355th TACTICAL AIRLIFT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE
355th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Jun 1942
Inactivated, 10 Apr 1944
Redesignated 355th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 27 Jun 1944
Activated, 7 Jul 1944
Inactivated, 15 Apr 1946
Redesignated 355th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 16 May 1949
Activated in the reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Redesignated 355th Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 28 Jan 1950
Ordered to active service, 1 Jun 1951
Inactivated, 8 Jun 1951
Redesignated 355th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 26 May 1952
Activated in the reserve, 14 Jun 1952
Ordered to active service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from active duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 355th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1967
Redesignated 355th Special Operations Squadron, 25 Jan 1970
Redesignated 355th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 26 Jul 1971
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1982

STATIONS
Geiger Field, WA, 1 Jun 1942
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 23 Jun 1942
Wendover Field, UT, 30 Jul 1942
Pueblo AAB, CO, 30 Sep 1942
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Dec 1942
Clovis, NM, 29 Jan 1943
Langley Field, VA, 17 Dec 1943
Chatham AAFld, GA, 9 Mar-10 Apr 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 7 Jul 1944
McCook AAFld, NE, 22 Nov 1944-8 Apr 1945
Northwest Field, Guam, 12 May 1945-15 Apr 1946
McChord AFB, WA, 27 Jun 1948-8 Jun 1951
Clinton County AFB 14 Jun 1952-26 Jul 1971
Rickenbacker AFB (later ANGB) 1982

ASSIGNMENTS
302nd Bombardment Group, 1 Jun 1942-10 Apr 1943
331st Bombardment Group, 7 Jul 1944-15 Apr 1946
302nd Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-8 Jun 1951
302nd Troop Carrier Group, 14 Jun 1952
302nd Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
906th Troop Carrier Group (later 906th Tactical Airlift Group, 906th Special Operations Group,
    906th Tactical Airlift Group) 11 Feb 1963-1 Sep 75
302nd Tactical Airlift Wing -1 Apr 81
906th Tactical Airlift Group

WEAPON SYSTEMS
B-24, 1942-1944
B-17, 1944
B-29, 1945-1946
C-119, 1962

COMMANDERS
LTC Carl Yerian, 1967
LTC Bob Hatfield, 1969
LTC Tom Lentz, 1972
LTC Harry Jones, 1973
LTC John Wenzelberger, 1975
LTC Don Snyder, 1976
LTC Dana Caldwell, 1978
LTC Vergil Fryberger, 1981

HONORS
Service Streamers
American Theater
Campaign Streamers
Air Offensive, Japan
Eastern Mandates
Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Distinguished Unit Citation
Japan, 22-29 Jul 1945

EMBLEM

355th Bombardment Squadron emblem

355th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, emblem: on an Air Force blue disc bordered white, three white parachutes palewise, carrying cargo, one large one between two smaller ones, all between four stars, one in dexter, one in chief, one in sinister, and one in base, all white; outlines and details Air Force blue throughout. (Approved, 7 Jul 1961)

MOTTO
YOU CALL, WE HAUL

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On May 13, 1975, the Air Staff directed Headquarters AFRES to provide a detachment of two UC-123K to Guam to rid an interim refugee camp site of dengue fever-bearing mosquitoes. Ten days later, the 355th Tactical Airlift Squadron sprayed 3,535 gallons
flew 231 sorties in support of the Military Airlift Command as that command sought to fill the airlift vacuum created by the dedication of its strategic airlift fleet to the U.S. evacuation of South Vietnam. These sorties expended 776 hours and airlifted 517.9 tons of cargo and 170 passengers.

On 17-31 May 82 The 355 Tactical Airlift Squadron trained aircrews from El Salvador On C-123k. Trained as a reserve squadron as part of the 302nd Troop Carrier Wing from Jun 1952. Began flying airlift operations in the United States and overseas in the mid-1950s. On active duty during Cuban missile crisis of 1962. From Apr 1968 to Mar 1973, provided C-119 gunship training for pilots, navigators, flight engineers, and mechanics of USAF active units and similar personnel from Jordan, Morocco, Ethiopia, and South Vietnam. By the mid-1960s, wing aircraft and crews performed worldwide airlift missions and participated in numerous tactical exercises. In Apr 1973, the wing assumed a rotational airlift task in support of USAF Southern Command, continuing this mission through Jan 1976. Also in Apr 1973, the wing assumed a UC-123 aerial spraying mission, which frequently took wing crews to Central America, the Caribbean, the Azores, North Africa, islands of the Pacific, and to many U.S. points for insect-spraying missions. Inactivated in 1982. activated in 1985 as a C-130 unit at Peterson AFB, Colorado.

The aerial spray mission was transferred to Air Force Reserve Command (AFRC) from the 4500th Aerial Spray Flight, Langley Air Force Base Va. on April 1, 1973. The 355th Tactical Airlift Squadron (AFRC) gained the mission using UC-123K and an active-duty Air Force entomologist. The unit's first spray mission took place at Langley Air Force Base on May 22, 1973 to control mosquitoes.

During the first year, two research missions were conducted in conjunction with the U.S. Army at Camp Drum, N.Y. to test the efficacy of black fly control by aerial spray.

The Panamanian government requested assistance from the United States in July 1973 to combat an outbreak of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in the Canal Zone. Later that month the unit sprayed the Canal Zone for control of the migratory salt-marsh and adult freshwater mosquitoes with excellent results.

In mid-May 1975, aerial spray UC-123K's went to the Pacific Island of Guam to spray for mosquito control at a large Southeast Asian refugee camp. Four applications were sprayed covering more than 160,000 acres. A feared outbreak of dengue fever never materialized. The Governor of Guam recognized the work of the crews by presenting the unit a flag of Guam.

During 1977 and 1978, the unit conducted five missions for Japanese beetle control at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores. These beetles are an internationally quarantined pest that was firmly established in the Lajes local area.

In 1981, the spray planes flew missions for gypsy moth control at West Point N.Y. and Fort Dix/McGuire Air Force Base N.J. They also flew additional missions at various locations for
Japanese beetle and mosquito control.

In 1982, the Air Force scheduled its C-123K's for deactivation except for four which were retained at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, Ohio to support the aerial spray mission. With the deactivation of the 355th TAS the aerial spray mission transferred to the 907th TAG.

In April 1983 at Parris Island, S.C., the unit pioneered the use of aerial sprays to control biting midges, reductions of greater than 95% were seen following sprays. Later that year, a successful vegetation control program was developed at the Utah Test and Training Range. This program saves the U.S. Government $1.5 million, annually, over previously used techniques.

In 1983, AFRC planes sprayed 217 communities and 525,024 acres in Minnesota in response to a public health emergency for Western Equine Encephalitis.

In June and July 1985, the 907th TAG aerial spray unit assisted the Department of Agriculture in their emergency control efforts for a major grasshopper infestation in Idaho. Three UC-123K as well as support personnel spent 30 days in Pocatello and Boise Idaho, spraying more than 700,000 acres at the request of Idaho's governor.