

## 375<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

375<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group established, 12 Nov 1942  
Activated, 18 Nov 1942  
Inactivated, 25 Mar 1946  
Assigned and activated in the Reserve, 3 Aug 1947  
Redesignated 375<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 10 May 1949  
Ordered to active duty, 15 Oct 1950  
Inactivated, 14 Jul 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 14 Jul 1952  
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957  
Redesignated 375<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 375<sup>th</sup> Operations Group and activated, 1 Dec 1991

#### STATIONS

Bowman Field, KY, 18 Nov 1942  
Sedalia AAFld MO, 25 Jan 1943  
Laurinburg-Maxton AAB, NC, 6 May 1943  
Baer Field, IN, 2-17 Jun 1943  
Brisbane, Australia, 13 Jul 1943  
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 31 Jul 1943  
Dobodura, New Guinea, 19 Aug 1943  
Port Moresby, New Guinea, 19 Dec 1943  
Nadzab, New Guinea, 22 Apr 1944  
Biak, 27 Sep 1944  
San Jose, Mindoro, 18 Feb 1945

Porac, Luzon, 20 May 1945  
Okinawa, 31 Jul 1945  
Tachikawa, Japan, Sep 1945-25 Mar 1946  
Greater Pittsburgh Aprt, PA, 3 Aug 1947  
Greenville AFB (later, Donaldson AFB), SC, 16 Oct 1950-14 Jul 1952  
Pittsburgh, PA, 14 Jul 1952-16 Nov 1957  
Scott AFB, IL, 1 Dec 1991

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1 Troop Carrier Command, 18 Nov 1942  
50<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 1 May 1943  
54<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 12 Jul 1943-25 Mar 1946  
Eleventh Air Force, 3 Aug 1947  
69<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 17 Oct 1947  
First Air Force, 1 Jul 1948  
Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948  
Ninth Air Force, 23 Feb 1949  
375<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-14 Jul 1952  
375<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Jul 1952-16 Nov 1957  
375<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, 1 Dec 1991

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1942-1946  
B-17, 1944  
C-46, 1944-1946  
T-6, 1947-1950  
C-46, 1948-1950  
T-11, 1948-1951  
T-7, 1949-1951  
C-82, 1950-1952  
C-45, 1951  
C-46, 1952-1955  
C-119, 1954-1957  
C-9, 1991-2003  
C-12, 1991-1994  
C-21, 1991

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Joel G. Pitts, 20 Nov 1942  
LTC Maurice W. Wiley, 25 Dec 1944  
LTC John L. Ames Jr., by Aug 1945  
LTC Benjamin C. King, by 27 Sep 1945  
Col Marshall S. Roth, 3 Oct 1945  
None (not manned), 16 Jan-25 Mar 1946

Unkn, Aug 1947-Nov 1948  
LTC Stanley V. Fowler, by Dec 1948  
LTC Charles R. Gianque, by Jun 1950  
Cpt Charles J. Newell, 15 Oct 1950  
LTC Charles R. Gianque, 7 Nov 1950  
Col Kenneth L. Johnson, 13 Nov 1951  
LTC Arthur J. Staveley, 1 Feb 1952  
Col Steward H. Nichols, 17 Apr 1952-14 Jul 1952  
Unkn, 14 Jul 1952-May 1953  
LTC Thomas R. Chantler, by Jun 1953  
LTC James E. O'Brien, by May 1954  
LTC Donald M. Reed, by Apr 1957-16 Nov 1957  
Col Craig L. Koontz, 1 Dec 1991  
Col Darrell W. Singleton, 26 Aug 1992  
Col Gregory J. Zeno, 3 Aug 1993  
Col Alan J. Briding, 18 May 1995  
Col Stephen B. Frye, 22 Aug 1996  
Col Matthew F. Martorano, 25 Feb 1998  
Col Karen M. Torres, 19 Aug 1999  
Col Bruce A. Busler, 22 Jun 2001  
Col Scotty E. Lewis, 28 Mar 2003  
Col Alvin M. Lowry, Jr., 18 May 2005  
Col Curtis C. Connell, 29 Jun 2007  
Col Terry Ward, 18 Jun 2009  
Col Peter D. Giusti, 1 Jul 2011  
Col Jeanette M. Voigt, 12 Jul 2013  
Col Perry M. Long, 14 Aug 2015 – 27 Jun 2017  
Col Kevin E. Schiller, 27 Jun 2017

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

Global War on Terrorism-Service

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

New Guinea

Northern Solomons

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Southern Philippines

Ryukyus

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2008

1 Sep 2009-31 Aug 2011

1 Sep 2011-31 Aug 2013

1 Sep 2014-31 Aug 2016

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, 17 Oct 1944 - 4 Jul 1945

## **EMBLEM**

375th Troop Carrier Grp emblem approved, 12 Feb 1952

## **MOTTO**

NOLLE SECUNDIS—None but the Best

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The group began training with the C-47 Skytrain; their training included transporting cargo and personnel, airborne drops, cargo drops, and pulling troop gliders. A few months later, on 23 January 1943, the group moved to Sedalia Army Air Field, Missouri to continue training. On 5 May 1943, the group moved from Sedalia to Laurinburg-Maxton Army Air Base, North Carolina, for advanced training. While at Laurinburg-Maxton, the group picked up some experienced combat crews. Their experience would be invaluable to the new unit.

