

## 435 AIR-GROUND OPERATIONS WING



### **MISSION**

The 435 Air Ground Operations Wing rapidly establishes expeditionary airfield operations and communications; integrates joint fires and weather across the full spectrum of conflict; and provides theater-wide combat support and training.

The 435 AGOW consists of over 1,500 personnel divided into four groups and 11 squadrons with 19 geographically separated units located across 14 sites. Each group assumes a specific portion of the wing's operational mission.

The 435 Contingency Response Group is USAFE's only expeditionary open-the-base force. The group provides a small, cross-functional, rapid-entry force designed to assess and open air bases and to perform initial airfield operations to ensure smooth transition to combat operations. The group provides the command's only Phoenix Raven flyaway security teams and conducts expeditionary combat support training through the USAFE Security Forces Regional Training Center's Creek Defender course, Silver Flag exercises, Expeditionary Leadership Program, and Mission Essential Equipment Training. Its specialized military and civilian teams also engage in theater-wide mission-related design, construction, and aircraft arresting systems activities in support of contingencies, theater security cooperation events, humanitarian and civic assistance projects, AEF deployments, and military operations other than war.

The 435 Air and Space Communications Group provides USAFE's only combat communications and C4ISR systems support for NATO and EUCOM. The group is responsible for theater deployable communications, expeditionary airfield system assets, specialized maintenance of communications, airfield, navigational aids, weather systems, and operation and maintenance of highly classified JWICS, GCCS, TBMCS and ISR networks, across the USAFE area of responsibility.

The 4th Air Support Operations Group is home to USAFE's Battlefield Airmen. The Group organizes, trains, equips, and administers an Air Support Operations Center (ASOC), Tactical Air Control Parties (TACPs), Battlefield Weather Teams and Staff Weather Operations in support of HQ United States Army Europe (USAREUR) and V Corps. It advises USAREUR units on the best integration of airpower into their scheme of maneuver and coordinates attack, airlift, and reconnaissance air assets in support of the joint battle plan. The Group assists in the planning and execution of airpower, provides command and control of airpower, and integrates weather effects into planning and operations on the battlefield.

The commander of the 435 CRG also commands the 401st Air Expeditionary Group, which is the operational lead for 3rd Air Force support to the President of the United States on visits to the EUCOM AOR. The group also provides administrative control (ADCON) of and support to USAF personnel deployed to NATO Headquarters-Sarajevo and Operation JOINT GUARDIAN, a NATO peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Additionally, the group provides specified ADCON/oversight and accountability in support of the AETC Air Advisor Training program to the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

#### **LINEAGE**

435 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established as 10 May 1949  
Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jun 1949  
Ordered to Active Service, 1 Mar 1951  
Inactivated, 1 Dec 1952  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Dec 1952  
Redesignated 435 Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy, 18 Sep 1961  
Ordered to Active Service, 1 Oct 1961  
Relieved from Active Duty, 27 Aug 1962  
Redesignated 435 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 1 Jul 1963  
Discontinued, and inactivated, 1 Dec 1965  
Redesignated 435 Military Airlift Support Wing, 25 Nov 1968  
Activated, 24 Dec 1968  
Redesignated 435 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1975  
Redesignated 435 Airlift Wing, 1 Apr 1992  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1995  
Redesignated 435 Air Expeditionary Wing, and converted to provisional status, 5 Feb 2001  
Returned to permanent status, 10 Dec 2003  
Redesignated 435 Air Base Wing, 15 Dec 2003  
Activated, 15 Jan 2004  
Redesignated, 435 Air Ground Operations Wing, 16 Jul 2009

#### **STATIONS**

Miami Intl Aprt, FL, 26 Jun 1949-1 Dec 1952  
Miami Intl Aprt, FL, 1 Dec 1952  
Homestead AFB, FL, 25 Jul 1960-1 Dec 1965

High Wycombe AS, England, 24 Dec 1968  
Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 1 Jul 1969-1 Apr 1995  
Ramstein AB, Germany, 15 Jan 2004

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Fourteenth Air Force, 26 Jul 1949  
Tactical Air Command, 2 Mar 1951  
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Jun 1951-1 Dec 1952  
Fourteenth Air Force, 1 Dec 1952  
Third Air Force Reserve Region, 15 Jul 1960  
Ninth Air Force, 1 Oct 1961  
Third Air Force Reserve Region, 27 Aug 1962-1 Dec 1965  
Twenty-First Air Force, 24 Dec 1968  
322 Airlift Division, 23 Jun 1978  
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Apr 1992  
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Feb 1993-1 Apr 1995  
Third Air Force, 15 Jan 2004

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

T-6, 1949-1951  
T-7, 1949-1951  
T-11, 1949-1951  
C-46, 1949-1951  
C-119, 1951-1952  
C-46, 1952-1957  
C-119, 1957-1965  
C-124, 1961-1963  
C-130, 1975-1994  
C-9, 1975-1993  
VC-135, 1977-1978  
VC-140, 1977-1978  
C-12, 1978  
CT-39, 1978  
C-141, 1994

