458th AIRLIFT SQUADRON

LINEAGE
458th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 1 Jul 1942
Activated, 6 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1944
Redesignated 458th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and activated, 1 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 27 Dec 1945
Redesignated 458th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 26 May 1952
Activated in the Reserve, 14 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 14 Jul 1952
Redesignated 458th Troop Carrier Squadron and activated, 12 Oct 1966
Organized, 1 Jan 1967
Redesignated 458th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Aug 1967
Inactivated, 1 Mar 1972

1401st Military Airlift Squadron designated and activated, 1 Apr 1975

458th Tactical Airlift Squadron consolidated with 1401st Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Dec 1991

Redesignated 458th Airlift Squadron, 1 Dec 1991

STATIONS
Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 6 Jul 1942
Alamogordo, NM, 1 Aug 1942
Biggs Field, TX, 1 Sep 1942
Alamogordo, NM, 29 Nov 1942
Biggs Field, TX, 5 Apr 1943-1 Apr 1944
Walker AAFld, KS, 1 Apr 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 25 May 1944
Walker AAFld, KS, 1 Aug 1944-7 Jan 1945
North Field, Guam, 18 Feb-21 Nov 1945
Camp Anza, CA, c.22-27 Dec 1945
Greater Pittsburgh Apt, PA, 14 Jun-14 Jul 1952
Cam Ranh Bay AB, South Vietnam, 1 Jan 1967-1 Mar 1972
Scott AFB, IL, 1 Apr 1975

ASSIGNMENTS
330th Bombardment Group, 6 Jul 1942-1 Apr 1944
330th Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944-27 Dec 1945
330th Troop Carrier Group, 14 Jun-14 Jul 1952
Pacific Air Forces, 12 Oct 1966
483rd Troop Carrier (later, 483rd Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1 Jan 1967-1 Mar 1972
89th Military Airlift Wing (later, 89th Military Airlift Group), 1 Apr 1975
375th Aeromedical (later, 375th Military Airlift) Wing, 15 Mar 1978
375th Operations Group, 1 Dec 1991

WEAPON SYSTEMS
B-17, 1942
B-24, 1942-1944
B-17, 1944
B-29, 1944-1945
C-7, 1967-1972
CT-39, 1975-1984
C-21, 1984
C-12, 1984

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers
World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers
World War II
Air Offensive, Japan
Western Pacific

Vietnam
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
TET 69/ Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**
None

**Decorations**
Distinguished Unit Citations
Japan, 3-9 Jul 1945
Tokyo, Japan, 8 Aug 1945

Presidential Unit Citations (Southeast Asia)
21 Jan-12 May 1968
1 Apr 30- Jun 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Jan-30 Apr 1967
1 May 1967-30 Apr 1968
1 Jul 1970-31 Dec 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul-31 Dec 1975
1 Jan 1976-31 Jan 1977
1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983
1 Jul 1986-31 Jul 1988

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Jan 1967-1 Mar 1972

**EMBLEM**
(WWII): Over and through a light blue disc, a gray fortress in a large, white cloud formation, having three, jagged, yellow lightning flashes striking toward base, over the top segment of an ultramarine blue globe, marked with white lines of latitude and longitude. (Approved, 27 Jun 1945)

(Current): On a Blue disc edged with a narrow Yellow border, in chief a sword palewise with the point up White detailed Blue and issuing from the edges of the sword blade eight Yellow rays rising from the base a Red trapezoid terminating below the silhouette of a stylized White aircraft bendwise all between four White five-pointed stars two each in pale at dexter and
sinister. (Approved on 18 May 1983; replaced emblems approved, 27 Mar 1968, and 27 Jun
1945.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

458th Tactical Airlift Squadron — Tail Code KC — Call Sign "Law"
S/N C/N UNIT COMMENTS
62-4144 79 458
62-4145 80 458
62-4150 86 458 TO 457th DATE UNK
62-4154 90 458
62-4156 92 458
62-4157 93 458
62-4158 95 458
62-4160 98 458
62-4162 100 458
62-4164 102 458
62-4170 109 458 FROM 459th DATE UNK
62-4171 110 458
62-5175 116 458 "CRASHED & DESTROYED 5 MILES SOUTH OF QUI NHON, RVN
11/30/67"
62-4179 120 458
62-4181 123 458
62-4184 126 458 TO 457th DATE UNK
62-4188 130 458
62-4189 132 458 "COMBAT LOSS - CRASHED ON LANDING DAK TO, RVN, 5/29/68"
62-12584 145 458 OPERATIONAL LOSS 1/13/71 - WRITTEN OFF
63-9726 161 458 FROM 459th DATE UNK
63-9729 167 458
63-9730 168 458 FROM 459th DATE UNK
63-9744 196 458 FROM 535th

