

## 758 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

758 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943  
Activated, 1 Jul 1943  
Redesignated 758 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, Sep 1944  
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945  
Redesignated 758 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947  
Activated in the Reserve, 12 Jul 1947  
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949  
Redesignated 758 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 24 Oct 1957  
Activated in the Reserve, 16 Nov 1957  
Redesignated 758 Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1967  
Redesignated 758 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Mar 1972  
Redesignated 758 Airlift Squadron, 1 Feb 1992

### STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Jul 1943  
Kearns, UT, 2 Sep 1943  
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 22 Sep 1943  
Westover Field, MA, 2 Nov 1943-3 Jan 1944  
Giulia Airfield, Italy, 13 Feb 1944-2 Aug 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, c. 14-28 Aug 1945  
Long Beach AAFld, CA, 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949  
Greater Pittsburgh Aprt (later, Greater Pittsburgh IAP-Air Reserve Facility)

Greater Pittsburgh IAP-ARS Pittsburgh IAP-ARS), PA, 16 Nov 1957

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

459 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1943-28 Aug 1945

459 Bombardment Group, 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

459 Troop Carrier Group, 16 Nov 1957

459 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959

911 Troop Carrier (later, 911<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift; 911<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift; 911<sup>th</sup> Airlift) Group, 17 Jan 1963

911 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-24, 1943-1945

T-6, 1947-1949

T-7, 1947-1949

T-11, 1947-1949

C-119, 1957-1967

C-124, 1966-1972

C-123, 1972-1980

C-130, 1980

### **COMMANDERS**

None (not manned), 1-27 Jul 1943

Capt William H. Maxwell, 28 Jul 1943

1st Lt Clifford R. Opper, 18 Nov 1943 (acting)

Capt Henry C. Reed, 17 Dec 1943

Maj Daulton B. Lee, 15 Feb 1944

Capt Jack W. Tompkins, 15 Jun 1944

Maj Ward E. Benkelman, 7 Sep 1944

Maj John O. McDonald, 30 Mar 1945-unkn

Unkn, 12 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949

Col Donald M. Reed, 16 Nov 1957

Col Howard W. Dye Jr., Dec 1963

Maj James W. McKay, Aug 1968

Lt Col William T. Fitzroy, Oct 1969

Lt Col Anthony J. Holewinski, Mar 1972

Lt Col Merle F. Mitchell, Mar 1975

Lt Col Marvin E. Fowler, Mar 1977 (interim)

Lt Col William H. Donley, Jun 1977

Col Eugene D. Schaltenbrand, Jun 1978

Lt Col George Wehn Jr., 10 Jul 1982

Lt Col Richard H. Sievert Jr., 14 Sep 1983

Lt Col William Gutermuth, Jan 1985

Lt Col Robert Markutsa, 15 Jul 1988

Lt Col Jeffrey A. Geary, 6 Jan 1990  
Lt Col Paul Roth, 20 Dec 1991  
Lt Col John McMahon, 1 Apr 1993  
Lt Col Robert Jacobs, 1 Aug 1995  
Lt Col Gary Fogel, c. 2001  
Lt Col Gordon Miller, Jun 2003  
Col Ben Knox, 2006  
Lt Col M. C. Roberts, 7 Feb 2009  
Lt Col Gregory Buchanan, 8 Jan 2017  
Lt Col Christopher Mazzei, 9 Sep 2018  
Lt Col Barry Evans, 29 Apr 2021

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
North Apennines  
Rhineland  
Central Europe  
Po Valley  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Bad Voslau, Austria, 23 Apr 1944

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1978  
1 Aug 1987-31 Jul 1989  
15 Sep 1990-14 Sep 1992  
15 Sep 2003-15 Sep 2005  
16 Sep 2006-15 Sep 2008

