

3 AIRBORNE COMMAND AND CONTROL SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

19th Balloon Company organized, 24 Jan 1918
Redesignated 19th Dirigible Company, 5 Feb 1920
Redesignated 19th Airship Company, 5 Aug 1920
Redesignated 19th Airship Squadron, 26 Oct 1933

3 Balloon Company constituted, 18 Oct 1927
Redesignated 3 Balloon Squadron, 1 Oct 1933

3 Balloon Squadron and 19 Airship Company consolidated, 1 Jun 1937 and consolidated unit designated the 3 Balloon Company

Redesignated 3 Barrage Balloon Squadron, 4 Dec 1940
Disbanded, 1 Feb 1942

3 Air Transport Squadron [Mobile] constituted, 13 Mar 1944
Activated, 29 Mar 1944
Disbanded, 20 Jun 1945

3 Liaison Flight constituted, 27 Sep 1949
Activated, 27 Oct 1949
Redesignated 3 Liaison Squadron, 15 Jul 1952
Inactivated, 22 Jul 1952
Activated, 22 Jul 1952
Inactivated, 15 Mar 1955

3 Airborne Command and Control Squadron constituted, 12 Mar 1970

Activated, 1 Apr 1970

Inactivated, 31 Dec 1975

Activated, 1 Sep 1982

3 Barrage Balloon Squadron Reconstituted, and 3 Air Transport Squadron [Mobile], 3 Liaison Squadron and 3 Airborne Command and Control Squadron consolidated, 19 Sep 1985.

Consolidated squadron retained 3 Airborne Command and Control Squadron designation

Inactivated, 1 Nov 1986

STATIONS

Fort Omaha, NE, 24 Jan 1918

Florence Field, NE, 16 Aug 1918

Camp Morrison, VA, 24 Sep 1918

Port of Embarkation, Newport News, VA, Oct-20 Oct 1918

Brest, France, 3 Nov 1918

Camp de Souge, Gironde, France, 11 Nov 1918

Bordeaux, France, 10 Feb-4 Apr 1919

Mitchel Field, NY, 19 Apr 1919

Lee Hall, VA, Jul 1919

Langley Field, VA, 23 Jul 1919

Moffett Field, CA, 19 Nov 1935

Fort Lewis, WA, 17 Jun 1937

Camp Davis, NC, 15 Jun 1941-1 Feb 1942

Homestead AAFld, FL, 13 Mar 1944-22 Jun 1944

Kharagpur, India, 19 Jul 1944

Kalaikunda, India, (by 15 Oct) 1944

Dergaori, India, Nov 1944

Sookerating, India, 14 Jan-20 Jun 1945

Lawson AFB, GA, 27 Sep 1949

Biggs AFB, TX, 2 Feb-22 Jul 1952

George AFB, CA, 22 Jul 1952-16 Feb 1953

Komaki AB, Japan, 5 Mar 1953-15 Mar 1955

Grissom AFB, IN, 1 Apr 1970-31 Dec 1975

Tinker AFB, OK, 1 Sep 1982

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Camp MacKall, NC, 14 Apr-3 May 1950

ASSIGNMENTS

Unkn, 24 Jan-Nov 1918

U.S. Balloon School, American Expeditionary Forces, Nov 1918-Jan 1919

Unkn, Jan-4 Sep 1919
2 Wing, 4 Sep 1919
Third Corps Area, 30 Sep 1921
2 (later, 2 Bombardment) Wing, assigned on 8 Aug 1922 and attached on 8 May 1929
21 Airship Group, 1 Oct 1933
Ninth Corps Area, 1 Jul 1936
Barrage Balloon Training Center, 8 Apr 1941-1 Feb 1942
Caribbean Wing, Air Transport Command, 29 Mar 1944
XX Bomber Command, 21 Nov 1944-20 Jun 1945
Fourteenth Air Force, 27 Oct 1949
Tactical Air Command, 1 Aug 1950
Ninth Air Force, 22 Jan 1951-22 Jul 1952
Ninth Air Force, 22 Jul 1952
Japan Air Defense Force, 5 Mar 1953
Fifth Air Force, 1 Sep 1954-15 Mar 1955
305 Air Refueling Wing, Heavy, 1 Apr 1970-31 Dec 1975
Aerospace Defense Center, 1 Sep 1982

