

7167 AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON, MEDIUM (SPECIAL MISSIONS)



MISSION

LINEAGE

7167 Special Air Missions Squadron
7167 Air Transport Squadron, Medium (Special Missions)

STATIONS

Rhein Main AB, West Germany, 3 Apr 1953-1 Jul 1964
Wiesbaden AB, Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-54
VC-54
VC-47
C-117
VC-54
VC-47

COMMANDERS

LTC James D. Grace
LTC John P. Gauthier
LTC William F. Shanklin,

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

7167th Air Transport Squadron, Medium (Special Missions) was organized by the Commanding General of USAFE, General John K. Cannon, on 9 December 1948. It was activated from the 7150th Maintenance Squadron, located at Wiesbaden, Air Force Base, Germany, and originally designated the 7167th Air Force Composite Squadron. In June 1949 this squadron was reorganized and redesignated the 7167th Special Air Missions Squadron, and the old familiar "SAMS" came into being. The squadron remained at Wiesbaden until April 1953, when it moved to its present location at Rhein Main Air Base, Germany. The squadron received its present name, 7167th Air Transport Squadron, Medium (Special Missions) in September 1954.

"SAMS," as the squadron is affectionately known by its personnel, operates scheduled passenger and air evacuation flights to the principal cities of Europe and North Africa in addition to providing special missions for very important personnel and flights of an emergency nature. The squadron is assigned to the 322nd Air Division and works directly with Headquarters USAFE. Its crews, through efficient leadership, effective training, and continuous study and hard work, have attained a high degree of proficiency that has established and maintained an enviable flying safety record. In over seven years of flying, covering more than three and one-half million miles a year, no passenger has ever been injured.

It is a common occurrence to see "SAMS" insignia of the top hat, bow tie, cane and white gloves in any capital city of Europe, Middle East, Asia, or North Africa. Flights are made quite frequently to Moscow to transport the American Ambassador and his staff in and out of Russia. The first Air Force Flight into Poland was made by a 7167th plane and crew, and recently the first flight of an American plane into Rumania since 1947 was made by "SAMS" personnel.

Outstanding maintenance has been a major factor in enabling the squadron to keep its twenty-one C-47's and nine C-54's flying to perform its mission efficiently. "SAMS" personnel are proud of their performance, accomplished sometimes under difficult and trying circumstances, but they are prouder yet of the fact that they can add to their slogan "SAMS SELLS SERVICE" the word "SAFELY."

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.