Date: 30 November 1967
Aircraft: C-7B 62-4175
Unit: 458 TAS, 483 TAW
Base: Cam Ranh Bay
Crew: Maj Thomas Dewey Moore (KIA)
Maj William Jerome Clark (KIA)
SSgt Arturo Delgado-Marin (KIA)
SSgt Stanley Joseph Yurewicz (KIA)
22 passengers (KIA)

Description:
A C-7 Caribou crashed during a routine air transport flight in South Vietnam. As the aircraft approached Qui Nhon the pilot was advised that the weather at the airfield had fallen below safety minima. He replied that he would proceed to Nha Trang where the weather was better but the aircraft hit a mountain at 1,850 feet about five miles south of Qui Nhon. The weather at the time consisted of low cloud and rain that reduced visibility to about two miles. The four crew and 22 passengers, including two US civilians, were killed in the accident.

Date: 29 May 1968
Aircraft: C-7B 62-4189
Unit: 458 TAS, 483 TAW
Base: Cam Ranh Bay
Crew: 26 passengers and crew, names unknown (survived)

Description:
A Caribou on a trooping flight was hit by small arms fire on the approach to Dak Pek and undershot the runway and swiped off the landing gear. A wing was then torn off and the aircraft was damaged beyond repair but all the passengers and crew survived.

Date: 4 April 1970
Aircraft: C-7B 62-4180
Unit: 458 TAS, 483 TAW
Base: Phu Cat
Crew: Capt James Anthony Gray (KIA)
Maj Frederick W Dauten (KIA)
MSgt Russell Leo Klein (KIA)

Description:
After the Caribou was shot down at Dak Seang on the 2nd the airlift was briefly suspended by the Air Force but had to be resumed at the insistence of MACV and a fleet of 18 C-7s was assembled at Pleiku. Eleven more drops were made later in the day on the 2nd and although three aircraft were hit, none were lost. A total of 31 more sorties were made on the 3rd and the 4th but another aircraft was lost and 13 others damaged. A five-aircraft drop was being made in the afternoon when the fourth aircraft in the formation was hit by heavy ground fire shortly after releasing its load. The aircraft crashed two miles from the camp killing the crew.

The 458th Troop Carrier Squadron was formed from the former Army 135th Aviation Company at Dong Ba Thin on 1 January 1967. The squadron was initially based at Cam Ranh Bay, with a Detachment of 4 aircraft at Nha Trang.
Al Cunliffe discovered the following history on the Scott AFB site and submitted it:

458th Airlift Squadron — Lineage & History
The 458th squadron’s history spans six decades and encompasses a variety of missions in combat and peacetime theaters. A rich legacy is the hallmark of the 458th with campaign participation and decorations earned in World War II, the Vietnam Conflict and the Persian Gulf War. From its inception as a bomber training unit for the Army Air Corps in World War II through its present mission providing superior airlift support to US armed forces leadership, the 458th squadron reflects the best in Air Force tradition.

1 Jul 1942 - 1 Apr 1944: 458th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy).
Aircraft - Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and Consolidated B-24 Liberator.
Assignment - 330th Bombardment Group.
Stations - Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 6 Jul 1942; Alamogordo, NM, 1 Aug 1942; Biggs Field, TX, 1 Sep 1942; Alamogordo, NM, 29 Nov 1942; Biggs Field, TX, 5 Apr 1943 - 1 Apr 1944.
Operations - replacement training.

1 Apr 1944 - 27 Dec 1945: 458th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy).
Aircraft - Boeing B-29 Superfortress.
Assignment - 330th Bombardment Group.
Stations - Walker AAF, KS, 1 Apr 1944; Dalhart AAF, TX, 25 May 1944; Walker AAF, KS, 1 Aug 1944 - 7 Jan 1945; North Field, Guam, 18 Feb - 21 Nov 1945; Camp Anza, CA, c. 22-27 Dec 1945.
Operations - Combat in Western Pacific.
Campaign Streamers - Air Offensive, Japan; Western Pacific.
Decorations - Distinguished Unit Citations: Japan, 3-9 Jul 1945; Tokyo, Japan, 8 Aug 1945.