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm  
1 Jan 1968-29 Feb 1972

## EMBLEM



758 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, On a sky blue disc bordered Air Force golden yellow, two white lightning flashes saltirewise throughout issuing from sinister (left) chief above an Air Force blue parachute highlighted sky blue; surmounting the lightning flashes a red flying carpet bendwise, fringed Air Force golden yellow leaving speed lines Air Force blue to sinister; over all an Air Force golden yellow spear bendwise, its head extending beyond the border in dexter (right) its staff surmounted by a white helmet shaded sky blue, plumed Air Force blue; outlines and details Air Force blue throughout. SIGNIFICANCE; The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The blue field represents the sky. the primary theater of operations, and the lightning flashes indicate all-weather capability. The flying carpet symbolizes the "red carpet service" provided by this organization, and its airlift capability. The spear and helmet indicate the military forces carried and serviced, and the parachute represents the unit's airborne potential. The emblem bears the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, and the national colors, red, white, and blue. (Approved, 31 Aug 1960)





The U.S. Air Force 758th Tactical Airlift Squadron Emblem: The 758th TAS emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The Blue Field represents the sky, the primary theater of operations. Air Force Yellow represents the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Golden Triangle is symbolic for the mission of the unit to deliver equipment and personnel anywhere, any time, on target. The Phoenix - the mythical bird of great beauty symbolizes immortality and the constant dedication by our aircrew to mission accomplishment. The Parachute emphasizes the units ability to airdrop troops and equipment.



Blue and 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 city skyline and the yellow triangle suggest the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the home area of the unit. The parachute and cargo reflect the Squadron's ability to airdrop troops and equipment. The phoenix symbolizes the spirit of the squadron's personnel. (Approved, 1 Oct 1990)

On a disc Azure a city skyline Or superimposed by a stylized rising Phoenix Sable fimbriated of the second bearing on its chest a triangle of the second surmounted at base by an open parachute of the first attached to a box of cargo of the third; all within a narrow Blue border. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "758<sup>TH</sup> AIRLIFT SQ" in Blue 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 city skyline and the yellow triangle suggest the City of Pittsburgh, PA, the home of the Squadron. The parachute and cargo symbolize the Squadron's ability to airdrop troops and equipment. The Phoenix embodies the spirit of the unit's personnel. (Approved, 9 Dec 2022)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in MTO and ETO, 2 Mar 1944-26 Apr 1945. Air transportation for airborne forces and worldwide airlift operations, 1958-. After terrorist attacks on the US on 11 Sep 2001, deployed aircrews and aircraft in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Joint Forge, 2002-. Provided aircrews and aircraft for Hurricane Katrina aeromedevac missions, Sep 2005.

The 758th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, was constituted on 19 May 1943. On 1 July 1943 the squadron was activated at Alamogordo Bombing Range, New Mexico. It is fairly clear that the squadron did not receive its personnel at Alamogordo, for on 31 August 19113, it was transferred to Kearns Army Air Base, Utah, without personnel or equipment. Indeed, the Cadre of the 459th Bombardment Group, of which the 758th was a component, was assigned only on 28 July. Almost immediately this cadre then entrained for a period of training at Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics. By 22 September 1943 the squadron had moved to Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Arizona, for training. Scarcely more than a month later the unit transferred to Westover Field, Massachusetts, arriving on 29 October. The training period at Westover was the longest of any the unit had had, for it was not until 3 January 1944 that the 758th left Westover for the overseas staging area at Camp Patrick Henry, Virginia. By 12 January the unit was on board the John Fiske, bound for Italy. The Italian peninsula was to be the home of the 758th for the entire period of the war. For a period of about three weeks the 758th was fully occupied with the task of getting settled and preparing for future operations. Consequently, it was not until 2 March that the squadron flew its first mission. From then on, the 758th, employing the B-24 heavy bomber, was very actively engaged in the business of war. Its combat activities were those which corresponded to the capacities of a strategic

bombardment unit; its targets included industrial areas of cities, airfields, marshalling yards, aircraft factories, and oil fields in Italy, Austria, Rumania, Bulgaria, and France. By 2 August 1945 the 758th was en route to the United States, arriving on 13 August. This unit moved to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where its personnel were transferred out of the unit on 20 August, prior to formal inactivation of the 758th on 28 August. For about two years the squadron remained inactivated. But in May 1947 it was redesignated as a Very Heavy bombardment squadron and activated on 12 July at Long Beach Army Air Field, California, as a reserve unit. The 758th served in this capacity and at the same station for about two years, prior to its inactivation on 27 June 1969. Several years later, on 16 November 1957, the 758th, redesignated the 758th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, was activated as a reserve unit at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport, Pennsylvania.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.