

# 20<sup>th</sup> AIRLIFT SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

20<sup>th</sup> Air Corps Ferrying Squadron constituted, 18 Feb 1942  
Activated, 1 Mar 1942  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Transport Squadron, 19 Mar 1943  
Disbanded, 1 Sep 1943  
Reconstituted and redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Squadron, Medium, 20 Jun 1952  
Activated, 20 Jul 1952  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 18 Apr 1954  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 1 Jan 1965  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 1 Jul 1965  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron, 15 Jan 1966  
Redesignated 20<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

## STATIONS

Houlton AAB, ME, 1 Mar 1942–1 Sep 1943  
Westover AFB, MA 20 Jul 1952  
Dover AFB, DE, 15 May 1955  
Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Aug 1973  
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1993

## ASSIGNMENTS

Air Corps Ferrying Command, 1 Mar 1942  
23<sup>rd</sup> AAF Ferrying Wing (later, North Atlantic Wing, ATC), 19 Jun 1942–1 Sep 1943  
1600<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Group, 20 Jul 1952  
1607<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Group, 15 May 1955  
1607<sup>th</sup> Air Transport Wing, 18 Jan 1963  
436<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966  
437<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1973  
437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Oct 1991  
60<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993

## WEAPON SYSTEMS

Unkn, 1942–1943

C-54, 1952-1954  
C-124, 1954-1965;  
C-141, 1965

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

## **UNIT COLORS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj James E. Nelson, #1957  
LTC Mark J. D. Gehri  
LTC Dennis A. Balkham, 25 Jun 1993

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

Southwest Asia  
Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

Panama, 1989-1990

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

13 Nov-18 Dec 1967  
1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1969  
1 Sep 1971-30 Jun 1972  
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984  
1 Jul 1984- 30 Jun 1986  
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1989  
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1990  
21 Sep 1989-31 Oct 1989

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973.

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc Azure, a Roman numeral XX, Tenne, in fess, between a cloud formation, in chief, proper, and a point in base embattled Or, edged of the last. (Approved, 5 Dec 1956)

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

FIRMITAS PER MOBILITATEM—Strength through Mobility

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Ferried aircraft to the United Kingdom along the North Atlantic route, 1942–1943. Inter-theater and strategic airlift to Europe, North Africa, and Canada, 1952–1965. Worldwide airlift, beginning 1965, including support of operations in Southeast Asia, 1965–1973; the evacuation of South Vietnam, Apr 1975; Grenada, Oct–Dec 1983; Panama, 18–27 Dec 1989; Southwest Asia, Aug 1990–Dec 1991.

86 ALS INACTIVATED AND REPLACED BY 20 ALS FROM CHARLESTON AFB SC. 1993

20 AIRLIFT SQUADRONS (AS) LAUNCHED THEIR C-141 AIRCRAFT IN SUPPORT OF COOPERATIVE NUGGET, A NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO)-SPONSORED EXERCISE MARKING THE FIRST- EVER PEACEKEEPING EXERCISE ON UNITED STATES SOIL. 1995

20 AIRLIFT SQUADRON (AS) PARTICIPATED IN EMERGENCY EVACUATION MISSION TO THE CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF ANTIGUA, ANTICIPATING THE ARRIVAL OF HURRICANE LUIS. 1995

20 AIRLIFT SQUADRON PROVIDED AIRLIFT IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ANTARCTIC PROGRAM KNOWN AS OPERATION DEEP FREEZE. 1995

C-141 AIRCRAFT FROM 20 AS PROVIDED TRANSPORTATION IN SUPPORT OF EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR 95, A MULTI-NATIONAL EXERCISE THAT FEATURED AIR, LAND, AND SEA TROOPS FROM THE UNITED STATES, EGYPT, ENGLAND, FRANCE, AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE). 1995

20 AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON, HEAVY, REASSIGNED FROM 1600 AIR TRANSPORT GROUP, HEAVY, TO 1607 AIR TRANSPORT WING, DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DE, 20 MAY 55.

20 AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON, HEAVY, REDESIGNATED 20 TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, HEAVY, 1 JAN 65.

20 TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, HEAVY REDESIGNATED 20 AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON, HEAVY, 1 JUL 65.

20 April 1955: The 15th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, was reassigned from the 1600th Air Transport Group, Heavy, Westover AFB, MA, to the 1607th ATW. The actual transfer was implemented on 15 April, 12 C-124 aircraft being taken on strength.

20 May 1955: The 20th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, was reassigned from the 1600th Air Transport Group, Heavy, Westover AFB, MA. The squadron arrived in mid-May with 8 C-124.

20 June 1955: The 31st Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, was reassigned from the 1600th Air Transport Group, Heavy. The unit arrived at Dover AFB around mid-June with 12 C-124 aircraft.

1 January 1965: The 15th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, was discontinued at Dover AFB and reverted to the control of the Department of the Air Force. The 20th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, was redesignated as the 20th Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS), Heavy, with no change of assignment at Dover.

1 June 1965: The 31st Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, was redesignated the 31st Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, and reorganized at Dover AFB.

1 July 1965: The 20th Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, was redesignated the 20th Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, with no change of assignment.

11 May 1964: A mercy mission was flown by a C-124 and crew of the 20th ATS; the emergency evacuation of a Danish boy, who had been mauled by Husky dogs, from a remote site in Greenland. The C-124 flew a helicopter to Kulusk where it was assembled and flown to the boy's home village. The boy was transported to the hospital by the helicopter.

20 AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON, HEAVY, REASSIGNED FROM 1600 AIR TRANSPORT GROUP, HEAVY, TO 1607 AIR TRANSPORT WING, DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DE, 20 MAY 55.

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20 TROOP CARRIER SQUADRON, HEAVY REDESIGNATED 20 AIR TRANSPORT SQUADRON, HEAVY, 1 JUL 65.

430611	P-38F	42-13277	20 Ferry		Nashville, TN	KCREF	Campbell, Clyde Jr	Mt Pleasant, TX
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431204	F-7(B- 24D)	42-40494	20CombMap	6PRGp	Will Rogers Field, OK	KCRGC	Wimsatt, George W	Vicinity of Elverson, PA
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440807	A-20H	44-039	20FrS	7FrG	Gore Field, Great Falls, MT	KCRGC	Hull, Lance E	13 mi NW of Great Falls, MT
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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Sep 2010

Updated:

Sources

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