

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



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

345<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium constituted, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 16 Apr 1951

Inactivated, 16 Jan 1953

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Assault, Rotary Wing, 8 Dec 1954

Activated, 8 Mar 1955

Inactivated, 9 Jul 1956

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Assault, Fixed Wing, 27 Jul 1956

Activated, 8 Oct 1956

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Assault, 1 Jul 1958

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 18 Dec 1961

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 8 Dec 1965

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Aug 1967

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 1 Apr 1992

Inactivated, 1 Jul 1993

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Airlift Flight, and converted to provisional status, 29 Sep 2004

Withdrawn from provisional status, 9 Sep 2009

Redesignated 345<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 7 Jul 2010

Activated, 6 Aug 2010

Inactivated, 2014

### STATIONS

Memphis Mun Aprt, TN, 26 Jun 1949-16 Jan 1953  
Sewart AFB, TN, 8 Mar 1955-9 Jul 1956  
Sewart AFB, TN, 8 Oct 1956-15 May 1962  
Naha AB, Okinawa, 2 Jun 1962  
Dyess AFB, TX, 8 Jan 1963  
Naha AB, Okinawa, 27 Nov 1965  
Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, 20 Mar 1966  
Kadena AB, Japan, 1 Dec 1973  
Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Sep 1975-1 Jul 1993  
Keesler AFB, MS, 6 Aug 2010

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

516<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 26 Jun 1949-16 Jan 1953  
516<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, Assault, Rotary Wing, 8 Mar 1955-9 Jul 1956  
Eighteenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1956  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Sep 1957  
315<sup>th</sup> Air Division (Combat Cargo), 1 Jun 1962  
516<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 8 Jan 1963  
315<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 27 Nov 1956  
314<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Medium (later, 314<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 314<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing),  
25 Mar 1966  
374<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, 31 May 1971  
316<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Group, 1 Oct 1978  
374<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1989  
374<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Apr 1992-1 Jul 1993  
Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 29 Sep 2009  
Withdrawn from provisional status, 9 Sep 2009  
19<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 6 Aug 2010

### **ATTACHMENTS**

513<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, Assault, Fixed Wing, 8 Oct 1956-1 Sep 1957  
513<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, Assault, Fixed Wing, 1 Sep-8 Oct 1957  
839<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 8 Oct 1957  
513<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Assault, Fixed Wing [later, 513<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Assault], 8 Oct  
1957-12 Nov 1958  
314<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 12 Nov 1958-15 May 1962  
6315<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 27 Nov 1965-25 Mar 1966)

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-46, 1949-1952  
C-46A  
C-119, 1952-1953  
H-19, 1955-1956  
H-21, 1955-1956

C-123, 1956-1961  
C-130, 1961-1963, 1963-1965, 1965-1993  
C-130, 2010

## **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 26 Jun 1949-17 Apr 1951  
Maj Fred H. Towne Jr., 17 Apr 1951  
LTC Benjamin F. Kelly, 8 Sep 1952-1953  
Maj James F. Fowler, 1955  
Maj Gregg D. Hartley, 19 May-9 Jun 1956  
Maj James F. Fowler, 1956  
LTC Perry H. Penn, 19 Feb 1957  
LTC Robert J. Marks, 21 Jan 1960  
LTC Joseph H. Griffith Jr., 20 Oct 1961-unkn  
LTC Richard D. Cote, unkn-8 Jan 1963  
LTC Raymond E. Carleton, 8 Jan 1963  
LTC William M. Cossaboom, 1 Apr 1964  
LTC Angelo N. Castanza, 31 Jan 1965  
LTC John H. Hazel, 30 Jun 1965  
LTC Leland A. Younkin, 5 Nov 1965  
LTC Robert J. Craig, 16 Oct 1966  
LTC John A. Zimmerman, 3 Jul 1967  
LTC Edward T. Davis, 1 May 1968  
LTC Loren A. Stoddard, 1 Jul 1968-unkn  
LTC Thomas J. Leonard, by 30 Sep 1970-unkn  
LTC William F. Ellis, by 31 May 1971  
LTC Philip J. Riede, 4 Feb 1972  
LTC James S. Kinney, 31 Jan 1974  
LTC Harold W. Reed, 6 Jun 1975  
Col Charles A. Vickery, 21 Jan 1977  
LTC Roland L. Tharp, 1 Mar 1978  
LTC Sherman W. Bear, 28 Jun 1979  
LTC Frederick N. Buckingham, 17 Nov 1980  
LTC Daniel E. Sowada, 23 Jul 1982  
LTC George G. Kirkland, 29 Jun 1984  
LTC John W. Brooks, 27 Jun 1986  
LTC Terry H. Messer, 6 Jul 1988  
LTC Edward J. McClure Jr., 12 Jan 1990  
LTC Edward J. Feeney Jr., 1 Apr 1992-unkn  
LTC Craig L. Williams, 6 Aug 2010

