

314 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The 314 Airlift Wing trains C-130 aircrew members from the Department of Defense, Coast Guard and 47 allied nations. The 314 Airlift Wing comprises four groups -- operations, logistics, support and medical -- and a headquarters element. Two airlift squadrons -- 53rd AS and 62nd AS -- and the 314 Operations Support Squadron, along with the flight simulator contractor, make up the "schoolhouse" and together accomplish the wing's primary mission of training C-130 crew members.

LINEAGE

314 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 4 Oct 1948
Activated, 1 Nov 1948
Redesignated 314 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jan 1967
Redesignated 314 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1967
Redesignated 314 Airlift Wing, 1 Dec 1991

STATIONS

Smyrna (later, Sewart) AFB, TN, 1 Nov 1948-15 Jan 1966
Kung Kuan (later, Ching Chuan Kang) AB, Taiwan, 22 Jan 1966-31 May 1971
Little Rock AFB, AR, 31 May 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 1 Nov 1948
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Feb 1949
Tactical Air Command, 1 Aug 1950
Eighteenth Air Force (Troop Carrier) (later, Eighteenth Air Force), 1 Jun 1951

Ninth Air Force, 1 Sep 1957
839 Air Division, 8 Oct 1957
315 Air Division (Combat Cargo) (later, 315 Air Division), 27 Jan 1966
327 Air Division, 1 Nov 1968
Twelfth Air Force, 31 May 1971
834 Air Division, 15 Mar 1972
Twenty-Second Air Force, 31 Dec 1974
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993
Eighth Air Force, 1 Oct 1993
Nineteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1997

ATTACHMENTS

315 Air Division [Combat Cargo], 22-26 Jan 1966

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-82, 1948-1949, 1949-1951
C-47, 1948-1949, 1949-1953
CG-15 (glider), 1949-1951
YG-18 (glider), 1949-1951
C-119, 1949-1951
C-45, 1949-1951, 1954-1955
TC-46, 1950
YC-122, 1950-1954
YH-12, 1951
H-19, 1952-1955
C-46, 1952
L-5, 1952-1953
L-16, 1952-1953
L-20, 1952-1953 1954
H-21, 1955-1959
C-123, 1956-1957, 1958-1961



314 Airlift Wing C-130 (USAF photo)

C-130, 1956
DC-130, 1979-1981
C-21, 1999

COMMANDERS

Col Hoyt L. Prindle, 1 Nov 1948
Col Norton H. Van Sicklen, 31 Aug 1950
Col Hoyt L. Prindle, 28 Dec 1950
Col Norton H. Van Sicklen, 1 Jun 1952
Col William H. DeLacey, 2 Jul 1952
Col Hoyt L. Prindle, 23 Aug 1952
Col Marvin L. McNickle, 6 Jul 1954
Col William Lewis Jr., 1 Jul 1956
Col Adriel N. Williams, 21 Jul 1956
Col Charles W. Howe, 1 Aug 1957
Col John T. Hylton Jr., 8 Oct 1957
LTC William F. Kelleher, 30 May 1958
Col Daniel F. Tatum, 16 Jul 1958

