

440 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

440 Troop Carrier Group established, 25 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jul 1943
Inactivated, 18 Oct 1945
Activated in the Reserve, 3 Sep 1947
Redesignated 440 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to Active Duty, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 4 May 1951
Redesignated 440 Fighter-Bomber Group, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952
Redesignated 440 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 8 Sep 1957
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959
Redesignated 440 Tactical Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985
Redesignated 440 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992
Inactivated

STATIONS

Baer Field, IN, 1 Jul 1943
Sedalia AAFld, MO, 10 Jul 1943
Alliance AAFld, NE, 7 Sep 1943
Pope Field, NC, 4 Jan 1944
Baer Field, IN, 14-22 Feb 1944
Bottesford, England, 11 Mar 1944 (air echelon), 23 Mar 1944 (ground echelon)
Exeter, England, 26 Apr 1944

Reims, France, 11 Sep 1944
Le Mans, France, 30 Sep 1944
Orleans/Bricy, France, 2 Nov 1944-18 Oct 1945
Wold-Chamberlain Muni (later, Minneapolis-St Paul Intl) Aprt, MN, 3 Sep 1947-4 May 1951
Ft Snelling, MN, 15 Jun 1952
Minneapolis-St Paul Intl Aprt, MN, 8 Jan 1953-14 Apr 1959
Gen Mitchell IAP-ARS, WI, 1 Aug 1992
Pope AFB (Later, AAF), NC

ASSIGNMENTS

I Troop Carrier Command, 1 Jul 1943
53 Troop Carrier Wing, Jul 1943
61 Troop Carrier Wing, 20 Jul 1943
60 Troop Carrier Wing, 31 Dec 1943
IX Troop Carrier Command, 25 Mar 1944
50 Troop Carrier Wing, Mar 1944
United States Air Forces in Europe, c. 29 Sep-18 Oct 1945
322 Troop Carrier Wing (later, 322 Air Division), 3 Sep 1947
440 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-4 May 1951
440 Fighter-Bomber (later, 440 Troop Carrier) Wing, 15 Jun 1952-14 Apr 1959
440 Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1943-1945
C-53, 1944-1945
C-109, 1945
Unkn, 1947-1948
T-6, 1948-1950
T-11, 1948-1951
C-47, 1948
C-46, 1949-1951
T-7, 1950-1951
T-6, 1952-1955
C-46, 1952-1957
F-51, 1953-1954
T-33, 1954-1957
F-80, 1954-1957
C-119, 1957-unkn
C-130, 1992

COMMANDERS

Maj Charles H. Young, 5 Jul 1943
Lt Col Frank X. Krebs, 7 Jul 1943
Lt Col Loyd C. Waldorf, 18 Sep 1944

Col Frank X. Krebs, 29 Oct 1944
Lt Col Chester C. Bridgman Jr., 14 Jul 1945-unkn
Col Carl A. Hustad, 3 Sep 1947
Maj Peter J. O'Carroll, 27 Jun 1949
Lt Col Frank E. Lardent, by Jun 1950
Lt Col Clarence E. Becker, Dec 1950-unkn
Col B. H. Berryman, by Aug 1953
Lt Col R. J. Whempner, by Dec 1956
Maj Kenneth O. Thompson, by Jun 1957
Col Russell F. Gustke, 16 Nov 1957-unkn
Col Norman H. Bowman Jr., 1 Aug 1992
Unkn, 3 Feb 1995-27 Jan 1996
Lt Col Eric W. Crabtree, 28 Jan 1996
Col Robert A. Gualtieri, 28 Sep 1997
Col Brett Clark, 19 Aug 2006
Lt Col William Whittenberger June 8
Col Jay Flournoy
Lt Col Jeffery N. Paulus

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Normandy
Rome-Arno
Southern France
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

2 Oct 1992-2 Oct 1993
1 Jun 1997-30 Sep 1998

EMBLEM



440 Troop Carrier Group emblem

SIGNIFICANCE - The emblem consists of Norwegian armor, blue (sky), yellow (sun), silver (stars), winged helmet symbolic of flight, sword (close support of troops), spear (interdictory mission), shield (defense of freedom), stars (Norwegian navigation, return from mission) Ursa Major (Big Dipper) North Star.