ATTACHMENTS

1 Provisional Air Brigade, 6 May-3 Oct 1921
2 Bombardment [later, 2] Wing, 1 Oct 1933-2 Nov 1935
1 Wing, 3 Nov 1935-1 Jul 1936
India-China Division, Air Transport Command, 21 Nov 1944-20 Jun 1945
4408 Air Base Squadron, 27 Oct 1949-10 Jan 1951
Air Task Force Swarmer, 14 Apr-3 May 1950
117 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 10 Jan 1951-2 Feb 1952
1 Tow Target Squadron, 2 Feb 1952-22 Jul 1952
131 Fighter Bomber Wing, 22 Jul 1952-16 Feb 1953

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Type R Observation balloon, 1918
RN-1 (Zodiac)
SST-2 (Mullion)
AA-1 (pony blimp)
A-4
C-2
C-3
D-2
D-3
TA-5
TC-2
TC-5 Non Rigid Airships
T-34 (Roma)
Semirigid Airships

TC-5
TC-9
TC-10
TC-6
TC-11
TC-13
TE-3 Non rigid airships
C-3
C-6 Observation Balloon
A-6
A-7
A-8 Spherical Balloons
D-3 Barrage balloons
D-4
D-5
D-6 barrage balloon
C-46A, 1944-1945
L-13-Dec 1949-Jul 1950; Dec 1950-Jul 1952
C-45, Dec 1950-Jul 1952
L-20, Jun-Jul 1952; Jul 1952-Mar 1955
H-19, Sep 1953-Mar 1955
L-5, Nov 1953-Mar 1955
EC-135, 1970-1975
E-3, 1982-1986

COMMANDERS

1st Lt Don L. Hutchins, Jan 1920
2nd Lt Orville A. Anderson, Mar 1920
Capt Dale Mabry 5 Jun 1920
Maj Arthur G. Fisher, 1 Feb 1921
Maj John G. Thornell, 1 Oct 1921-Jan 1922
Capt William O. Butler, 1 Jul 1922
Unknown, 1 Sep 1925-17 Nov 1925
1st Lt Walter J. Reed, 18 Nov 1925-Dec 1925
Capt Charles P. Clark, May 1926-Jun 1926
Capt James F. Doherty, Dec 1926-Jan 1927
2nd Lt Leslie A. Skinner, Aug 1927
1st Lt Uzal G. Ent, 19 Sep 1927
Unknown, Jun 1929-15 Jul 1933
1st Lt James C. Shively, 16 Jul 1933
Maj Clarence B. Lober, 19 Dec 1933
Maj Lawrence A. Lawson, 1 Sep 1936-1 Jun 1937

HONORS

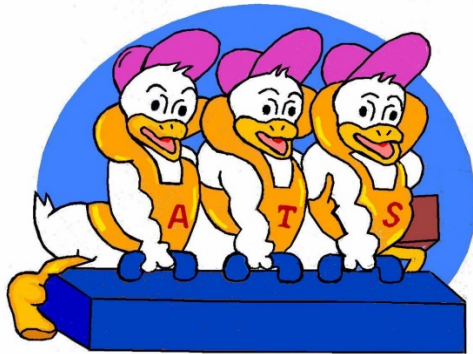
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



3 Air Transport Squadron [Mobile] emblem



3 Airborne Command and Control Squadron patch

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On April the 5th 1918 Private 1st Class James B. Douglas joined the company and was made acting first sergeant, which duty he has performed creditably since that time. On April 18th, 1918, one enlisted man was assigned to the company making the total strength of the company on April 30th, two officers and eight enlisted men. Company performed usual garrison duties and there was no sickness in the organization during April, 1918. There was no change in the personnel during this month, the company performing customary duties.

Up to June 15th, the enlisted men had been quartered in one room of a large garage building, with the company headquarters in a small adjoining room. The company was quartered in pyramidal tents. The men were immediately divided in classes according to their special qualifications for instruction in radio, telephone, balloon rigging, chauffeurs and winch drivers, motorcyclists, machine gunners, eta,

On August 28th, Lieuts. P. F. Alcox and H. L. Coesfeld, were detached in order to attend Maneuvering Officers curse. The company had now completed the program of instruction in training. The balloon detail worked almost daily from 6:46 A. L. to 8:30 P. M. including Sundays and Holidays.



3 Balloon Company balloon take-off at Ft Ruger Territory of Hawaii

On September 3 the organization moved to another section of Fort Omaha, called Florence Field, where field conditions were simulated as nearly as possible.