Col George M. Foster, 16 Jul 1960
Col William H. DeLacey, 17 Aug 1960
Col William G. Moore Jr., 13 Aug 1962
Col Arthur C. Rush, 1 Sep 1963
Col Paul A. Jones, 14 Feb 1967
Col Lyle D. Lutton, 12 Mar 1968
Col Albert W. Jones, 12 Oct 1968
Col William T. Phillips, 15 Jul 1970
Col Ray C. Staley, 22 Jan 1971
Col Andrew P. Iosue, 15 May 1971
Col Richard J. Gibney, 31 May 1971
Col Richard T. Drury, 31 Jul 1972
Col Frank W. Janssen, 14 May 1973
BG Eugene W. Gauch Jr., 18 Oct 1973 (additional duty)
Col Robert F. Coverdale, 3 Nov 1973
Col John E. Davis, 16 Jul 1974
BG Russell E. Mohney, 19 Jan 1976
Col Donald M. Nagel, 1 Aug 1977
BG Alfred G. Hansen, 16 Oct 1978
Col Dan W. Freeman, 17 Jul 1981
Col William A. Kehler, 25 Jul 1983
Col Floyd E. Hargrove, 11 Apr 1985
Col Charles C. Barnhill Jr., 26 Mar 1986
Col Donald E. Loranger Jr., 4 May 1988
Col Albert R. Hart, 3 Nov 1989
Col Charles J. Wax, 30 Sep 1991
BG Frederic N. Buckingham, 18 Jun 1993
BG Donald A. Streater, 20 May 1994
BG Jack R. Holbein Jr., 15 Jul 1996
BG Paul J. Fletcher, 24 Sep 1998
BG David J. Scott, 18 Jul 2001
BG Joseph M. Reheiser, 15 Sep 2003
BG Kip L. Self, 9 Sep 2005
BG Rowayne A. Schatz, 16 May 2007
Col Charles K. Hyde, 1 Oct 2008
Col Mark G. Czelusta, 20 Aug 2010
Col Edward S. Brewer, 12 Jun 2012
Col James D. Dryjanski, 31 Jul 2014
Col Daniel A. DeVoe, 18 Jul 2016
Col Stephen L. Hodge, 25 Jul 2018
Col Joseph C. Miller

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Grenada, 1983; Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Nov 1967-31 Dec 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

11 Jan-14 Feb 1955

1 Jan 1960-1 Dec 1961

1 Jan 1975-30 Jun 1976

1 Jun 1985-31 May 1986

1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-31 Mar 1997

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2006 - 30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2007 - 30 Jun 2008

1 Jul 2008 - 30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009 - 30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2010 – 30 Jun 2011

1 Jul 2011 – 30 Jun 2012

1 Jul 2012 – 30 Jun 2014

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display the honors earned by the 314 Operations Group prior to 1 Nov 1948

Service Streamers

World War II

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Sicily, 11 Jul 1943
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

EMBLEM





314 Troop Carrier Wing emblem

314 Airlift Wing emblem: Azure, on a pale or a sword palewise point to base argent, grip vert, between in dexter base a parachute and another in sinister chief white, all within a diminished bordure yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The blue field and the yellow pale are the Air Force colors. The two parachutes represent the aerial delivery of combat troops and equipment, the end result of the wing's primary mission. The sword symbolizes both the wing's commitment to the defense of the United States and the wing's integral role in the application of aerospace power. (Approved, 13 Feb 1995)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

From 1948 until December 1965, the 314 TCW served as a primary troop carrier unit in the eastern United States and was involved in joint airborne training with the United States Army. On May 19, 1957, the wing received the first of its Lockheed C-130 Hercules aircraft.

In 1948 the Fairchild C-82 aircraft was introduced to the 314 and the following year a refined version, the C-119 came into the inventory. With these aircraft which were specifically designed for troop carrier operation, the scopes and complexity of the mission assumed ever increasing proportions. The dropping of heavy pieces of equipment as well as paratroopers became a reality and the feasibility of these techniques was tested during peacetime exercises such as "Operation Swarmer," held at Fort Bragg, N. Carolina, in April 1950.

When the Korean action flared up in June 1950, troop carrier forces again answered the call. The 314 deployed on extremely short notice and in a minimum of time to this conflict in the Far East.

With the new aircraft, recently developed theories were given the test of combat and soon became battle proven tactics and techniques. The 314 carried the first bridge ever to be dropped, to the Marines trapped in the famous Chosin reservoir battle. The 314 received the Presidential Unit Citation for its part in Korea; the third time in its history that this award had been earned.