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Laurence B. Hickam, 1949  
Col Maurice F. Casey, by May 1950  
Col James L. Daniel Jr., 19 Dec 1951  
Maj William J. Frazier Jr., 24 Oct-1 Dec 1952  
Unkn, 1 Dec 1952-Mar 1953  
Lt Col William Niederhofer, By Apr 1953  
Lt Col John R. Pountnay, 1953  
Lt Col William C. Wilson, 1 Dec 1953

Col John R. Pountnay, By Aug 1955  
Lt Col Robert C. Hutton, By Dec 1957  
Col Forrest R. Harsh, Feb 1959  
Lt Col Clifford C. Root, 11 Dec 1963  
Col Ben J. Mangina, 1 Apr 1964  
Col Clifford C. Root, Jul-1 Dec 1965  
Brig Gen Hugh E. Wild, 24 Dec 1968  
Col Michael F. Robinson, 7 Jan 1970  
Col Alden G. Glauch, 1 Apr 1970  
Col E. Scott Minnich, 20 Mar 1971  
Col John D. Hollowell, 20 Jan 1973  
Brig Gen Theodore P. Crichton, 1 Jul 1975  
Col Robert D. Springer, 23 Jun 1978  
Col John D. Sims, 30 Jun 1980  
Col Frank J. Kelly Jr., 7 May 1982  
Col Ernest C. Peirola, 14 Oct 1983  
Col Ronnie C. Peoples, 19 Apr 1985  
Col Bruce L. Fister, 6 Sep 1985  
Col David O. Williams, 4 May 1988  
Col John W. Handy, 26 May 1989  
Col Thomas R. Mikolajcik, 7 May 1990  
Col Donald A. Streater, 23 Jul 1991  
MG James L. Hobson Jr., 1 Apr 1992  
BG Donald E. Loranger Jr., 18 Dec 1992  
Col Edward F. McPhillips Jr., 16 May 1994  
Col Donald A. Philpitt, 2 Dec 1994-1 Apr 1995  
Brig Gen Rosanne Bailey, 15 Jan 2004  
Col Kurtis D. Lohide, 13 Jan 2005  
Col Earl D. Matthews, 18 Apr 2007  
Col Douglas K. Tucker, 2 May 2008  
Col Donald J. Bacon, 1 Jul 2008  
Col Thomas F. Gould, 5 Jul 2009

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1974

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983  
1 Jul 1983-30 Jun 1985  
1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987  
1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989  
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991  
2 Aug 1990-31 Mar 1991  
1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993  
1 Jul 1993-31 Mar 1995  
[15] Jan 2004-31 Oct 2005  
1 Dec 2005-30 Nov 2007

### **Bestowed Honors**

Authorized to display the honors earned by the 435 Operations Group prior to 26 Jun 1949

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

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

### **Decorations**

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

### **EMBLEM**



435 Troop Carrier Wing emblem



435 Tactical Airlift Wing Per bendsinister Argent and Azure Four flight symbols, Fesswise and bendsinister, of the 1st garnished of the 2nd between in Dexter flank a stylized figure of the last supported by an open parachute celeste blow in Chief's Cross coupé gules winged fesswise of the field garnished silver, and issuing from base in a pale a demi-globe celeste gridlined argent below in Sinister flank a crate on a platform all or, roped and garnished celeste, all within a diminished bordure gold.

435 Air Base Wing emblem: Celeste, above a sphere issuant from base Argent (Silver Gray), gridlined White, surmounted by two flanches Azure, three flight symbols ascending bendwise in bend Or, all within a diminished bordure of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "435 AIR BASE WING" in Blue letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The funnel shape is in deference to the 435 Troop Carrier Group, whose World War II honors have been bestowed on this wing. The demi-globe and three flight symbols represent the Wing's tactical airlift roots. The two emblems of the past are united to

form a solid base, upon which this wing will build a successful future. (Approved, 4 May 2004)



Air Ground Operations Wing

**MOTTO**

CITUS ET CERTUS--Swift and Sure

**OPERATIONS**

Trained in the Reserve as a troop carrier wing from Jul 1949 to Feb 1951, and again from Dec 1952-Dec 1958. From Mar 1951 to Dec 1952, the wing served on active duty with Tactical Air Command and trained C-46 aircrews for assignment to the Far East.

The 435 was replaced by the 456th Troop Carrier Wing in Dec 1952 and itself replaced the 482nd TCW as the Miami-based Reserve wing. By 1956, the wing was capable of flying overseas missions, particularly in the Caribbean area to Central America.

Two squadrons converted to C-124s in 1961 just before being ordered to active service. After training to become combat ready, participated in worldwide airlift and tactical exercises.

The 435 Troop Carrier Wing minus 76th Troop Carrier Squadron, Homestead, AFB, Florida, was called to active duty. The 76th was excluded because it possessed C-119 type aircraft while the other units possessed C-124s.

