

403 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

403 Troop Carrier Group established, 7 Dec 1942
Activated, 12 Dec 1942
Inactivated, 15 Oct 1946
Redesignated 403 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 1 Apr 1951
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1953
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jan 1953
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959
Redesignated 403 Military Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 403 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Bowman Fld, KY, 12 Dec 1942
Alliance, NE, 18 Dec 1942
Pope Fld, NC, 3 May 1943
Baer Fld, IN, 20 Jun 1943
Camp Stoneman, CA, 18 Jul-24 Aug 1943
Espiritu Santo, 15 Sep 1943
Los Negros, 30 Aug 1944

Biak, 4 Oct 1944; Leyte, 25 Jun 1945
Clark Fld, Luzon, 1 Feb 1946
Manila, Luzon, c. Jun-15 Oct 1946
Portland Muni Aprt, OR, 27 Jun 1949-29 Mar 1952
Ashiya AB, Japan, 14 Apr 1952-1 Jan 1953
Portland Intl Aprt, OR, 1 Jan 1953
Selfridge AFB, MI, 16 Nov 1957-14 Apr 1959
Keesler AFB, MS, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

I Troop Carrier Command, 12 Dec 1942
50 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 May 1943
XIII Air Force Service Command, Sep 1943
Far East Air Service Command, 13 Dec 1945
322 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jan 1946
54 Troop Carrier Wing, 26 Jan-15 Oct 1946
403 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-1 Jan 1953
403 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jan 1953-14 Apr 1959
403 Airlift Wing (later, 403 Wing), 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1946
C-46, 1945-1946
T-7, 1949-1951
T-11, 1949-1951
C/TC-46, 1949-1952
C/VC-47, 1952
C-54, 1952
C-119, 1952
C-46, 1953-1957
TC-47, 1957-1959
C-119, 1957-1959
C-130, 1992
WC-130, 1992

COMMANDERS

Col Harry J. Sands Jr, 12 Dec 1942
Lt Col Norton H. Van Sicklen, 24 Aug 1945-unkn
Col Audrin R. Walker, c. Jun-15 Oct 1946
Unkn, 27 Jun 1949-31 Mar 1951
Lt Col Robert B. Asbury, 1 Apr 1951
Lt Col Henry C. Althaus, 25 Jul 1951
Maj Wallace C. Forsythe, 22 Apr 1952
Lt Col Ernest W. Burton, Aug 1952-1 Jan 1953

Unkn, 1 Jan 1953-1958
Maj Phillip Kuhn, by Apr 1958-14 Apr 1959
Col John B. Goodwin, 1 Aug 1992
Col Frank W. Waid, 6 Jun 1993
Col Francis B. Lane, 15 Sep 1996
Col Wallace W. Farris, 6 Jun 1998
Lt Col John A. Jones, 1 Aug 1999
Lt Col Michael Underkofler, 14 Jul 2002
Lt Col Jay Jensen, 11 Jan 2006
Col Louis Patriquin
Lt Col Shane Devlin, 5 Jun 2021
Lt Col Kevin L. Campanile, 23 Oct 2021

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
New Guinea
Northern Solomons
Bismarck Archipelago
Western Pacific
Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines

Korea
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952
Third Korean Winter

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Philippine Islands, 17 Apr-30 Jun 1945

Navy Unit Commendation
[Sep 1943]-15 Jul 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
[1 Aug] 1992-30 Apr 1994
1 May 1994-30 Apr 1996
1 May 1996-31 Aug 1997
1 Jan 2004-31 Dec 2005; 1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2010.

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation [1952]

EMBLEM

Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained for overseas troop carrier operations from late 1942 to the summer of 1943, when it moved to the South Pacific. Transported men and supplies to forward areas in the Solomon Islands and flew passenger and cargo routes to New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and New Caledonia. The group also moved personnel of Thirteenth Air Force units to the Southwest Pacific theater. Supported campaigns in New Guinea and the Philippines by transporting men and cargo to combat areas, evacuating casualties, and landing or dropping supplies for guerilla forces.

On 23 Feb 1945, dropped paratroops at Laguna de Bay, Luzon, to free civilian internees held by the Japanese. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for transporting ammunition, food, and other supplies to Eighth Army forces in Mindanao and for landing on jungle airstrips to evacuate wounded personnel from Apr to Jun. From the Philippines, ferried occupation troops to Japan, evacuated liberated prisoners, and flew cargo and passenger routes to Japan and Australia.

From Jun 1949 until 1 Apr 1951, when it was called the active duty, the group trained as a reserve troop carrier unit in Oregon.

In Mar and Apr 1952, moved to Japan for operations against communist forces in Korea. Using C-119s, the group dropped paratroops and supplies, transported personnel and equipment, and evacuated casualties.

On 1 Jan 1953, relieved from active duty and inactivated in Japan, it activated again as a reserve unit, training for airlift, air evacuation, and aeromedical evacuation missions until inactivation in 1959.

From 1992, the group flew Air Force Reserve airlift and weather reconnaissance missions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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