

## 440 OPERATIONS GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

440 Troop Carrier Group established, 25 May 1943  
Activated, 1 Jul 1943  
Inactivated, 18 Oct 1945  
Activated in the Reserve, 3 Sep 1947  
Redesignated 440 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 27 Jun 1949  
Ordered to Active Duty, 1 May 1951  
Inactivated, 4 May 1951  
Redesignated 440 Fighter Bomber Group, 26 May 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 440 Troop Carrier Group, Medium, 8 Sep 1957  
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959  
Redesignated 440 Tactical Airlift Group, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 440 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

#### STATIONS

Baer Field, IN, 1 Jul 1943  
Sedalia AAFld, MO, 10 Jul 1943  
Alliance AAFld, NE, 7 Sep 1943  
Pope Field, NC, 4 Jan 1944  
Baer Field, IN, 14-22 Feb 1944  
Bottesford, England, c. 11 Mar 1944 (air echelon), 23 Mar 1944 (ground echelon)  
Exeter, England, 26 Apr 1944  
Reims, France, 11 Sep 1944  
Le Mans, France, 30 Sep 1944  
Orleans/Bricy, France, 2 Nov 1944-18 Oct 1945

Wold-Chamberlain Muni (later, Minneapolis-St Paul Intl) Aprt, MN, 3 Sep 1947-4 May 1951  
Ft Snelling, MN, 15 Jun 1952  
Minneapolis-St Paul Intl Aprt, MN, 8 Jan 1953-14 Apr 1959  
Gen Mitchell IAP-ARS, WI, 1 Aug 1992

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

I Troop Carrier Command, 1 Jul 1943  
53 Troop Carrier Wing, Jul 1943  
61 Troop Carrier Wing, 20 Jul 1943  
60 Troop Carrier Wing, 31 Dec 1943  
IX Troop Carrier Command, 25 Mar 1944  
50 Troop Carrier Wing, Mar 1944  
United States Air Forces in Europe, c. 29 Sep-18 Oct 1945  
322 Troop Carrier Wing (later, 322 Air Division), 3 Sep 1947  
440 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-4 May 1951  
440 Fighter-Bomber (later, 440 Troop Carrier) Wing, 15 Jun 1952-14 Apr 1959  
440 Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1992

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1943-1945  
C-53, 1944-1945  
C-109, 1945  
Unkn, 1947-1948  
T-6, 1948-1950  
T-11, 1948-1951  
C-47, 1948  
C-46, 1949-1951  
T-7, 1950-1951  
T-6, 1952-1955  
C-46, 1952-1957  
F-51, 1953-1954  
T-33, 1954-1957  
F-80, 1954-1957  
C-119, 1957-unkn  
C-130, 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Charles H. Young, 5 Jul 1943  
Lt Col Frank X. Krebs, 7 Jul 1943  
Lt Col Loyd C. Waldorf, 18 Sep 1944  
Col Frank X. Krebs, 29 Oct 1944  
Lt Col Chester C. Bridgman Jr., 14 Jul 1945-unkn  
Col Carl A. Hustad, 3 Sep 1947  
Maj Peter J. O'Carroll, 27 Jun 1949

Lt Col Frank E. Lardent, by Jun 1950  
Lt Col Clarence E. Becker, Dec 1950-unkn  
Col B. H. Berryman, by Aug 1953  
Lt Col R. J. Whempner, by Dec 1956  
Maj Kenneth O. Thompson, by Jun 1957  
Col Russell F. Gustke, 16 Nov 1957-unkn  
Col Norman H. Bowman Jr., 1 Aug 1992  
Unkn, 3 Feb 1995-27 Jan 1996  
Lt Col Eric W. Crabtree, 28 Jan 1996  
Col Robert A. Gualtieri, 28 Sep 1997  
Col Brett Clark, 19 Aug 2006  
Lt Col William Whittenberger June 8  
Col Jay Flournoy  
Lt Col Jeffery N. Paulus

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Normandy  
Rome-Arno  
Southern France  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
2 Oct 1992-2 Oct 1993  
1 Jun 1997-30 Sep 1998

## **EMBLEM**



440 Troop Carrier Group emblem

**SIGNIFICANCE** - The emblem consists of Norwegian armor, blue (sky), yellow (sun), silver (stars), winged helmet symbolic of flight, sword (close support of troops), spear (interdictory mission), shield (defense of freedom), stars (Norwegian navigation, return from mission) Ursa Major (Big Dipper) North Star.

#### **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Trained in the US and moved to England, Feb-Mar 1944, for duty with Ninth Air Force. Began operations by dropping paratroops of the 101st Airborne Division near Carentan on the Cotentin Peninsula on 6 Jun 1944 and by transporting gasoline, ammunition, food, and other supplies to the same area on 7 Jun, being awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation for completing these missions during the invasion of Normandy.

Began flying supply and evacuation missions between England and France after the invasion of the Continent. In Jul 1944 most of the group was sent to Italy where it transported supplies to Rome until Aug 1944.

The "detachment" in Italy participated in the invasion of southern France, dropping paratroops of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment near Le Muy on 15 Aug and towing gliders carrying reinforcements to that area later in the day. Meanwhile those remaining in England continued to haul cargo, and on 10 Aug 1944 dropped supplies to an infantry battalion encircled at Mortain in northern France. The detachment returned to England on 25 Aug 1944. The air echelon moved to France on 11 Sep 1944, but returned immediately to England to participate in the airborne invasion of Holland. Dropped paratroops of the 82d Airborne Division near Groesbeek on 17 Sep 1944 and released gliders with reinforcements on 18 and 23 Sep. By the end of Sep, the entire group had completed the move to France.

On 26 Dec 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, the group hauled gliders filled with supplies for the 101st Airborne Division encircled at Bastogne. In Mar 1945 it towed gliders with troops of the 17th Airborne Division to the battle area near Wesel during the airborne assault across the Rhine. Between 21 Apr and 14 May 1945, the group's air echelon operated from Conflans, France, to be closer to the front. The group transported food, clothing, medical supplies, gasoline, ammunition, and other cargo to the front lines and evacuated casualties to rear-zone hospitals.

After the war transported liberated prisoners and displaced persons. Inactivated in Europe on 18 Oct 1945. Activated in the US on 3 Sep 1947.

Trained for troop carrier operations in the Reserve. Became part of the 440 Troop Carrier Wing when it activated in Jun 1949.

Called to active duty on 1 May 1951 and inactivated four days later. Activated again in the Reserve as a Fighter-Bomber Group the following year.

Transitioned from fighter aircraft to C-119s, beginning in Apr 1957. In Nov 1957 the 440 Wing and the 95th Squadron moved on paper to Wisconsin, leaving the 440 Group and the 96th Squadron in Minnesota.

The Group inactivated on 14 Apr 1959. Activated on 1 Aug 1992. Personnel participated in exercises, humanitarian and other airlift missions, worldwide.

---

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 1 Dec 2010

Updated: 13 Jan 2023

#### Sources

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