

## 72 HELICOPTER SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

72 Liaison Squadron constituted, 2 Apr 1943

Activated, 11 Apr 1943

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946

Activated, 3 Oct 1946

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1949

Redesignated 72 Helicopter Flight and activated, 1 Nov 1991

Redesignated 72 Helicopter Squadron, 1 Oct 1992

#### STATIONS

New Cumberland AAFld, PA, 11 Apr 1943

Reading AAFld, PA, 7 Jun 1943

Camp MacKall, NC, 29 Jul 1943

Knollwood Field, NC, 13 Sep 1943

Sky Harbor Airport, TN, 18 Oct 1943

Raleigh-Durham AAFld, NC, 27 Feb–24 Apr 1944

Oran, Algeria, 14 Jun 1944

Santa Maria, Italy, 11 Jul 1944 (flight operated at Caserta, Italy, 28 Jul–c. 1 Sep 1944)

St Tropez, France, 19 Aug 1944

Brignoles, France, 21 Aug 1944

Grenoble, France, 2 Sep 1944

Lons-le-Saunier, France, 8 Sep 1944

Vesoul, France, 18 Sep 1944

Epinal, France, 30 Sep 1944 (detachment at Charmes, France, 29 Sep–3 Oct 1944 and at Luneville, France, 3 Oct–24 Nov 1944)  
Buhl, France, 1 Dec 1944 (detachment at Steinbourg, France, 8 Dec 1944–1 Jan 1945)  
Epinal, France, 2 Jan 1945 (detachment at Luneville, France, Jan–10 Mar 1945)  
Buhl, France, 11 Mar 1945  
Sarreguemines, France, 22 Mar 1945  
Kaiserlautern, Germany, 26 Mar 1945  
Darmstadt, Germany, 1 Apr 1945  
Kitzingen, Germany, 15 Apr 1945  
Gmund, Germany, 27 Apr 1945  
Augsburg, Germany, 2 May 1945  
Darmstadt, Germany, Jun–c. 2 Jul 1945  
Drew Field, FL, 4 Aug 1945  
Muskogee AAFld, OK, 1 Sep 1945  
Marshall Field, KS, 1 Nov 1945–31 Mar 1946  
Brooks Field, TX, 3 Oct 1946  
Langley Field (later, AFB), VA, 20 Dec 1946–1 Apr 1949  
Langley AFB, VA, 1 Nov 1991

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

26 Reconnaissance Group, 11 Apr 1943  
I Air Support Command (later, I Tactical Air Division; III Tactical Air Division), 11 Aug 1943  
Army Air Forces, MTO, Jun 1944  
US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 1 Nov 1944  
Ninth Air Force, 12 Dec 1944  
XII Tactical Air Command, 20 May 1945  
US Forces, European Theater, 3 Jul 1945  
Third Air Force, 4 Aug 1945  
XIX Tactical Air Command, 11 Jan 1946  
Tactical Air Command, 21 Mar 1946  
Ninth Air Force, 28–31 Mar 1946  
Ninth Air Force, 3 Oct 1946–1 Apr 1949  
1 Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Seventh Army for operations, Aug–12 Dec 1944  
Sixth Army Group for operations, 22 Dec 1944–14 May 1945  
Twelfth Army Group, 15 May–12 Jun 1945  
First Air Force, 15 Jan–1 Feb 1949  
363 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 9 Mar–1 Apr 1949

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

L-1, 1943–1944  
L-4, 1943–1944

L-5, 1943-1945, 1945-1946

L-6, 1943-1944

RA-24, 1943-1944

L-5, 1946-1949

L-13, 1947-1948

R-6, 1948

H-5, 1948-1949

UH-1, 1991

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Rome-Arno

Northern France

Southern France with Arrowhead

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Euro

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

None

#### **Decorations**

Army Meritorious Unit Commendation

15 Aug-31 Dec 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 May 1992-30 Apr 1994

## **EMBLEM**



72 Liaison Squadron emblem (Approved, 6 Nov 1943)

72 Helicopter Squadron emblem: Azure, a maltese cross per bend Vert and Vert four bendlets Sable fimbriated Or surmounted by a bald eagle perched and elevated on a billiard eight-ball in base both proper; all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. (Approved, 19 Jul 1993)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in MTO and ETO, Aug 1944–May 1945.

Transported personnel and equipment, as well as provided search and rescue assistance, Nov 1991.

Another chapter of Langley history ended on 5 December 1995 with the departure of the base's last helicopter, prior to the inactivation of the 72d Helicopter Squadron on 15 December.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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### Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.