Returned to reserve status in Aug 1962 and regained its C-119 squadron that had not been on active duty. Switched completely to C-119s in 1963.

The mission of the 435 Troop Carrier Wing, as established by paragraph 2, CONAC Regulation 23.8, 18 Mar 1963, was unchanged in this period. It remained as follows: To conduct unit and individual training to achieve proficiency in maintaining a readiness posture capable of supporting all applicable contingency plans and war plans including proficiency in executing

deployments as prescribed by such plans. Airlift of tactical units, airborne units, personnel, supplies and equipment into prepared or unprepared drop zones by airdrop and airlanding, and supply of such forces until they are withdrawn or can be supplied by other means. Airlift of supplies including hazardous cargo, nuclear weapons, personnel and equipment within the theater of operations as directed by theater commanders. Airlift for evacuating casualties, troops and materiel. Augmenting regular troop carrier units participating in airborne support training. Participating in exercises, maneuvers and demonstrations. Participating in all phases of air movement including parachute and air landing operations and evacuations. Assisting in domestic emergencies. This mission was accomplished during the reporting period and the unit is looking forward to the time when the larger C-12h Globemaster aircraft arrive and mission is expanded into world-wide scope.

Inactivated in 1965. From Dec 1968 to Jul 1975, served as a support wing of Military Airlift Command, providing deployed airlift control elements and aircraft maintenance at aerial ports in portions of Europe, the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Africa.

Combined with a tactical wing in Jul 1975 and, while continuing to function as a tactical and support wing, gained the mission of aeromedical evacuation in Europe and the Middle East. Provided airlift support for EUCOM/Hq USAFE, from Mar 1977 until Jun 1978. Provided airlift for the theater, first with rotational C-130 forces until early 1978, afterward with an assigned airlift squadron.

Participated in joint and combined paratroop training and exercises, as well all manner of theater humanitarian airlift, including relief for natural disasters, evacuation of civilians from hostile situations, and aeromedical evacuation from combat areas. Had host responsibilities for

Rhein-Main AB, beginning Jul 1975, which included operating the busiest U.S. air terminal in Europe and supporting CONUS-based strategic airlift transiting Rhein-Main AB.

The 37th TAS plus additional wing personnel deployed to Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, from mid-Aug 1990 to late Mar 1991, to provide airlift during the Persian Gulf War.

On 1 Apr 1992, the wing and Rhein-Main AB returned to USAFE control; a MAC airlift support group activated to take over operation of the air terminal and support transiting strategic aircraft. From Jul 1992 through Sep 1994, the wing controlled the massive airlift effort (Operation Provide Promise) to provide airland and airdrop humanitarian airlift to war-torn areas of the former Yugoslavia.

In Feb 1994, began returning portions of Rhein-Main AB to German control; drawdown continued until wing inactivated effective 1 Apr 1995.

Converted to a provisional expeditionary wing, between Feb and Dec 2003, but never activated.

US Air Forces in Europe officials launched the command's first air ground operations wing last



week when it activated the 435 AGOW at Ramstein AB, Germany. Air Combat Command was first to establish this new type of wing solely dedicated to supporting battlefield airmen, standing up the 93rd AGOW in December 2007.

The new wing at Ramstein will comprise the base's Contingency Response Group, Air and Space Communications Group, and geographically separated 4th Air Support Operations Group. Col. Tom Gould, first commander of the 435 AGOW, said at the activation ceremony, "This wing's new capability is certainly one of a kind, from calling in air strikes to opening bases, the capabilities this wing brings to the European and African theater is tremendous." USAFE redesignated the 435 Air Base Wing as the 435 AGOW and plans to merge units not going under the new wing with the 86<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing at Ramstein.

Third Air Force commander, Lt. Gen. Philip Breedlove, who presided over the ceremony. "The 435 AGOW provides these specialized Airmen with a single command and control structure," Colonel Gould said. "By consolidating these units under one wing, we will be able to standardize our organizational processes and streamline how we train, equip and employ our battlefield Airmen." As part of the reorganization ceremony, the 435 Air Base Wing was redesignated as the AGOW. The 431st Air Base Group was also officially inactivated during an earlier ceremony. The remaining mission areas of the 435 ABW will merge with the 86th Airlift Wing. "Realigning our mission under one wing meets the Air Force chief of staff's intent of structuring units by mission," said Brig. Gen. William J. Bender, the 86th Airlift Wing commander. "Our dual-wing team worked extremely well together -- even garnering a dual 'Excellent' rating during our recent Unit Compliance Inspection. We look forward to continuing that great cohesion as we combine our efforts under one wing."

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 18 Nov 2010

Updated: 7 Jan 2023

#### Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Fourteenth Air Force, Robins AFB, GA, Flying Tigers 1959*

Unit yearbook. *Homestead AFB, FL. 1964.*