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

## **Campaign Streamers**

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Nov 1967-31 Dec 1969

12 Feb-17 May 1975

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1964-9 Dec 1965

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan 1984-30 Jun 1985

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation

21 Jul-15 Aug 1972

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Nov 1967-31 Dec 1969

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc Azure, in chief an open parachute Argent, suspension lines with attached harness and a silhouette of an artillery weapon Sable, superimposed by a stylized Golden Eagle sinisterwise to dexter Or grasping in its talons, a pellet bearing a plate with cross Gules, within a demi-border of the last, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "ACCEDERE TOTALITER" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "345TH AIRLIFT SQ" 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 emblem is symbolic of the Squadron's mission. The Golden Eagle is a deadly, tenacious, fearless bird of prey and symbolizes the aggressive fighting spirit of the unit. The parachute with field piece, the wheel and the red cross signify respectively the three phases of the Troop Carrier Operation, i.e., Air Drop, Air Landing and Aero-Medical Evacuation. The sky denotes where the mission is performed and sincerity of purpose, the inner border represents bravery and courage, the parachute symbolizes faith and purity and the Golden Eagle signifies honor and loyalty. The circular design of the emblem symbolizes undivided, never ending courage and devotion in the performance of all assigned tasks. (Approved, 22 May 1957; modified, 15 Sep 2010)

**MOTTO**

ACCEDERE TOTALITER--Complete Compliance In All Things

**NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

The 345th Airlift Squadron, Yokota Air Base, Japan, inactivated on 26 May 1993. The unit's aircraft, equipment and personnel were combined with the 21st Airlift Squadron.

Trained to become combat ready as part of the Korean War build-up, 1951-1953. Trained with helicopters; collected data and samples for radiological assessment during atomic tests in Nevada, 1955-Jul 1956. Transitioned to cargo aircraft; trained to airlift troops, equipment and supplies into combat zones, to resupply forces, and evacuate casualties, 1956-1993. Served in the western Pacific region, 1965-1993. Flew C-130s to augment task forces and other operational organizations during Vietnam War, 1966-1973. Provided tactical, aeromedical, and operational support to Department of Defense (DOD) agencies throughout the Pacific region, 1975-1993. Resumed air transport mission in the United States in 2010.

Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., is the home of a new active associate unit that blends the talents of Air Force Reserve and regular Air Force Airmen. The 345th Airlift Squadron was officially activated in a ceremony Aug. 6 to form an association with the Reserve's 403rd Wing. The total force integration initiative not only provides regular Air Force and Reserve members with the opportunity to work and train together, but also helps reduce operational costs to taxpayers. The 345th is the first C-130J active associate unit in the Air Force and the third active associate unit to activate under the 19th Airlift Wing at Little Rock AFB, Ark. Within the next few months, the new squadron will integrate 112 aircraft maintenance, operations and support personnel with the 403rd WG's Citizen Airmen. "The active-duty operations personnel have been great to work with," said Lt. Col. Denson Tutwiler, 815th AS commander. "They understand Citizen Airmen. Some of them have backgrounds in strategic airlift, so they have worked with Reservists in the past." The 345th AS's new commander, Lt. Col. Craig Williams, understands that the success of the association depends on the working relationships forged between his people and the Reservists. "Establishing and maintaining an excellent working relationship is paramount," Colonel Williams said. "There are some areas where we both need to learn and understand the culture in which we work. Once that is accomplished, all things are possible, just like in any other unit." Chief Master Sgt. Vincent Armata, 403rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent, stressed the importance of seamlessly integrating the regular Air Force and Reserve members. "The bottom line with total force integration is to train together and ensure that the deployment package is manned with people who have the right skill sets to accomplish the mission," Chief Armata said. Colonel Tutwiler said creating associations involving regular Air Force and Reserve, as well as the Air National Guard, offers benefits to the total force. "The Air Force realized it could get much greater utilization from its aircraft by integrating active-duty with Reserve and Guard units," he said. "Adding active-duty personnel will allow the 403rd WG to create more

maintenance shifts and launch more aircraft. This truly is a case where the sum of the parts is greater than the whole." 2010

The 345th Airlift Squadron was symbolically inactivated Friday at Keesler AFB, Miss. The unit and its associate, the Air Force Reserve's 815th Airlift Squadron, are being inactivated "as a result of broader force structure initiatives announced in 2013," according to an April 23 AFRC release. "Throughout history, our squadron has provided a lot of combat support for our nation, doing exactly what our country needed for its national defense," said Lt. Col. Michael J. Ramirez, 345th AS commander. "Whenever our nation needed that excess capability, the 345th was there and stood up to fulfill that need, and we've written another chapter in the unit's history in the past three-and-a-half years that everyone in this room has contributed to." Col. Frank L. Amodio, commander of the 403rd Wing, said, "The 345th and 815th are an impressive team. In January 2011, the two squadrons deployed to Afghanistan and smashed the world record for airdrop missions in a month-81 missions moving 5.6 million pounds of cargo." An inactivation ceremony for the 815th AS will be held in June, but many of the Active Duty members will no longer be present, so the unit held its "symbolic ceremony early," states the release. 2014

The Air Force informed Congress on Tuesday that it has abandoned plans to inactivate Air Force Reserve Command's 815th Airlift Squadron at Keesler AFB, Miss. As a result, the unit's 10 C-130J transports will continue to operate from the southern Mississippi base, they said. "Today's announcement is a major win for the future stability of Keesler Air Force Base as well as the many communities and businesses that depend on it," said Sen. Roger Wicker (R), in the joint release with Sen. Thad Cochran (R) and Rep. Steven Palazzo (R). Wicker said he was grateful to Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James and Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh "for recognizing the value that Keesler provides to the Air Force and the Gulf Coast." Cochran, who chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee and its defense panel, said he looked forward to working with the Air Force to ensure the squadron's manpower and mission "are fully restored." The Air Force in February 2012 proposed relocating Keesler's C-130Js, a move the lawmakers opposed. In April 2014, the Air Force inactivated the 345th AS, the Active Duty associate unit that provided additional manpower for the C-130Js. 2015

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

#### Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *314<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, Sewart AFB*. 1960