

780 EXPEDITIONARY AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

780 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943
Activated, 1 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1945
Redesignated 780 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 14 Nov 1945
Redesignated 780 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 22 Dec 1952
Activated, 1 Feb 1953
Inactivated, 8 Mar 1958
Redesignated 780 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Aug 1943
Kearns, UT, 13 Sep 1943
McCook AAFld, NE, 5 Oct 1943-1 Feb 1944
Pantarella Airfield, Italy, 15 Mar 1944-Jun 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, 15 Jun-31 Jul 1945
Donaldson AFB, SC, 1 Feb 1953-Dec 1953
Toul/Rosieres AB, France, 26 Dec 1953
Evreux AB, France, 6 Dec 1954-8 Mar 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

465 Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1943-31 Jul 1945
465 Troop Carrier Group, 1 Feb 1953
465 Troop Carrier Wing, 12 Mar 1957
317 Troop Carrier Wing, 8 Jul 1957-8 Mar 1958

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945

B-24H

B-24J

C-119, 1953-1957

C-130, 1957-1958

Eighteen aircraft per squadron. These Boxcars were flown from Toul AB, France to Evreux AB, France by 465th TCW pilots.

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Offensive, Europe

Air Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Vienna, Austria, 8 Jul 1944

Germany, 3 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

29 Oct-16 Dec 1956.

EMBLEM



780 Bombardment Squadron

780 Troop Carrier Squadron emblem: Over and through a disc, partitioned per pile, red and medium blue, a border of eight gold chain links, over all the base area of the red segment of the disc, a white arched, impact mark of seven points, radiating upward, surmounted with an Air Force yellow parachute, in perspective, the lining gray, all detail and lines black; suspended from the parachute an artillery piece of the last color, highlighted white; all surmounting an annulet in base of the last color. (Approved, 17 Jun 1955)

780 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, within a ring of eight chain links Or, throughout a deployed parachute of the second, fimbriated Sable, underside Argent (Silver Gray), rigging lines of the second, transporting an artillery piece of the third on a pallet of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "780TH EXPEDITIONARY AIRLIFT SQ" in Yellow 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 parachute and artillery piece are symbolic of the Squadron's heritage as a Troop Carrier Squadron supporting U.S. Army airborne units. The chain link ring represents unity, strength and flexibility of the Squadron members and the complexity of the mission. Each link is symbolic of the interdependency of each member and their mission critical skill sets.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in MTO and ETO, 5 May 1944-26 Apr 1945.

C-119C

51-2645 - Crashed, lost elevator control near Moulin, France, 18 APR 55, no fatalities.

51-2648 - Crashed, lost both engines near Corsica, France, 18 APR 55, no fatalities.
44-85491 - Crashed at Erding AB, West Germany, 9 JAN 53, 1 fatality.
45-8459 - Crashed, engine fire, over Belgium, 5 MAR 53, no fatalities.
45-8462 - Crashed, engine failure, near Neubiberg AB, West Germany, 10 MAR 53, no fatalities.
45-8465 - Crashed at Bitburg AB, West Germany, 21 MAR 54, no fatalities.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.