

312th AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

312th Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 23 Oct 1943
Activated, 1 Nov 1943
Inactivated, 7 Sep 1946
Redesignated 312th 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 312th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 13 Jun 1952
Redesignated 312th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Sep 1957
Ordered to active service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from active duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 312th Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1966
Ordered to active service, 26 Jan 1968
Relieved from active duty, 2 Jun 1969
Redesignated 312th Military Airlift Squadron (Associate), 25 Jul 1969
Redesignated 312th Airlift Squadron (Associate), 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 312th Airlift Squadron, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 1 Nov 1943
Alliance AAFld, NE, 20 Jan 1944

Pope Field, NC, 11 Mar 1944
Baer Field, IN, 7-15 Mar 1945
Barkston, England, 30 Mar 1945
Roye/Amy Airfield, France, 18 Apr-13 Jul 1945
Bergstrom Field, TX, 17 Sep 1945-7 Sep 1946
Hamilton AFB, CA, 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951
Hamilton AFB, CA, 13 Jun 1952
Travis AFB, CA, 25 Jul 1969

ASSIGNMENTS

349th Troop Carrier Group, 1 Nov 1943-7 Sep 1946
349th Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-2 Apr 1951
349th Fighter Bomber (later, 349th Troop Carrier) Group, 13 Jun 1952
349th Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
938th Troop Carrier (later, 938th Military Airlift) Group, 11 Feb 1963
349th Military Airlift (later, 349th Airlift) Wing, 1 Jul 1973
349th Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-53
C-47, 1943-1944
C-47A
C-46, 1944-1946
C-46, 1949-1951
C-46D
C-46F
T-7, 1949-1951
T-11, 1949-1951
C-46, 1952-1955, 1957-1958
T-6, 1952-1954
F-51, 1952-1954
T-28, 1953-1956
T-33, 1953-1957
F-80, 1953-1957
C-45, 1955-1956
TC-47, 1955-1956
F-84, 1956-1957
C-119, 1958-1966
C-124, 1966-1969
C-141, 1969-1973
C-5, 1973

COMMANDERS

Maj John D. Kausel, 1 Dec 1943

LTC Lester L. Ferguson, 26 Nov 1945-7 Sep 1946
Unkn, Jun 1949-Apr 1951
Unkn, Jun 1952-1955
LTC Hugh E. Garrison, Jun 1955
LTC Wesley J. Van Sciver, Dec 1955
LTC Henry L. Knoll, Dec 1956
Maj Leslie R. Andrew, Dec 1957
Maj James T. Nutley Jr., Dec 1958
LTC Roger L. Dinelli, Jun 1961
Unkn, Jan 1963-1964
LTC Dan T. Muat, Jun 1964
LTC Robert W. Walcotte, 6 Aug 1968
LTC James H. Barnard, Jul 1969
LTC Edward C. Black Jr., Mar 1971
LTC William J. Hopkins, Jun 1971
LTC Robert H. Bohna, 8 Mar 1972
LTC Robert C. Andersen, 10 Apr 1972
LTC Edward C. Black Jr., 1 Sep 1972
LTC John R. Frank, 1 Jul 1973
LTC John F. Peters, 27 Jun 1980
Col Richard K. Vogel, Jul 1983
LTC Ricardo W. Mestre, 22 Oct 1984
LTC William Jenkins, 23 Mar 1986
LTC Thomas F. Spayd, 1 Apr 1988
LTC Leonard P. Bochicchio, 18 Nov 1989
LTC Dennis M. Gonzales, 17 Nov 1991
LTC Olis L. Lewis Jr., 1 Jul 1993
LTC James H. Monbeck, 1 Aug 1994
Lt Col Frank J. Padilla, Feb 1997
Lt Col Steven D. Cornell, 1 May 2000
Lt Col Abel Barrientes, 9 Jan 2004
Lt Col Gary M. Dobbins, 6 Jul 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II

American Theater

World War II EAME Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
1 Aug 2002-31 Jul 2002

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

23 Dec 1964-22 Jan 1965

26 Jan 1968-1 Jun 1969

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1975

1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-15 Aug 1995

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2002

16 Aug 2003-17 Aug 2004

18 Aug 2004-17 Aug 2005

18 Aug 2005-17 Aug 2006

18 Aug 2006-17 Aug 2007

18 Aug 2007-17 Aug 2008

18 Aug 2008-17 Aug 2009

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM





Approved, 2 Dec 1968

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Aerial transportation in the European Theater of Operations during World War II. Trained in the Reserve for troop carrier missions, 1949-1951; for fighter-bomber missions, 1952-1957; and resumed a troop carrier role in 1957. Called to active service during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 and in 1968-1969. Airlifted U.S. troops between the continental United States and Southeast Asia and flew other strategic airlift missions as needed across the Pacific Ocean, including channel flights, contingency and humanitarian relief operations, and joint training exercises.

Travis was not to receive associate Reserve units for the 60th Military Airlift Wing until April 1970, but the pace of events in 1968 and 1969 changed this plan. The entire Reserve program was accelerated significantly in January and February 1968 after North Korea captured the USS Pueblo and its crew and the Viet Cong launched their bloody TET offensive. In the wake of the Pueblo crisis, several Reserve airlift units, including the 944th and 938th Military Airlift Groups, were recalled to active duty. MAC decided to test the associate concept by moving the 944th to Norton and having its temporarily activated Reserve squadrons assist the active duty personnel of the 63rd Military Airlift Wing there in maintaining and flying their C-141s. 25 March 1968, the first MAC Reserve associate program was officially inaugurated.

The success of the associate program at Norton persuaded MAC to revise its earlier plans and request that the 938th Military Airlift Group, along with its "parent" wing, the 349th Military Airlift Wing, become associated with the 60th Military Airlift Wing at Travis. Both units had already been called to temporary active duty in January 1968. Many of their C-124 missions to

Southeast Asia were loaded at the Travis aerial port. In short, these units already had a close defacto relationship with the base.

The passing of the Pueblo crisis in 1969, with the return of its crew from North Korea, resulted in the inactivation once more of the 349th Military Airlift Wing and the 938th Military Airlift Group on 1 June 1969. In keeping with MAC's plan, they began making preparations to move to Travis in order to start training with the C-141 squadrons of the 60th Military Airlift Wing. The actual transfer occurred on 25 July 1969, when the 349th Wing and the 938th Group officially added "Associate" to their titles. The combined personnel strength of the new Reserve Associate units at Travis was approximately 500 officers and airmen and five civilians. At the time of its transfer to Travis, the 938th Military Airlift Group was composed of a single flying squadron (the 312th Military Airlift Squadron), three support squadrons (the 938th Consolidated Maintenance Squadron, 938th Supply Squadron, and 938th Support Squadron), and two support "flights" (the 938th Aerial Port Flight and 938th Communications Flight).

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 25 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. *Hamilton AFB, CA. 1968.*

A History of Travis Air Force Base, 1943-1996. Gary Leiser. Travis Air Force Base Historical Society. Sacramento, CA. 1996.