec 1925
Maj Oscar Westover, 30 Jun 1926
2Lt Leslie F. Young, 31 Dec 1926
Capt Rosenham Beam, 26 Jul 1927
Capt Joseph H. Davidson, 13 Dec 1927
Capt Leo F. Post, 6 Sep 1930
Inactive, 30 Apr 1931-15 Jul 1931

Capt Donald P. Muse, 15 Jul 1931
1Lt Harry H. Mills, 10 Sep 1931
Capt Walter H. Peck, 13 Aug 1932
Maj Rufus B. Davidson, 31 Aug 1933
Maj Robert T. Zane, 7 Sep 1935
Capt Sigmund F. Landers, 14 Jul 1936
Inactive, 1 Sep 1936-1 Oct 1939
Capt Edmund F. Freeman, 1 Oct 1939-Jan 1941
Lt Col Arnold E. Stamler, 25 Feb 1967
Lt Col Barney H. Clary, 1 Oct 1968
Lt Col Donald R. Doyle; 1 Jun 1969
Lt Col Frank G. Moore, 29 Oct 1969
Lt Col Frederick H. Rohde, 25 Mar 1970
Lt Col Eugene C. Thomas, 25 Sep 1970
Lt Col Albert N. Navas, 1 Oct 1970
Lt Col Arthur E. Herman, by 1 Apr 1971
Col James L. Watkins, by Jul 1971
Lt Col Gary E. Spohn, by 1 May-30 Sep 1972
Unknown, 1 Apr 1993-30 Sep 1994
Maj Stephen B. Keefer, 1 Oct 1994
Maj Michael A. Fleck, 13 Jul 1996
Unknown, Jan 1997-29 Sep 2004
Lt Col Brady C. Cheek, 30 Sep 2004
Lt Col James J. Kisch, 9 Jun-31 Dec 2006
Lt Col Christopher Barrett

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War I
Theater of Operations

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
Tet 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1969-1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation
Southeast Asia, 1 Apr-30 Sep 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Apr 1967-31 May 1968
1 Jul 1968-15 Apr 1969
15 Dec 1970-30 Nov 1971
1 Dec 1971-29 Feb 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jun 1992-30 May 1994
1 Jun 1994-30 Jun 1995
1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1997
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
29 Nov 1967-30 Sep 1972

EMBLEM



54 Bombardment Squadron

54 School Squadron emblem On a blue disc a lamp of knowledge with the frame in the form of a

sinister wing, displayed within a border, all gold. (Approved, 10 Oct 1931)



554 Reconnaissance Squadron



54 Airlift Flight emblem On a disc Azure, between a pair of stylized wings elevated Argent, in chief within an annulet of the second, a mullet of the last bearing a torteau and in base a lamp Or, enflamed Gules; all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "GENERAL DELIVERY" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "54 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 lamp symbolizes knowledge and its rising flame suggests the applied science of flight. Together, they represent the unit's involvement in daily airlift missions. The U.S. aviation symbol reflects the unit's pride in its past and its devotion to maintaining the peace in the future. (Approved, Nov 1993)

18 Sep 2019

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Constructed facilities, 1917-1918.

Tested equipment, 1940-1942.

Ferried aircraft between Florida and British West Indies, 1942-1943.

Reconnaissance in Southeast Asia, 1967-1972.

554 Reconnaissance Squadron The 554 flew the Beech QU-22B aircraft from NKP from approximately Dec. 70 to Sep 72. Known as the Vampires, the QU-22Bs orbited near the Ho Chi Minh Trail, picking up signals from acoustic sensors and relaying them to the Task Force Alpha facility at NKP.

Provided airlift services for Air University personnel, 1993-1996.

From 1993-1996, rotated two pilots per year to C-21 aircraft units in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; flew mission supporting classified material, cargo, medical evacuation, distinguished visitors and courier operations. Conducted operational support, aeromedical and training missions from 1997-2006.

The C-21A operational support airlift (OSA) units dispersed in 1993 as part of the objective wing reorganization. But they were reconsolidated under the 375th Airlift Wing again in 1997. Some fleet reductions occurred over the years, but in 2007, a particularly significant recapitalization initiative reduced the wing's remaining 50 C-21As down to just 20 aircraft. Though some capability was lost, some capability was also gained through the activation of the 54 Airlift Squadron under the 375th, as an active associate unit to support flying the C-40C aircraft of the 932nd Airlift Wing (AFRC). On 1 Oct 2009, additional capability was added with the arrival of the 906th Air Refueling Squadron, as a 375th active associate unit to support flying KC-135R aircraft of the 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois Air National Guard. Subsequently, the 375th Airlift Wing was redesignated as the 375th Air Mobility Wing.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Steven E. Clay. *US Army Order of Battle 1919-1941*. Combat Studies Institute Press. US Army Combined Arms Center. Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Nd.