Aircraft - DeHavilland C-7 Caribou.
Assignment - Pacific Air Forces: 483d Tactical Airlift Wing.
Stations - Cam Ranh Bay AB, South Vietnam.
Operations - Tactical Airlift in Southeast Asia. Campaign Streamers - Vietnam Air Offensive; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III; Vietnam Air/Ground; Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV; TET 69 Counter-offensive; Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969; Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970; Sanctuary Counteroffensive; Southwest Monsoon; Commando Hunt V; Commando Hunt VI; Commando Hunt VII.

Assignment - 89th Military Airlift Wing, 1 Apr 1975; 375th Aeromedical (later 375th Military
Airlift) Wing.
Stations - Scott AFB, IL.

1 Dec 1991 - present: 458th Airlift Squadron.
Aircraft - Gates C-21A Learjet.
Assignment - 375th Operations Group.
Stations - Scott AFB, IL.

The 458th Squadron emblem was adapted from the 1401st on 1 Dec 1991 from a design originally approved on 18 May 1983. The blue color represents the sky with a constellation of four stars symbolizing the four locations of the 458th and its flight detachments (Scott AFB, Offutt AFB, Peterson AFB, and Randolph AFB). A stylized jet is symbolic of past, present and future operational support aircraft while the vermilion red stripe at the base represents the red carpet service provided to its customers. The sabre, with the sun’s beams reflected, signifies the 458th’s sterling commitment to duty.

458th Airlift Squadron GSUs (Geographically Separated Units)
The 458th Airlift Squadron is composed of 124 personnel at four geographically separated units that operate 26 C-21A aircraft. The squadron is headquartered at Scott AFB (Public Site)—three flights of approximately 30 professionals report to the squadron at Scott AFB. The 84th Airlift Flight (ALF) is located at Peterson AFB, CO, the 311th ALF is at Offutt AFB, NE, and the 332nd ALF flies out of Randolph AFB, TX.

332nd Airlift Flight, Randolph AFB TX
311th Airlift Flight, Offutt AFB NE
84th Airlift Flight, Peterson AFB CO

As MAC had consolidated its aeromedical airlift mission under the 375 AAW, it also took steps in 1975, to consolidate its operational support airlift (OSA) mission—the time sensitive transport of government officials, military leaders, and/or important cargo. On 1 April 1975, MAC consolidated its newly acquired fleet of 106 Rockwell T-39A Sabreliners under an Administrative Airlift Division; activating three OSA squadrons; the 1400th Military Airlift Squadron (MAS) at
Norton AFB, California, the 1401st Military Airlift Squadron, at Scott AFB, Illinois, and the 1402nd Military Airlift Squadron at Andrews AFB, Maryland.

1400th Military 1401st Military 1402nd Military Operational support airlift missions were also considered pilot training missions, until after the Air Force OSA mission reevaluation in 1977; after that, pilot training became only a by-product. In reflection of that change, the T-39As were redesignated as CT-39A.

On 15 March 1978, MAC realigned the three squadrons (1400, 1401, 1402) and twelve detachments, dispersed across 15 locations, to the 375th Aeromedical Airlift Wing and gave the Wing management and operational control responsibilities for the OSA mission within the continental United States. This was a significant addition to the Wing’s mission. In 1978 alone, the Wing’s newly acquired fleet of 104 Sabreliners flew 92,000 hours in support OSA missions.

4 Jan 1985 The 1401st Military Airlift Squadron became the first operational support airlift squadron to complete the transition from the CT39A to the C-21A and C-12F. (Note: on 1 Dec 1991, the 1401st was redesignated as the 458th Airlift Squadron.)