Returning to peacetime operation, the 314 continued to develop and refine procedures of troop carrier operation. The Army and Air Force continually planned, scheduled and executed joint exercises and massive training maneuvers. Some of the more noteworthy of these were "Operation Coldspot," a cold weather maneuver in the winter of 1953 at Burlington, Vermont; "Operation Flashburn," the largest peacetime maneuver to date, performed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in the Spring of 1954; "Operation, Snowbird," an Arctic maneuver held in Alaska in January-February 1955; and "Sagebrush," which took place in Texas and Louisiana in 1956. From "Operation Snowbird," the 314 received the Outstanding Unit award.

The ultimate dream of every troop carrier man became a reality for the 314 in May 1957 as delivery was made of the first three Lockheed C-130 aircraft to this organization. The medium troop carriers had finally graduated to a four-engined aircraft, one whose every section and system had been built with the troop carrier mission in mind. Here was an aircraft which possessed the added performance, speed, range and flexibility — every refinement which had so long been sorely needed by the workhorses of the tactical air arm.

The 314 was fully equipped and operationally ready in the C-130A aircraft by December of 1957. The Wing now included the 50th, 61st, and 62nd Troop Carrier Squadrons, the 314 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 314 Headquarters Squadron.

To prove its capability in these new machines, the Wing was directed, on the very month that it became operationally ready, to participate in "Operation All-American" at Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina, and shortly thereafter, the 314 again joined the airborne forces at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on "Operation Eagle Wing."

With the advent of the Tactical Air Command's Composite Air Strike Force (CASF), the troop carrier mission assumed added proportions which to some appeared unbelievable. Charged with the responsibility of a limited war capability, TAC met ' this task by conceiving and developing a hard-hitting package in which the troop carriers play the all important supporting role. The CASF concept had barely reached infancy stages when TAC was called upon to quell the crisis in Lebanon. Ninth Air Force diverted 314 Wing aircraft from throughout the Zone of Interior in July 1958 to support the CASF in its instant leap to the Middle East. With this highly successful mission not fully completed, the CASF was summoned to the other side of the world as the tension in the Formosan Straits heightened. Once again, the 314 responded instantaneously. The 50th Troop Carrier deployed in record time and sustained operations for nearly four months at an

In addition to normal airborne and logistical missions, the Wing accomplished several unusual assignments in 1959. In the spring, American paratroopers were flown from the Zone of Interior and airdropped on foreign soil on "Operation Banyan Tree I" which was conducted in Panama.

Also in that year, the 61st Troop Carrier Squadron received 12 C-130D, ski-equipped aircraft. The crews completed transition training in this unique aircraft on frozen lakes in northern Minnesota, and then supported the DEW line East project on the Greenland Icecap. All levels of command recognized this operation as outstanding. C-130's of the 314 assisted the National Agency for Space Administration on "Project Mercury" by performing high altitude test drops of missile nose capsules at Wallops Island, Virginia.

The Air Defense Command received support throughout 1959 and 1960 from the 314 Wing on "Swordfish" missions during which the SAGE units were calibrated. The president's tours to the Middle East (Operation Monsoon) in 1959 and South America (Operation Amigo) in 1960 were supported by this Wing. The president commended the overseas base. These two missions and subsequent exercises such as "Operation Spearhead" and "Mobile Yoke" have proved again the effectiveness and versatility of the 314 Wing as an integral part of the CASF. Commendations for the Lebanon mission were received from President Eisenhower and the late Secretary of State, Mr. Dulles.

Brazilian and American paratroopers were airlifted from their home continents by aircraft of this Wing and dropped almost simultaneously in the Rio Hato objective area in Panama. This maneuver, called "Banyan Tree II" displayed the range and versatility of the medium troop carriers.

In January 1966, the wing moved to Kung Kuan AB Taiwan. Here the wing provided passenger and cargo airlift throughout the Far East as well as providing combat airlift in Southeast Asia. In August 1967, the wing was redesignated as the 314 Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW).

