

346th AIRDROME SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 4 Jun 42, Air Base Unit Number 2 (inactivated 1 Feb 43 with personnel transferred into 54 Service Squadron) was created by the Karachi Air Defense Area (India) and sent to Kunming, China on 13 Jun 42 with responsibility of furnishing air service assistance to the China Air Task Force which was being organized from the American Volunteer Group (AVG) and tactical organizations. An aircraft factory was established at Loiwing by Curtiss Wright. The organization which operated it was the Central Aircraft Manufacturing Company (CAMC) which negotiated for the employment of members of the American Volunteer Group (AVG).

The China Air Service Command was organized to perform all supply and third and fourth echelon maintenance functions for the Air Forces in the China Theater. 14 Air Service Command

(Provisional) was activated at Kunming, China on 19 May 43 under Brig Gen Julian F. Haddon. 14 Air Base Command (Provisional) was activated on the same date and assigned to the Air Service Command. This projected Command was succeeded on 30 Oct 43 by the 5308 Air Service Area Command (Provisional), an area command under the China-Burma-India Air Service Command with Station at Kunming, China. When the 5308 Air Service Area Command (Provisional) came to China in Nov 43, it inherited the 14 Air Service Command.

Orders predating the activation placed Col Reuben C. Hood and others on detached service with the China Air Service Area Command (Provisional) resulting in the improper designation of China Air Service Area Command. On 4 Jul 44 Col Clarence F. Talbot replaced Brig Gen Neuton Hood as commander of the 5308 Air Service Area Command.

On 20 Jul 44 the command was separated from 14 Air Force and assigned as a separate entity to the Army Air Forces, China Theater. The organization was redesignated as the China Air Service Command as a detachment of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Air Service Command, China-Burma-India.

Also on 20 Jul 44, the 5309 Air Service Area Command (Provisional) was disbanded and redesignated as the Northern Air Service Area Command, a detachment of the China-Burma-India Air Service Area Command).

On 7 Dec 44, the China Air Service Command (Provisional) was established. The China Air Service Area Command was redesignated the China Detachment of Headquarters, India-Burma Air Service Command. The China-Burma-India Air Service Command was redesignated the India-Burma Air Service Command on 12 Dec 44. This action constituted an important step in setting up an independent China Air Service Command.

On 20 Dec 44, the China Air Service Command (Provisional) was assigned to the 14 Air Force and activated 12 Feb 45 at Kunming, China by General Order No. 6, Headquarters, China Air Service Command, dated 9 Feb 45. The Provisional status was removed 15 May 45 when the command was redesignated 14 Air Force Service Command. It was disbanded 8 Oct 1948.

NOTE on China Air Service Area Command: Sector Number 1 was at at Kunming with eight bases: Paoshan, Yunnanyi, Tsuyung, Chengkung, Yangkai, Chanyi, Luliang. Sector Number 2 was activated 13 Feb 44 at Hsingching. The two sector headquarters were disbanded and four Service Centers were established throughout China: the 68th Service Center was located at Chengkung; the 14th Service Center at Peishiyi; the 12th Service Center at Luliang; the 315th Service Center at Hsingching. Sector Number 3, 5308 Air Service Command, activated 17 Apr 44 with Col. Richard H. Wise commanding. Sector Number 3 was responsible for China Belly Tank project, manufacturing 75 gallon belly tanks for aircraft.