Kingdom Lear: Scott AFB, Ill., is reclaiming the Air Force's sole C-21A schoolhouse from Keesler AFB, Miss. This move will centralize the bulk of USAF's C-21 functions at Scott, which had hosted the training mission for the militarized Lear business transports up until the early 1990s. The Air Force intends to cut the C-21 fleet from 56 aircraft to 28 by Fiscal 2013. As part of these changes, Scott's 458th Airlift Squadron will assume responsibility for the training in addition to conducting its regular operational airlift missions. The squadron will use two of its C-21s for training. The first initial qualification class began at Scott this week; instructor pilot training is set to begin in July. The 458th AS resides under Scott's 375th Operations Group, which manages USAF's C-21 fleet. This realignment makes Scott the "focal point for all things C-21," said Col. Terry Ward, 375th OG commander.

Caribou resupply drops by the 457th and 458th Squadrons began on the twenty-fourth. A major difficulty, was the small size of the remaining friendly zone, roughly seventy-five yards square. The first drops were made by a crew under Capt. David M. Rogers flying his final day in Vietnam prior to reassignment. Captain Rogers flew through heavy tracer fire, made a series of turns and evasive maneuvers, and leveled off at three hundred feet only during the final fifteen seconds of the drop. Two separate runs were necessary because of the short drop zone, but all but one bundle landed inside the compound. Returning to Ban Me Thuot, the crew discovered that battle damage was minor and took aboard a second load. On the second mission they encountered heavier ground fire, but again made a successful delivery. A third mission later in
the day, by Maj. James L. Montgomery and his crew, also was a success. In the three sorties the Caribous delivered six tons of 105- and 81-mm ammunition and fuses. Two helicopters also made deliveries during the day, bringing in small arms and artillery ammunition.

Late that afternoon the 458th Squadron alert crew at Cam Ranh Bay, commanded by Maj. George C. Finck, was called out for an emergency drop. Major Finck's crew flew to Nha Trang to load and took aboard two Special Forces riggers to help over the drop zone. Finck took off in darkness and steered for the glowing sky over Due Lap. The compound was lit by flares and displayed a single steady light for identification. Enemy fire was heavy but inaccurate over the drop zone, and the darkened Caribou showed neither lights nor engine exhaust flame. Although the aircrew was told that both passes had been successful, the 5th Special Forces Group later reported that the bundles in fact failed to land inside the compound. This flight is believed to have been the first operational C 7 night drop.

At noon on August 25, Special Forces personnel at Due Lap reported to Nha Trang that prospects for the camp's survival were "doubtful." All materiel resupply on that critical day was by Caribou drops, the helicopters being entirely occupied in airlifting troops. Maj. Hunter F. Hackney and his crew, from the 458th Squadron, loaded cargo at Nha Trang but landed at Ban Me Thuot without dropping the load after learning that fighting at Due Lap was too heavy to permit the troops to retrieve the supplies. Hackney took off again at midafternoon, orbited east of Due Lap, and turned toward the camp immediately after heavy air strikes, hopeful that enemy gunners would have been driven under cover. The hope was mistaken ground fire began two miles from release. The ship received hundreds of hits but managed to complete an accurate first pass. Making the second pass from a different direction in hopes of a safer approach, Major Hackney found enemy fire equally vicious but again made a satisfactory drop. Landing at Ban Me Thuot, the crew discovered fuel leaks from all cells (in spite of "self-sealing" tanks) along the entire length of both wings. Hackney and his crew changed to another aircraft and made a second drop sortie, this time rigging the load to permit quick release of all four pallets in a single pass. The fresh ship approached Due Lap from still a different angle, received substantial damage, but survived. During the day two other crews also took off from Ban Me Thuot. They were commanded by Lt. Col. Elbert L. Mott and Maj. Charles J. Bishop, both from the 457th Squadron. The four sorties by Hackney, Bishop, and Mott succeeded in delivering over eight tons of water, rations, munitions, and medical supplies. Two other Caribou drops during the day originated from Pleiku. All sorties were unescorted. Crews flew at treetop level until just prior to cargo release then popped up to about three hundred feet, the minimum altitude for the parachute to open.

C-21 Instructor Training Takes Off at Scott: Flight training has commenced as part of the C-21A instructor pilot course at Scott AFB, Ill., for the first time since the base's 458th Airlift Squadron regained the C-21 training mission. The 458th AS earlier this year assumed responsibility for the training from the 45th AS at Kessler AFB, Miss. The Scott unit also conducts normal operational airlift missions with its C-21s, which are militarized Lear business transports. The first course flight took place on July 6, 2011.
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