While serving in Southeast Asia, the 314 TAW earned its only Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with a combat "V" device. This important award was given in recognition of their "airlifting an average of 7.9 tons of passengers and cargo for each operational flying hour in Southeast Asia, in addition to performing a wide variety of tactical airlift missions under the most extremely difficult and hazardous conditions".

On May 31, 1971, the 314 TAW transferred to Little Rock AFB, AR. The 314 TAW served as a principle airlift unit involved with worldwide tactical airlift operations and, since August 1971, served as the primary C-130 training unit for all Department of Defense agencies as well as training aircrew members from foreign nations.

In January, 1976, airmen of the 314 were back in Alaska again, this time as participants in "Operation Jack Frost." With the continued threat of the Cold War becoming hot and the increased importance of POL strategic reserves, top-level mission planners in the Pentagon envisioned the possibility of Soviet land and air strikes against the Alaskan Pipeline. To counter this threat, "Jack Frost," conducted in the deep freeze of January, provided air and ground forces with experience in sub-zero Arctic warfare.

From October 13 to November 6, 399 persons from the 314 were deployed to destinations around

the U.S. for "Operation Bold Eagle '82." The main exercise was conducted at Eglin AFB, Florida. In keeping with the evolving mission of TAC, the crews simulated a resupply mission to a friendly nation fending off a foreign invasion by an aggressive neighbor.

The 314 participated in "Team Spirit '83" on February 6. This exercise simulated American deployment on the Korean Peninsula. The C-130 crews helped deliver 15,000 troops and 3,650 tons of cargo to South Korea. "Team Spirit '83" sent 140 members of the 189th ARG and four KC-135's to the Western Pacific in support of deployments to Korea. Two of the aircraft were temporarily stationed at Guam's Andersen AFB while the other two went to Kadena AFB on Okinawa.

From August 31 to October 31, 119 members of the 314 were dispatched to Europe for REFORGER '83. While in Europe, the crewmen billeted at Ramstein Air Base, West Germany. For the stateside phase of the operation, the emissaries were rotated through Robert Gray Army Air Field, Texas, Forbes Air Field in Kansas and Whiteman AFB in Missouri.

The 314 TAW rotated to Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England and wrapped up the mission in December. While on "rote," the 314 TAW was known as "Bravo Squadron," the temporary name given to any unit operating during this annual event. While in Europe, the 314 enjoyed one week of flying out of Aviano AB, Italy, one week out of Hellenikan AB, Greece, a two-day run hopping duty passengers around Europe, and another two-day run hopping between Germany and England. During this time, the 314 also participated in relief efforts in Erzurum, Turkey following a disastrous earthquake.

In January, 1985, five Little Rock Air Force Base C-130's and 175 crewmen were deployed to Alaska as part of "Operation Brim Frost '85." The joint readiness exercise demonstrated the ability of several branches of the military to work together for a common goal. Eighteen thousand people were placed in a simulated combat environment in the frigid north as part of the U.S. Readiness Command-sponsored exercise.

While the wing still prepared for typical war scenarios in Europe and Korea, it also began humanitarian relief operations in Africa and elsewhere. Additionally, the wing started performing missions in Central America in support of American foreign policy, specifically in Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, and other missions in support of the declared war on drugs. The most visible anti-drug action was Operation JUST CAUSE in which the 314 TAW dropped troops and equipment over Panama in December 1989.

The decade ended in combat for fifteen C-130s from the 314 TAW. During the invasion of Panama on December 19, 1989, the planes were ordered to drop paratroops (the 2nd Battalion, and Companies A and B of 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division - or "Task Force Red-Romeo") into Rio Hato Air Field. The planes came under heavy fire during their approach. Captain Schaar's aircraft was hit, destroying his No.4 engine. Regaining control, Schaar held steady as his load of sixty-four paratroops bailed into a fountain of tracers. Schaar then brought his aircraft back home.

The wing began its participation in Operation DESERT SHIELD on 7 August 1990, deploying over 1,000 personnel and maintaining a constant level of 16 aircraft in the Persian Gulf.