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 440 Airlift Wing's origins go back to 1943 at Baer Field an Army Air Force facility near Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The 440 Troop Carrier Group had 52 C-47s Skytrain transports (affectionately nicknamed the "Gooney Bird") and a number of Waco CG-4A Hadrian gliders assigned to the 95th, 96th, 97th and 98th Troop Carrier Squadrons. The 440's first operational mission was the airdropping of American paratroopers from 45 C-47s in the early morning hours of D-Day, June 6, 1944, behind the Normandy, France landing beaches of Omaha and Utah. The men of the 440 also took part in the airborne assaults in Holland (Operation Market Garden), Southern France and Germany, and the aerial re-supply of the 101st Airborne Division while that unit was surrounded in Bastogne, Belgium, during the Battle of the Bulge. Aircraft from the 440 also carried gasoline and

supplies to General George S. Patton's Third Army as it fought its way across France into Germany in 1944 - 45.

World War II ended and the 440 Troop Carrier Group returned to the United States for deactivation. The wing was reactivated as a Reserve Flying Training Group in 1947 at Minneapolis, Minn. Two years later, the unit's mission changed and it was renamed the 440 Reserve Troop Carrier Wing. The wing's remained in Minneapolis until November 1947 when it was transferred to the new Air Reserve Station in Milwaukee.

Trained in the US and moved to England, Feb-Mar 1944, for duty with Ninth Air Force. Began operations by dropping paratroops of the 101st Airborne Division near Carentan on the Cotentin Peninsula on 6 Jun 1944 and by transporting gasoline, ammunition, food, and other supplies to the same area on 7 Jun, being awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for completing these missions during the invasion of Normandy.

Began flying supply and evacuation missions between England and France after the invasion of the Continent. In Jul 1944 most of the group was sent to Italy where it transported supplies to Rome until Aug 1944.

The "detachment" in Italy participated in the invasion of southern France, dropping paratroops of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment near Le Muy on 15 Aug and towing gliders carrying reinforcements to that area later in the day. Meanwhile those remaining in England continued to haul cargo, and on 10 Aug 1944 dropped supplies to an infantry battalion encircled at Mortain in northern France. The detachment returned to England on 25 Aug 1944. The air echelon moved to France on 11 Sep 1944, but returned immediately to England to participate in the airborne invasion of Holland. Dropped paratroops of the 82d Airborne Division near Groesbeek on 17 Sep 1944 and released gliders with reinforcements on 18 and 23 Sep. By the end of Sep, the entire group had completed the move to France.

On 26 Dec 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, the group hauled gliders filled with supplies for the 101st Airborne Division encircled at Bastogne. In Mar 1945 it towed gliders with troops of the 17th Airborne Division to the battle area near Wesel during the airborne assault across the Rhine. Between 21 Apr and 14 May 1945, the group's air echelon operated from Conflans, France, to be closer to the front. The group transported food, clothing, medical supplies, gasoline, ammunition, and other cargo to the front lines and evacuated casualties to rear-zone hospitals.

After the war transported liberated prisoners and displaced persons. Inactivated in Europe on 18 Oct 1945. Activated in the US on 3 Sep 1947.

Trained for troop carrier operations in the Reserve. Became part of the 440 Troop Carrier Wing when it activated in Jun 1949.

Called to active duty on 1 May 1951 and inactivated four days later. Activated again in the Reserve as a Fighter-Bomber Group the following year.

Transitioned from fighter aircraft to C-119s, beginning in Apr 1957. In Nov 1957 the 440 Wing and the 95th Squadron moved on paper to Wisconsin, leaving the 440 Group and the 96th Squadron in Minnesota.

The Group inactivated on 14 Apr 1959. Activated on 1 Aug 1992. Personnel participated in exercises, humanitarian and other airlift missions, worldwide.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 1 Dec 2010

Updated: 13 Jan 2023

Sources

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