

440 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

The mission of the wing is to maintain operational readiness for the airlift of tactical units, airborne units, personnel, supplies, and equipment into prepared or unprepared areas by landing or airdrop. The peacetime and wartime mission of the 440 Airlift Wing is global in scope. During wartime, when mobilized, the 440 would be under the operational control of Air Mobility Command.

The units of the 440 consist of over 1,400 reservists and civilians. About 220 of the civilians employed by the 440 are "ARTs", or Air Reserve Technicians. An ART's civilian job requires them to maintain a military status as well. The majority of Reserve training is completed during unit training assemblies, or "UTA" weekends. Reservists must complete a minimum of one weekend of training per month and two weeks of training during a calendar year. In addition, most reservists participate in additional training, attend specialized schools, maintain flying currency and support special missions.

There are 19 military units assigned to the 440 Airlift Wing, including the following:

Operations Group

- 95th Airlift Squadron
- Operations Support Squadron
- 440 Aeromedical Evac. Squadron
- 2d Airlift Squadron (Active Associate)
- 43d AES (Active Associate)

Maintenance Group

- Maintenance Operations Flight
- Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
- Maintenance Squadron

Mission Support Group

- Logistics Readiness Squadron
- 53d Aerial Port Squadron
- Security Forces Flight
- Communications Flight
- Services Flight
- Mission Support Flight

Medical Squadron

LINEAGE

440 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949

Ordered to active service, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 4 May 1951

Redesignated 440 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 26 May 1952

Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952

Redesignated 440 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 8 Sep 1957

Ordered to Active Service, 28 Oct 1962

Relieved from Active Duty, 28 Nov 1962

Redesignated 440 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1967

Redesignated 440 Airlift Wing, 1 Feb 1992

Inactivated, 18 Sep 2016

STATIONS

Wold-Chamberlain Muni Aprt (later, Minneapolis-St. Paul Intl Aprt), MN, 27 Jun 1949-4 May 1951

Ft Snelling, MN, 15 Jun 1952

Minneapolis-St. Paul Intl Aprt, MN, 15 Aug 1952

General Mitchell Field (later, General Mitchell IAP; General Mitchell IAP-ARS), WI, 16 Nov 1957

Pope AFB (Later, AAF), NC, 10 Jun 2007-18 Sep 2016

ASSIGNMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 27 Jun 1949-4 May 1951

Tenth Air Force, 15 Jun 1952

Fifth Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Sep 1960;

Twelfth Air Force, 28 Oct 1962

Fifth Air Force Reserve Region, 28 Nov 1962

Central Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969

Fourth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976

Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1994

Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1997-18 Sep 2016

WEAPON SYSTEMS

T-6, 1949-1950
C-46, 1949-1951
T-7, 1950
T-11, 1949-1951
T-6, 1952-1955
C-46, 1952-1957
F-51, 1953-1954
TF-51, 1954
T-33, 1954-1957
F-80, 1954-1957
C-47, 1955
TC-47, 1955-1957
C-119, 1957-1971
C-130, 1970

COMMANDERS

Col Carl A. Hustad, 27 Jun 1949-4 May 1951
Unkn, 15 Jun 1952-unkn
Col E. Esco Obermann, by Aug 1952
Col Russell F. Gustke, c. 23 Jan 1953
Brig Gen Joseph J. Lingle, 16 Nov 1957
Col Earl W. Steinke, 13 Aug 1972
Brig Gen Charles E. Corcilius, 7 Jan 1973
Brig Gen Donald H. Balch, 16 Apr 1979
Col James E. Sherrard III, 20 Aug 1986
Col Terry G. Whitnell, 31 Jan 1988
Col Michael R. Lee, 25 Mar 1991
Col Paul R. Cooper, 5 Aug 1995
Col George W. Kohn, 14 Jun 1996 (temporary)
Brig Gen Paul R. Cooper, 28 Oct 1996
Col Michael L. Smith, 1 Aug 1999
Col Merle D. Hart

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Oct 1985-30 Sep 1987
2 Oct 1992-2 Oct 1993

1 Jun 1997-30 Sep 1998

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
14 Feb-11 Mar 1968

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 440 Operations Group prior to 27 Jun 1949

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

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

Decorations

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

EMBLEM



Argent, on and over the upper edge of a targe Azure bearing Polaris and Ursa Major of the field within an orle Or, a winged Viking helmet of the like, behind the targe a sword and spear in saltire of the last, all detailed and fimbriated of the second, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "NUNQUAM NON PARATUS" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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

large star is Polaris (aka the North Star), and the group of smaller ones is the constellation Ursa Major. These stars were chosen to guide the wise men and women of the 440 to the mission and back. The sword & the spear are Norwegian battle rattle. These weapons signify the striking force of the troops carried by the wing's aircraft. Modeled after good old fashioned, Norwegian armor, the shield symbolizes the defense of freedom anywhere in the world. The headgear of choice for Greek Gods like Mercury and Hermes, the winged helmet represents the flight of the troop-carrier aircraft. The targe and helmet signify protection and security. The sword and spear in saltire symbolize weapons systems. Polaris and Ursa Major represent direction and guidance. (Approved, 14 Nov 1958)

MOTTO

The wing's original motto was "Adjuvare Intercludere Perimere," or, "To Support, To Intercept, To Destroy." In 1957, the unit was redesignated from a fighter-bomber wing to a troop-carrier wing. Feeling the old motto didn't accurately describe the wing's new mission, base leadership changed it to "Nunquam Non Paratus."