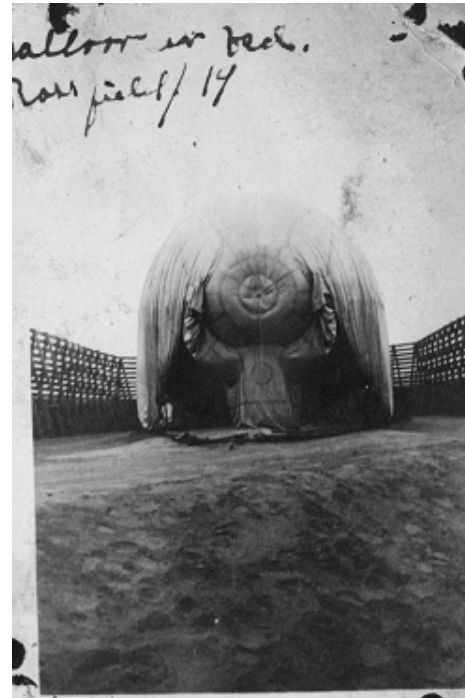
September 15th the company marched about four miles to a camp near the rifle range but returned to Florence Field on September 17th, expecting immediate oversee orders. September 21st the company departed for Camp Morrision, Va., and arrived there September 24th, being quartered in barracks and was immediately, fully equipped for service in American Expeditionary Forces.

At this time the company had reached a high state of efficiency and had developed into a harmonious and well-disciplined balloon company. In September 30th influenza made its first appearance in the organization and all oversee orders were cancelled.

During the early part of October, the influenza epidemic rapidly developed and by October 7th, 119 out of the total strength of 204 men, were sent to the hospital.



3 Balloon Company balloon



The following men died from influenza on dates set opposite their names which represents the total deaths in the organization:

Private Moe, Kilmer 11 October 9, 1918

Private Hoerster, Felix L. October 11, 1916

Private Vold, Peter October 15, 1918

The epidemic necessitated a number of transfers and just prior to departure for overseas the enlisted strength had been reduced to 3 officers and 174 enlisted men. On October 20th, the company was taken in trucks to Newport News, Va., and embarked on board the transport Duca D'Aosta, which sailed at 3:00 P. 1k. October 21st. The voyage was without incident except that many complaints were made by the enlisted men relative to the quality and-quantity of food served them, and several difficulties with the Italian members of the crew with regard to the messing.

The health of the troops during the voyage was excellent as there was not one single hospital case in the organization.

On November 3 the company debarked at Brest, France, and marched three and one half miles to a rest camp near Portenezen Barracks. Condition were very bad here, rain falling almost continuously and the latrine and zest conditions were bad. It was necessary to dig latrines within fifteen feet of the men's tents.

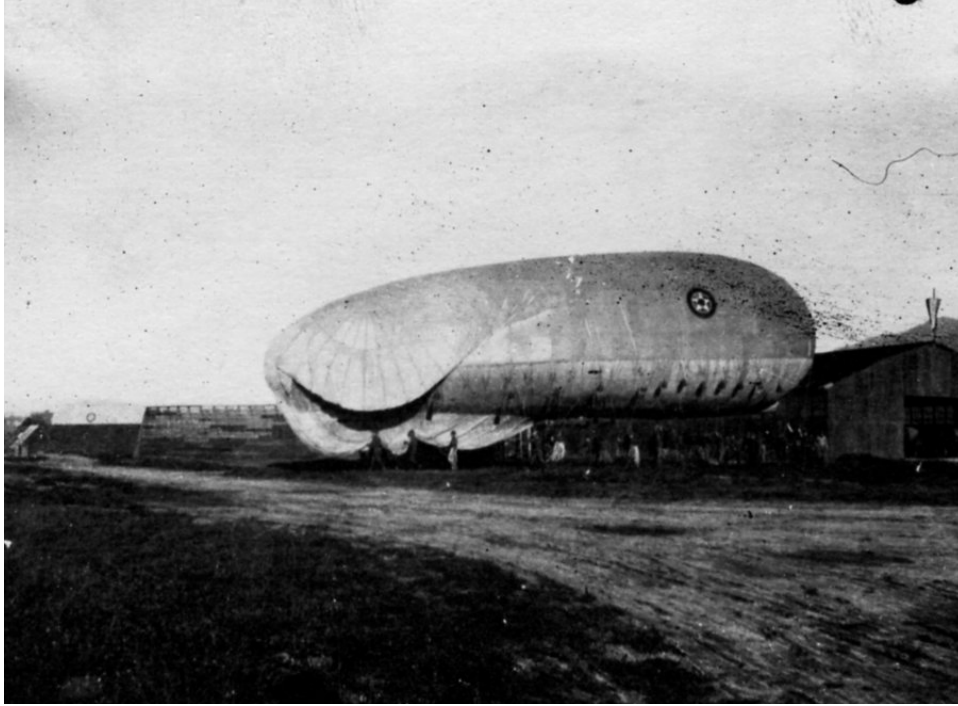
On November 9th the company boarded troop train at Brest, and arrived at U. S. Balloon School 9 A.E.F., November 11th, 1918, to receive final training and balloon equipment.



