

164 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

164 Fighter Group (Air Defense) Designated as the and allotted to the Air National Guard
Redesignated 164 Air Transport Group, Heavy, 1961
Activated and extended federal recognition, 1 Apr 1961
Redesignated 164 Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1966
Redesignated 164 Tactical Airlift Group, 10 Dec 1974
Redesignated 164 Airlift Group, 16 Apr 1992
Redesignated 164 Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

Memphis, TN

ASSIGNMENTS

Tennessee Air National Guard

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-97, 1961
C-124, 1967
C-130, 1974
C-141, 1992
C-5, 2004
C-17, 2013

COMMANDERS

Col William C. Smith

Col Harry D. Montgomery, Jr.

Colonel Mark J. Devine, Dec 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



164th Tactical Airlift Group emblem

164th Airlift Wing emblem: Silver Gray, on a cotton boll Argent, garnished Sable, leaved Vert, a representation of a sternwheel steamboat Or, garnished Brown and Gules, the smokestack palewise extending beyond the cotton boll and emitting smoke of the third, the boat on a water pattern Azure, in chief a silhouetted muzzle loading firearm fesswise with powder horn attached Brown garnished Red, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "164TH AIRLIFT WING" 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 early muzzle loading firearm with powder horn represents the unit's heritage from the Lexington minuteman and the early settlers of the

volunteer state, such as Davey Crockett, Andrew Jackson and a host of others. The sternwheel steamboat represents the vehicle, loaded with cotton and other cargo that plied the Mississippi River helping to open up that part of the country. The cotton boll indicates that Memphis is the "Cotton Capitol of the World," the home of the Cotton Carnival and the center of the finest cotton land in the country.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Tennessee ANG Base Opens: The Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing opened its new \$245 million facility at the southeast corner of Memphis International Airport on Sept. 6. Dignitaries including Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) and Gen. Norton Schwartz, Chief of Staff, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the 118-acre, state-of-the-art facility, which Air Guard officials say is one of the largest ANG building projects ever. "What we are dedicating here today, simply put, is the most technically and physically advanced Air Guard Base in the United States of America," said Arnold Perl, chairman of the Memphis-Shelby County Airport Authority, the Memphis Commercial Appeal reported Sept. 7. The facility will serve as home to the nine C-5A transports that the wing has been operating since late 2004. Among its features are 28 acres of 14-inch thick pavement to park the C-5As and three massive hangars that encompass 320,000 square feet, the wing said in a release earlier this month. The unit anticipates moving into the new complex in the coming weeks. Construction of the facility began in June 2006 in a collaborative effort among DOD, Tennessee ANG, Federal Express, and the airport authority. FedEx contributed \$77 million to the project and will add the 164th AW's old 103-acre facility to its operation. Previously, the wing flew the smaller C-141, which needed less hangar and ramp space. Construction of the facility began in June 2006. 2008

Members of the Tennessee Air National Guard's 164th Airlift Wing in Memphis inaugurated the unit's transition from the C-5A transport to the C-17, reported Memphis' The Commercial Appeal. The Feb. 2 ceremony featured two of the eight C-17s on display that the wing will have in place by 2015, according to the newspaper's report from that same day. "Anytime you change from one platform to another is really a major thing within the military," said wing spokesman Capt. Ben Alumbaugh. Wing maintainers began training on the C-17 last year at JB McChord-Lewis, Wash, in preparation for the arrival of the new airlifter type at Memphis. 2013

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 7 Sep 2010
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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. *118 Air Transport Wing, 1964-1965*. Delman Printing Co. Charlotte, NC. 1965.