On August 14, 1990, sixteen 314 C-130E's and 422 personnel (87 aircrew, 335 support crew) departed for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. On August 21, 522 additional base personnel flew to the Gulf in a Boeing 747 from the Civil Reserve Fleet. One hundred of the service men and women, including 30 medical specialists from the base hospital, were delivered to Bateen Air Base, Saudi Arabia. The remainder were delivered to twelve other locations in the region. This addition brought Little Rock Air Force Base's contribution to the Gulf War to 944 personnel. These personnel were from the 314 Supply Squadron, 314 CSG, 314 Transportation Squadron, 314 Services Squadron, 314 CES, 314 ACS, 314 Security Police Squadron, 314 Comptroller Squadron, 50th T AS, 2nd MAPS, 17th WS Detachment 20, and the 189th AANG.

During "Desert Shield," the 314 contingent moved 15,456 passengers and 17,351.5 tons of cargo in 1,436 missions flown over 8,765 flight hours. Medical personnel from the base hospital supported medical operations in their areas of assignment. To save the crews from boredom during their long hot Saudi nights, local librarians gathered 5,000 books and sent them to the Gulf.

"Operation Desert Storm" began on January 17, 1991, with a massive aerial assault on Iraqi forces in the Persian Gulf. During the 38-day bombing effort, the 314's workload increased, reaching a peak between January 18 and 24 as the allies prepared for invasion. During this "Surge," the 314 moved 2,427 passengers and 1,313 tons of cargo with 97.9% of their payloads arriving on time.

On February 24, the ground assault began. During a 100-hour wheeling movement through the Iraqi desert, the 314 delivered 8,506 passengers and 6,214.3 tons of cargo to forward areas. Overwhelming force crushed the Iraqi resolve, and tired Iraqi soldiers surrendered in droves. On February 28, a 314 (1620th) TAW C-130E was the third allied aircraft to land in Kuwait City after hostilities ceased. With the Iraqi situation temporarily under control, the 314 contingent withdrew to Little Rock Air Force Base on March 27, 1991, shedding its 1620th TAWP designation. This would not be the 314's last mission to the embattled region.

On December 1, 1991, the 314 Tactical Airlift Wing was redesignated as the 314 Airlift Wing (AW) as part of an Air Force-wide restructuring. Six months later, the Air Force reorganized again and on June 1, 1992, the 314 AW was aligned under the newly formed Air Mobility Command (AMC), the successor to the Military Airlift Command (MAC). While under AMC, the 314 AW participated in humanitarian airlift operations in Turkey and, most notably, in Somalia. From August 17, 1992, until early December 1992, all food and medicine flown into Somalia by the US Air Force were carried on 314 AW C-130s.

On October 1, 1993, the 314 AW experienced another change as all the C-130s were consolidated under the Air Combat Command. This also changed the operational chain for the wing. During the following years organizational structure would change again. On April 1, 1997, the operational

C-130 units would be brought back under the control of the Air Mobility Commands recently activated 463rd Airlift Group while the training C-130 units would fall under the control of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and the 314 Airlift Wing.

Since 1997, the 314 AW has focused squarely on the C-130 training mission. The wing works tirelessly to replenish the C-130 force with highly qualified aircrews with tremendous support from its local community. From WW II to the present, the 314 has been well led and has worked as a team, and the wing has been recognized for this consistently. With a constant eye toward growth, this proud tradition is sure to continue.



314 Airlift Wing C-130s (USAF photo)

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 25 Sep 2010

Updated: 17 Jan 2021

Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Sewart AFB, 1954, Home of the 314 Troop Carrier Wing*. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.

Unit yearbook. *314 Troop Carrier Wing, Sewart AFB*. 1960.

Unit history. Little Rock AFB, AR. *Heartland, The History of Little Rock AFB*. Timothy Burford and Stephanie Burford. WireStorm Publishing. Las Vegas, NV. 2002.