NUNQUAM NON PARATUS--Never Unprepared

OPERATIONS

Trained as a Reserve troop carrier wing, Jun 1949-May 1951, as a Reserve fighter-bomber wing, Jun 1952-Jun 1957, and as a Reserve troop carrier wing, Jun 1957-Dec 1958, all under supervision of the 2465 Air Force Reserve Training (later, Air Reserve Flying) Center until Nov 1957 and the 2473 Air Reserve Flying Center, Nov 1957-Dec 1958.

In 1958, began flying tactical airlift missions and participated in tactical exercises in the United States and overseas. Served a month on active duty during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. Routinely trained for airlift and airborne operations by participating in exercises both within the United States and overseas. Wing personnel and aircraft deployed frequently for rotational duty to Panama and occasionally to Europe. The wing at times airlifted deploying members of other units and services for training. In addition, the wing's crews and aircraft supported contingency operations and humanitarian airlifts worldwide.

The 440 Airlift Wing was called to active duty during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Volunteer aircrews also supported military operations in the Dominican Republic in May 1965.

Milwaukee reservists flew emergency supplies to snowbound Indian reservations in the western U.S. in December 1967. Milwaukee was a temporary home to some nuclear capable B-47 Stratojets in 1967. The 440 Troop Carrier Wing went through another name change in 1967 when it became a Reserve Tactical Airlift Wing. Wing personnel also flew equipment and supplies to Gulfport, Miss., in August 1969, after Hurricane Camille devastated the Gulf Coast.

The decade began with a new unit being assigned to the 440, the 928th Tactical Airlift Group in 1970. The relatively new name (Tactical Airlift Wing) and new unit (928th) were followed up with some more up-to-date equipment. The wing's C-119s were replaced with C-130A Hercules

transport planes in 1971.

The Air Force Reserve took on a new mission in 1979. In January of that year the 440 started a regular rotation with other Reserve and National Guard units that took them to Panama to support the operations of the U.S. Southern Command. Rotations to the Central American country lasted 2-3 weeks at a time.

The highlight of the 1980s was the arrival of factory fresh C-130H Hercules aircraft. The local Reserve Officers Association, the 440 Community Council and numerous civic leaders led the efforts to convince Washington authorities to equip the 440 with eight new C-130s. The appropriation was approved and the aircraft were delivered in 1989. The C-130As the wing had been flying were apparently not just old, but unique. One of the 440's C-130s was flown to Washington, D.C. and is now part of the Smithsonian's aircraft collection. The first C-130H was dubbed "The Spirit of Wisconsin."

The 95th TAS began the decade with honors when it was named the Best in AFRES with the award of the Grover Loening Trophy in 1990. Elements of the 440 were part of Operations Desert Shield in 1990 and Desert Storm in 1991. Aircraft, flight crews, maintenance specialists and a variety of support specialists deployed to operating locations in several Persian Gulf States where they provided airlift support to U.S. and coalition military forces. The 440 Medical Squadron was activated in January 1991 and was deployed to Germany in anticipation of large numbers of casualties, which thankfully never occurred.

The 440 Airlift Wing was one of many Reserve and Guard C-130 units that provided airlift support to NATO and U.S. operations in the Balkan region as part of Operation Provide Promise in 1993. The 440 swept almost all the C-130 honors at the 1993 Air Mobility Command rodeo.

The next two years were a busy operational period for the wing. The 440 took part in Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti) and Operation Safe Borders (support of U.S. Army forces in Honduras while preparing a defense of the unit before the congressionally mandated Base Realignment and Closure Commission).

Operation Joint Endeavor took elements of the unit back to the Balkans in 1995 and 1996. Wing aircrews flew people and supplies into and out of embattled Bosnia. The 11,005 sq. ft. Aircraft Maintenance Shop (building 222) was also finished in 1996.

The 440 Security Forces Squadron recalled almost the entire unit and was the first wing unit to deploy members on anti-terror operations. Security Forces Ravens were the first to deploy, but other members of the unit helped conduct prisoner transports from Afghanistan to Guantanamo Naval Station Cuba after Taliban resistance collapsed in Afghanistan. Security specialists were also heavily involved in providing base and personal security measures and anti-terror measures in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On November 26, 2003, two days before Thanksgiving, the wing received a mobilization order

for more than 300 aircrew members, aircraft maintenance specialists and general support specialists. By December 15, the wing had six aircraft and about 200 people in Kuwait with more than a dozen operation missions accomplished by that date. The Flying Badgers are still on the job in the Central Command area providing airlift support, superb aircraft maintenance and security training and support from the Horn of Africa to the high desert of Afghanistan.