Kite Balloon C, 3 Balloon Company, Ft Ruger, Territory of Hawaii, 1922.



3 Balloon Company balloon at Ft Ruger Territory of Hawaii, 1922.



3 Balloon Company balloon at Ft Ruger Territory of Hawaii, 1922.

Earmarked for eventual service on front lines as observation unit, company was about to begin final training when hostilities ceased on 11 Nov 1918; never saw action.

Arrived at the port of New York 17 April 1919 on the U.S.S. Sierra as Balloon Company No. 19 and transferred to Mitchel Field, NY. Inactivated on 29 April 1919 at Mitchel Field. Reactivated 23 July 1919 at Lee Hall, VA, and assigned to the Army Balloon School. Transferred in late July 1919 to Langley Field, VA. Redesignated as Dirigible Company No. 19 on 5 April 1920. Redesignated as the 19th Airship Company on 25 January 1923 and assigned to the 15th School Group.

Participated as observation and air-sea-rescue unit in demonstrations of effectiveness of aerial bombardment on warships, Jun-Jul 1921, and 5 Sep 1923.

Relieved on 13 June 1924 from the 15th School Group. Assigned to the 23 Airship Group on 28 February 1927.

This was the first ever landing of an airship on a moving vessel at sea. Relieved from the 23 Airship Group on 16 August 1933 and assigned to the 21st Airship Group. Attached to the 2nd Wing 1 March 1935. Supported the training of the Coast Artillery School at Fort Monroe 1919-35. Transferred to Moffett Field and arrived there on 19 November 1935. Consolidated with the 3 Balloon Company on 1 June 1937 and consolidated unit designated the 3 Balloon Company (see 3 Balloon Company above for lineage hereafter).

Constituted in the Regular Army on 18 October 1927 as the 3 Balloon Company, allotted to the Eighth Corps Area, and assigned to the 26th Balloon Group. Fort Sam Houston, TX, designated as headquarters on organization, but the unit was never organized at that location.

A crew from the unit landed the TC-5 on the S.S. American Trader on 11 May 1928 off Ambrose Light, NY.

Withdrawn from the Eighth Corps Area on 1 September 1928 and allotted to the Sixth Corps Area.

Organized by June 1930 with Organized Reserve personnel as a RAI unit at Chicago, IL. Inactivated by June 1932 at Chicago by relief of personnel. Withdrawn from the Sixth Corps Area on 1 October 1933 and allotted to the Eighth Corps Area. Consolidated with the 19th Airship Company on 1 June 1937 and consolidated unit designated the 3 Balloon Company. Concurrently organized at Moffett Field, CA, and assigned to the 21st Balloon Group. Transferred on 15 June 1937 to Gray Field, WA, and assigned to Headquarters, Ninth Corps Area. Redesignated as the 3 Barrage Balloon Squadron 4 December 1940. Relieved from the Ninth Corps Area in 1941 and assigned to the Chief of the Coast Artillery Corps to support anti-aircraft artillery training. Concurrently transferred to Camp Davis, NC.

In 1944 Gen. Hap Arnold conceived the idea that the 20th AF Bomber Command should have control of its own specialized Air Transport Support. Three Mobile Air Transport Squadrons were organized, each with twenty C-46s. The orders issued in creating these three squadrons, required that the best trained maintenance specialist for R-2800 engines, hydraulics, electrical, etc. These squadrons were to be self-sustaining. They were to be capable to load men and equipment into the aircraft in 24 hours, to fly where needed. In addition these units would also haul repair parts to downed B-29s that could be repaired and flown back to base and returned downed B-29 crews who had bailed out and made their way to an airfield. They were to serve as a private airline for the 20th Bomber Command. Air Transport Squadrons [Mobile] constituted, 13 Mar 1944 and activated, 29 Mar 1944.

The 3 ACCS supported EC-135C and EC-135L radio-relay platforms. In addition to its role as a back-up to the 'Looking Glass', the squadron provided a secondary source of secure communications with the National Command Authority to the east of Offutt AFB and the 'Looking Glass'. Airborne command post aircraft continued to remain airborne at all times in the vicinity of Offutt. Auxiliary airborne command post and relay aircraft remained on round-the-clock ground alert. Effective 31 Dec 1975, the 3d Airborne Command and Control Squadron was inactivated at Grissom, after its functions had been assumed by the 70th Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom and the 2d Airborne Command and Control Squadron at Offutt.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. Fort DeRussy, HI. 2017