

14 AIR SERVICE GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

100 Aero Squadron organized, 22 Aug 1917

Demobilized, 13 Jun 1919

Station Complement, Bolling Field constituted and organized, 1 Mar 1935

Station Complement, Bolling Field and 100 Aero Squadron consolidated, 1 Sep 1936.

Consolidated unit reorganized and redesignated Base Headquarters and 14 Air Base Squadron

Redesignated 14 Air Base Squadron (Special), 6 Dec 1939

Reorganized and redesignated Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 14 Air Base Group (Special), 1 Sep 1940

Redesignated 14 Service Group, May 1942

Redesignated 14 Air Service Group

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX

Mitchel Field, NY

Bolling Field, Washington, D.C.

Pendleton Field, OR

Santa Maria Army Air Field, CA

Venice Army Air Field, Venice, FL

Patterson Field, OH 25 Aug 1943-25 Mar 1944

Peishiyi (stations at Chihkiang, Hsupu, Changting, Tsingchen, Laowangping, Tushan)

ASSIGNMENTS

General Headquarters Air Force

Office of the Chief of the Air Corps

COMMANDERS

Maj Jack C. Hodgson, 1 Mar 1935

Lt Col. William O. Ryan, 1 Sep 1936

Maj Samuel C. Eaton, Jr., 5 Jun 1938

Lt Col Floyd E. Galloway, 22 Jun 1938

Lt Col Edmund W. Hill, 20 Aug 1939-1 Sep 1940

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Fourteenth Air Service Group was made up of Chinese Americans, many who responded to articles describing the units and the need for Chinese men who spoke Chinese and had technical skills, to serve in China. The 407th Air Service Squadron and the 987th Signal Company were created under the Fourteenth, followed by the 555th Air Service Squadron, a quartermaster company, and two ordinance companies. Units under the Fourteenth Air Service Group were created as hundreds of Chinese Americans heeded the call. The service group was sent to the China-Burma-India theater in early 1944. It was a front line unit made up of mechanics who traveled with and provided routine services for aircraft. Supplies, support equipment and technicians also were included which made the service group invaluable and a target for the enemy.

The 14th Air Service Group was formed in a very unique way in the summer of 1942. General Claire Chennault, commander of the Fourteenth Air Force and General Stilwell, Supreme Armed Forces Commander in China, requested to have group of Chinese Americans who spoke Chinese and English fluently, to support the American Armed Forces in the China, Burma, and India Theater. As bilingual administrators, engineers and technicians they coordinated and supported

the functioning of 14th Air Force airfields and as mechanics and specialized technicians they recovered, repaired battle damaged aircraft and coordinated with Chinese Air Force personnel to maintain American and Chinese aircraft operating in Chinese Theater of Operations. Coincidentally, it was learned that such a group already existed and was employed by the 5th Air Service Command at Patterson Field, Ohio. Immediately, a high priority communication was sent to the War Department for confirmation and details. The answer confirmed that the existing group of twenty civilian workers were highly trained as radio communication technicians and was headed by Mr. Sing Yung Yee. Secretly, through the arrangement between the 5th Air Service Command and the War Department, Mr. Yee and his staff had agreed to enlist into the United States Army Air Forces. Mr. Yee was then commissioned as Second Lieutenant in command.

In the same year, the 407th Air Service Squadron left Patterson Field, Ohio. They embarked from Newport News, Virginia, to Oran, North Africa, and then to Bombay, India. Many of the personnel were shipped to China by air, and the rest via the Burma Road at a later date. These men, with their administrative, electrical, and mechanical skills, helped service the aircraft in combat against the enemy. The rest of the 14th Air Service Group soon joined them in the China, Burma, India Theater.

At the end of the war, in August 1945, the majority of the 14th Air Service Group returned to the United States via Shanghai to Seattle, Washington, for their final processing and discharge.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 2 Sep 2011

Updated: 4 Apr 2023

Sources

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