While the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission announcement that the 440 Airlift Wing would be moving to Pope Air Force Base, N.C., was a surprise to most members of the unit, and the community for that matter, the wing is actually returning to its roots after spending more than 50 years in Wisconsin. "Our 'return' to Pope is significant because of the combat history between the 440 and many of the units under the 18th Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, which is collocated next to Pope AFB," said Col. Merle D. Hart, 440 AW commander. In 1943, the 440 was activated as a troop carrier group, and on Dec. 17 of that year the wing arrived at Pope Field to begin airborne training missions with the 18th Airborne Corps at neighboring Fort Bragg.

For more than 50 years, the 440 Airlift Wing called Wisconsin home. That five-decade legacy officially came to a close in June when the unit's flag and command section left Milwaukee bound for their new home at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. "The 440's rich history isn't over," said Col. Merle D. Hart, wing commander, to a crowd of more than 500 people who assembled at Gen. Mitchell International Airport Air Reserve Station to say goodbye to the wing. "We're just starting a new chapter, and what a glorious chapter it will be." The move from Wisconsin to North Carolina was part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations approved by Congress. In a symbolic ceremony, Colonel Hart boarded a C-130 at General Mitchell June 9 with the Reserve unit's flag waving in the wind.

The next day, Col. Timothy Zadalis, 43rd AW commander, officially welcomed the unit to Pope as Maj. Gen. Martin Mazick, 22nd Air Force commander, looked on. "While many of our men and women were sad to leave Milwaukee, they're excited about the many new opportunities at Pope," Colonel Hart said. "We're the first wing to associate active-duty squadrons under a Reserve wing commander's operational direction for day to-day operations at home station. This historic association reflects Total Force in action. When the association is complete (no later than October 2008), the 440 will be the lead flying wing at Pope AFB." Although two of the wing's units, the 440 Airlift Control Flight and the 34th Aerial Port Squadron, were inactivated during the relocation ceremony, the wing will actually gain new missions and an increased number of Airmen at its new home. Two active-duty units, the 2nd Airlift Squadron and 43rd Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, will fall under the operational direction of the 440 AW commander.

In addition, the wing will also gain two new Reserve units: the 53rd APS, which is already located at Pope AFB but geographically separate from its current wing in Charleston; and a new squadron, the 440 AES, which is expected to stand up in April 2008. In addition to the growth in personnel, the wing will see its number of assigned aircraft increase from eight to 16 as part of the relocation. Colonel Hart is optimistic about the wing's future. "The world needs changes, and that's why the 440 is moving," he said. "The men and women who have filled the ranks of the 440 since its founding in 1943 have served their nation well and earned many deserved

honors. The discipline of operations and the innovations of our people have made the wing one of the strongest in the Air Force, and we will carry these values with us to our new home at Pope." Several hundred Wisconsin Reservists are expected to continue serving with the wing at its new home, some moving to the area permanently and others commuting on weekends for unit training assemblies.

Many 440 Airmen have accepted offers for positions in the Air National Guard and other Reserve units closer to Wisconsin. Wing leaders expect they will need to fill about 80 percent of available positions with people new to the 440, and the unit will soon have a new wing mascot representing the C-130 active-duty and Reserve aircrews. 2007

Air Force Reserve Command's 440 Airlift Wing at Pope Field, N. C., is working to reassign many of its drill-status airmen ahead of the unit's imminent inactivation in September, officials announced. "The Air Force has not submitted the congressionally mandated report on the C-130 force structure, however, we know the AF plan is to inactivate the 440 AW by the end of FY15," 440 AW Commander Brig. Gen. James Scanlan wrote in a letter to unit members, which was posted on the Wing's Facebook page on Feb. 18. "Based on current funding, all currently assigned personnel will be able to drill with the 440 through 30 Sept.," after which drill-status personnel without a new assignment will enter inactive status. Scanlan said 440 AW officials are working with the Air Force to fund traditional Reserve billets past March and "determine a way ahead." Pope was slated to replace its C-130Hs with C-130J, until the Fiscal 2015 defense authorization called for its' stand-down. 2015



1952-1956
Col. Robert Haynes



1956-1972
BG Joseph Lingle



1972
Col. Earl Steinke



1972-1979
BG Charles Corcilius



1979-1986
BG Donald Balch



1986-1988
Col. James Sherrard III



1988-1991
Col. Terry Whitnell



1991-1995
BG Michael Lee



1995-1999
BG Paul Cooper



1999-2004
Col. Michael Smith



2004-Present
Col. Merle Hart

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.