On 2 June 1943, the 375 TCG moved to Baer Field, Indiana, where their equipment shortages were filled before heading out to the Pacific Theater. By 27 June the ground echelon of the group was aboard the S.S. Lurline passing under the Golden Gate bridge on-route to Brisbane, Australia and then onto Port Moresby, New Guinea. The aircrews ferried the C-47s across the Pacific with the first aircraft landing on New Guinea on Independence day 1943. Those traveling by boat were inducted into Neptune's Royal Order of the Deep. as they crossed the equator. New Guinea and surrounding islands

By 31 July 1943, the entire group was organized at Port Moresby (south end of New Guinea) and was ready to begin wartime operations under the Fifth Air Force. In addition to Port Moresby, the 375th also took up operations out of a secondary base on the island of Biak—just north of New Guinea. The 375 TCG's four squadrons primarily flew C-47s to transport men, supplies, and equipment to forward bases on New Guinea, New Britain, the Solomon Islands, and the Admiralty

Islands.

Some of the group's first combat missions were supply runs to Dobodura. Located near Buna, and Northeast New Guinea, this was a forward area holding out against the Japanese in the Pacific. Most of these missions required the groups C-47s to cross the Owen Stanley Mountains—mountains with some peaks as high as 14,000 feet. In August 1943, the 375 TCG began airdrop mission to supply the American and Australian troops fighting for Roosevelt Ridge and Wau-Bulolo valley near Japanese-held Salamau, New Guinea. (Salamau is located along the coast on the map on the next page.) For some of the more hazardous missions that required landing on fields under attack, the group flew armed B-17 Flying Fortresses.

From July 1943 to February 1945, the 375 TCG was primarily stationed at Port Moresby, New Guinea and Biak Island, but it also operated from numerous other locations throughout the Southwest Pacific to include: Dobodura, and Nadzab, New Guinea; and San Jose, Mindoro. While operating from these locations, the 375 TCG took part in Gen Douglas MacArthur's drive to retake the Philippines. As part of this drive, the 375 TCG took part in the first airborne operation in the Southwest Pacific. On 5 September 1943, the group dropped the 503rd Parachute Regiment onto Nadzab to capture its small airfield and to cut overland supply lines to the port city of Lae, New Guinea. Later that afternoon, the capture of the airfield at Nadzab allowed the Allies to fly in the 7th Australian Division which helped result in the capture of Lae.

Shortly before the final phase of retaking the Philippines—the invasion of Luzon, 9 January and 16 February 1945—the 375 TCG began converting to C-46 Commandos. During this last campaign, many of the group's missions involved resupplying the U.S. Army forces fighting to takeover the island. However, the group did fly some of the airborne operations.

On 3 February 1945, the 511th Parachute Regiment dropped on Tagaytay, a suspected enemy stronghold south of Manila. Shortly thereafter, the 511th was able to link up with its parent unit, the 11th Airborne Division. On 28 February 1945, the 503rd Parachute Regiment took part in a combined air and sea attack to take Corregidor—defended by more than 5,000 Japanese.

In support of ground units during the Philippine Campaign—in March alone—the 375 TCG flew 2,741,771 ton miles; delivering 2,398,000 pounds of personnel and 18,112,838 pounds of cargo. In Recognition of this support, the 375 TCG would later be awarded the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation. With Luzon secured, the 375 TCG relocated to Porac, Luzon on 20 May 1945. From its new station, the group flew supplies to combat units around the Southwestern Pacific. Between June and July, the 375 TCG transported equipment and personnel to support Allied forces fighting the last Japanese forces holding out on the southern part of Okinawa. Allied Operations on Okinawa 1945

On 15 August 1945, all offensive actions against Japan ended. Just before this the 375 TCG broke into ground and air echelons and moved to Okinawa. Shortly after the Japanese surrender, aircraft from all the group's squadrons—led by the 375 TCG Commander, Lt Col John L. Ames Jr.—flew to the airport in Atsugi, Japan, participating in the initial occupation.

From its base in Okinawa, the group transported troops from Luzon, to Okinawa, to Japan and they brought liberated Allied POWs from Okinawa to Luzon on their way back home.

Trained in the Reserve from Aug 1947 until the group was called to active duty in Oct 1950. After a period of intensive training, the group supplied airlift for troop movements throughout the United States.

Reallotted to the Reserve for training from Jul 1952-Nov 1957.

Conducted operational support, aeromedical, and training missions from Dec 1991.

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 1 Dec 2010

Updated:

Sources

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