

## 311<sup>th</sup> AIRLIFT SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

311<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 23 Oct 1943  
Activated, 1 Nov 1943  
Inactivated, 15 May 1946  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 10 May 1949  
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949  
Ordered to active service, 1 Apr 1951  
Inactivated, 2 Apr 1951  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Assault, and activated, 24 May 1963  
Organized, 8 Jul 1963  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Air Commando Squadron, Troop Carrier, 8 Mar 1965  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Air Commando Squadron, Tactical Airlift, 1 Aug 1967  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 1968  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1970  
Inactivated, 5 Oct 1971  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Airlift Flight, 27 Mar 1997  
Activated, 1 Apr 1997  
Redesignated 311<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 15 Jun 2005

### STATIONS

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 1 Nov 1943  
Alliance AAFld, NE, 19 Jan 1944  
Pope Field, NC, 8 Mar 1944  
Baer Field, IN, 8 Jan 1945

Fort Lawton, WA, 24 Jan-1 Feb 1945  
Kahuku AAB, TH, 9 Feb 1945  
Bellows Field, TH, 15 Feb-22 Jul 1945  
Okinawa, 22 Aug 1945-15 May 1946  
Hamilton AFB, CA, 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951  
Da Nang AB, South Vietnam, 8 Jul 1963  
Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, 21 Jul 1967-5 Oct 1971  
Offutt AFB, NE, 1 Apr 1997  
Peterson AFB, CO, 15 Jun 2005

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

349<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, 1 Nov 1943  
I Troop Carrier Command, 1 Dec 1944  
VI Air Service Area Command, 9 Feb 1945  
Seventh Air Force, 22 Jul 1945  
U.S. Army Forces, Middle Pacific, 31 Jul 1945  
VIII Air Force Service Command, 1 Sep 1945  
54<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 15 Feb-15 May 1946  
349<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951  
315<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier (later, 315<sup>th</sup> Air Commando) Group, 8 Jul 1963  
315<sup>th</sup> Air Commando (later, 315<sup>th</sup> Special Operations; 315<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift) Wing, 8 Mar  
1966-5 Oct 1971  
458<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 1 Apr 1997  
375<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 15 Jun 2005

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1943-1945  
C-47A  
C-53, 1943-1944  
C-46, 1945-1946  
C-46, 1949-1951  
C-123, 1963-1971  
C-21A, 1997

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 1 Nov-1 Dec 1943  
Maj John T. Blossom Jr., 1 Dec 1943  
Cpt Charles M. Ricker, late 1945  
Cpt Joseph H. Conner Jr., 23 Jan 1946-unkn  
Unkn, 27 Jun 1949-1950  
LTC Joseph R. Klein, by May 1950-unkn  
LTC Winton Christner, 8 Jul 1963  
LTC Harry G. Howton, 20 Oct 1964  
LTC Hugh L. Baynes, 26 Sep 1965

LTC Raymond A. Normandin, 20 Jul 1966  
LTC Donald L. Zedler, 18 Sep 1966  
LTC Jack T. Gillis, 2 Sep 1967  
Col William K. Bailey, 1 Jul 1968  
LTC James E. Muldoon Jr., 7 Nov 1968  
LTC Iris W. Bailey, 17 Jan 1969  
LTC Robert M. Hodges, 19 Jul 1969  
LTC Robert W. Hoffman, 7 Dec 1969  
LTC Paul R. Zavitz, 21 Sep 1970  
LTC Earl D. Thompson, 12 May-5 Oct 1971  
Maj Tony G. Cox, 1 Apr 1997  
Unkn, 1998-12 Dec 2002  
LTC Scott A. Wilhelm, 13 Dec 2002

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
American Theater  
Asiatic-Pacific Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

Vietnam  
Vietnam Advisory  
Vietnam Defensive  
Vietnam Air  
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, 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon  
Commando Hunt V  
Commando Hunt VI

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citations, (Vietnam)

21 Jan-12 May 1968  
1 Apr-30 Jun 1970

Navy Presidential Unit Citation  
Khe Sanh, South Vietnam, 20 Jan-1 Apr 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with the Combat "V" Device  
[8 Jul] 1963-30 Apr 1965  
30 Jun-9 Jul 1965  
7 Jul-7 Dec 1966  
8 Dec 1966-30 Apr 1967  
10 Jun-31 Dec 1967  
15 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969  
1 Jan-5 Oct 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm  
22 Apr 1966-5 Oct 1971

## EMBLEM



On a representation of a globe Azure, gridlined Argent, surmounted by a mountain range compony Sable, overall a sword of the second, point to base detailed Smoke and debriused by a mullet Or detailed Black, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disk, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "311TH AIRLIFT SQUADRON" in Yellow 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 gridlined globe depicts the global worldwide combat support role throughout the Air Force's several areas of responsibility. The sword represents DOD leadership to fight via the unit's DV transport mission. The shadowed

mountain peaks represent the pinnacles of excellence each member of the unit strives to achieve in each of the Air Force's three core values: Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do, through the safe and sure execution of the unit's mission. The five pointed star commemorates the unit's WW II Campaign Participation Credit. (Approved, 13 Jun 2005. Replaced emblem approved, 29 Sep 1965)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 311th Troop Carrier Squadron trained in the United States 1943-1944 and later flew cargo and personnel missions. It transferred to Hawaii in Feb 1945 and flew cargo in the Hawaiian Island group. When Lt Gen Millard F. Harmon crashed in the Pacific, the squadron participated in an intensive air search for survivors. In Aug 1945 it moved to Okinawa and continued its airlift mission until May 1946.

The 311th trained in C-46 from Jun 1949-Apr 1951.

In Vietnam, the 311th flew cargo and passengers in support of I and II Corps. In addition, the unit flew flare, communications cover, air evacuation and search missions for downed aircraft.

1965 311 Air Commando Squadron airlifted troops and equipment to support ground operations in support of defense of Pleiku Rvn.

The flight replaced the 11th Airlift Flight and was equipped with C-21A in 1997.

It supported the Commander in Chief, US Strategic Command, providing passenger airlift for high-level defense officials and members of Congress throughout the US.

15 Jun 2005 The 311th Airlift Flight was redesignated as the 311th Airlift Squadron; in conjunction with its relocation from Offutt AFB, Nebraska, to Peterson AFB, Colorado. The 84th Airlift Flight at Peterson AFB, inactivated.

The 311th Airlift Squadron was inactivated Friday at Peterson AFB, Colo., as part of the Air Force's plan to consolidate the C-21 fleet. "The 311th Airlift Squadron maintained a proud tradition of excellence and continued to uphold the highest standards of professionalism set by past airmen," said Lt. Col. Mark Keener, the unit's commander. "At any given time our unit was deployed providing valuable theater airlift in Southwest Asia, supporting warfighting efforts in Operations New Dawn, Iraqi Freedom, and Enduring Freedom, as well as Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa. We have provided world-class operational airlift support to our nation's highest ranking civilians as well as senior military leaders." 2014

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Air Force Order of Battle

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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.