

## **48<sup>th</sup> AIRLIFT SQUADRON**



### **MISSION**

#### **LINEAGE**

48<sup>th</sup> Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942  
Activated, 15 Jun 1942  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942  
Inactivated, 15 Nov 1945  
Activated, 30 Sep 1946  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 30 Jul 1948  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Special, 1 Feb 1949  
Inactivated, 18 Sep 1949  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 26 Nov 1952  
Activated, 1 Feb 1953  
Inactivated, 8 Jun 1955  
Activated, 20 Aug 1964  
Organized, 1 Jan 1965  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Squadron, 1 Mar 1966  
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1967  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Squadron, 15 Jun 1971  
Activated, 15 Nov 1971  
Inactivated, 1 Sep 1973  
Redesignated 48<sup>th</sup> Airlift Squadron, 21 Nov 2003

Activated, 1 Dec 2003

#### **STATIONS**

Daniel Field, GA, 15 Jun 1942  
Bowman Field, KY, 21 Jun 1942  
Florence, SC, 4 Aug 1942  
Maxton, NC, 13 Dec 1942-26 Apr 1943  
Oujda, French Morocco, 11 May 1943  
Kairouan, Tunisia, 20 Jun 1943 (air echelon operated from Ponte Olivo Airdrome, Sicily, 27 Jul-11 Aug 1943)  
Sciacca Airdrome, Sicily, 6 Sep 1943  
Trapani/Milo Airfield, Sicily, 6 Oct 1943-18 Feb 1944  
Folkingham, England, 3 Mar 1944  
Achiet, France, 6 Mar-3 Aug 1945  
Baer Field, IN, 26 Sep-15 Nov 1945  
Illesheim, Germany, 30 Sep 1946  
Tulln AB, Austria, 5 May-25 Jun 1947  
Langley Field, VA, 25 Jun 1947  
Bergstrom Field (later AFB), TX, 15 Jul 1947-22 Oct 1948  
Fassberg, Germany, 9 Nov 1948-18 Sep 1949  
Mitchel AFB, NY, 1 Feb 1953  
Sewart AFB, TN, 2 Oct 1953-8 Jun 1955  
Forbes AFB, KS, 1 Jan 1965-25 Jun 1967  
Forbes AFB, KS, 15 Nov 1971  
Little Rock AFB, AR, 6 Aug-1 Sep 1973  
Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Dec 2003

#### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Rhein Main AB, Germany, 1 Jul-8 Nov 1948

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

313<sup>th</sup> Transport (later, 313<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier) Group, 15 Jun 1942-15 Nov 1945  
313<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, 30 Sep 1946-18 Sep 1949  
313<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group, 1 Feb 1953-8 Jun 1955  
313<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier (later, 313<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1 Jan 1965-25 Jun 1967  
313<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, 15 Nov 1971  
314<sup>th</sup> Tactical Airlift Wing, 6 Aug-1 Sep 1973  
314<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Dec 2003

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1942-1945  
C-47A  
C-47B  
C-53, 1942-1945

C-46, 1945  
C-47, 1946-1947  
C-54, 1947-1949  
C-46, 1953  
C-119, 1953-1955  
C-130, 1965-1967  
C-130, 1971-1973

#### **COMMANDERS**

None (not manned), 15 Jun-Jul 1942  
Lt Edward B. Sutton Jr., 9 Jul 1942  
LTC John P. Biggerstaff, 12 Aug 1942  
Maj Edgar F. Stovall Jr., 1 Apr 1944  
Cpt William S. Kirkpatrick, 7 Jun 1944  
Maj Edgar F. Stovall Jr., 29 Jul 1944  
LTC William G. Oliver Jr., 29 Nov 1944  
Cpt Frederick I. Brown, c. Sep-15 Nov 1945  
Col Edward F. Hubbard, 30 Sep 1946  
None (not manned), 25 Jun-10 Aug 1947  
Maj Paul E. Blow, 11 Aug 1947  
Maj Philip A. Fitter, 1 Nov 1947  
Maj William T. Johnson, 19 Nov 1947  
Maj Wayne B. Curren, c. 15 Dec 1947-Jun 1948  
Unkn, Jul-Nov 1948  
Maj John L. Evans, 26 Nov 1948  
Maj Darrell S. Cramer, 23 Feb 1949  
LTC Steward H. Nichols, 14 Apr-18 Sep 1949  
LTC Wilbert E. St. John, 1 Feb 1953  
Maj Richard E. Knie, by Jul 1954  
Unkn, Jan-8 Jun 1955  
LTC Theodore M. Raley, 1 Jan 1965  
LTC James F. Fowler, 5 Nov 1965  
LTC Ellis J. Wheless, 31 Jan 1966  
LTC James H. Seely, 14 Jun 1966  
LTC Robert C. Kerr, 28 Nov 1966-25 Jun 1967  
LTC Carl R. Webb, 15 Nov 1971  
LTC Thomas P. Williams, 7 Apr 1972  
LTC George B. Painter, 1 Aug-1 Sep 1973

#### **HONORS**

##### **Service Streamers**

World War II  
American Theater

**Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Central Europe

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

**Decorations**

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

**EMBLEM**

Approved, 30 Aug 1954

**MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

Supported airborne assaults on Sicily, Italy, Normandy, Holland, and Germany during World War II. Berlin Airlift, 1948-1949. Supported U.S. Army forces, 1953-1955. Provided airlift for airborne forces, 1965-1967; deployed aircraft and crews to France and England, Oct 1965-Mar 1967 and to Panama Canal Zone, Mar-Jun 1967. Intra-theater airlift and support of U.S. Army

airborne forces, 1971-1973.

A reorganization on September 1 brought the 32nd TAS to Little Rock Air Force Base. This unit replaced the 48th AS. The 48th was inactivated and its equipment and personnel transferred to the 32nd.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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#### Sources

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

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