

72 HELICOPTER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

72 Liaison Squadron constituted, 2 Apr 1943
Activated, 11 Apr 1943
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946
Activated, 3 Oct 1946
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1949
Redesignated 72 Helicopter Flight and activated, 1 Nov 1991
Redesignated 72 Helicopter Squadron, 1 Oct 1992

STATIONS

New Cumberland AAFld, PA, 11 Apr 1943
Reading AAFld, PA, 7 Jun 1943
Camp MacKall, NC, 29 Jul 1943
Knollwood Field, NC, 13 Sep 1943
Sky Harbor Airport, TN, 18 Oct 1943
Raleigh-Durham AAFld, NC, 27 Feb–24 Apr 1944
Oran, Algeria, 14 Jun 1944
Santa Maria, Italy, 11 Jul 1944 (flight operated at Caserta, Italy, 28 Jul–c. 1 Sep 1944)
St Tropez, France, 19 Aug 1944
Brignoles, France, 21 Aug 1944
Grenoble, France, 2 Sep 1944
Lons-le-Saunier, France, 8 Sep 1944
Vesoul, France, 18 Sep 1944

Epinal, France, 30 Sep 1944 (detachment at Charmes, France, 29 Sep–3 Oct 1944 and at Luneville, France, 3 Oct–24 Nov 1944)
Buhl, France, 1 Dec 1944 (detachment at Steinbourg, France, 8 Dec 1944–1 Jan 1945)
Epinal, France, 2 Jan 1945 (detachment at Luneville, France, Jan–10 Mar 1945)
Buhl, France, 11 Mar 1945
Sarreguemines, France, 22 Mar 1945
Kaiserlautern, Germany, 26 Mar 1945
Darmstadt, Germany, 1 Apr 1945
Kitzingen, Germany, 15 Apr 1945
Gmund, Germany, 27 Apr 1945
Augsburg, Germany, 2 May 1945
Darmstadt, Germany, Jun–c. 2 Jul 1945
Drew Field, FL, 4 Aug 1945
Muskogee AAFld, OK, 1 Sep 1945
Marshall Field, KS, 1 Nov 1945–31 Mar 1946
Brooks Field, TX, 3 Oct 1946
Langley Field (later, AFB), VA, 20 Dec 1946–1 Apr 1949
Langley AFB, VA, 1 Nov 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

26 Reconnaissance Group, 11 Apr 1943
I Air Support Command (later, I Tactical Air Division; III Tactical Air Division), 11 Aug 1943
Army Air Forces, MTO, Jun 1944
US Strategic Air Forces in Europe, 1 Nov 1944
Ninth Air Force, 12 Dec 1944
XII Tactical Air Command, 20 May 1945
US Forces, European Theater, 3 Jul 1945
Third Air Force, 4 Aug 1945
XIX Tactical Air Command, 11 Jan 1946
Tactical Air Command, 21 Mar 1946
Ninth Air Force, 28–31 Mar 1946
Ninth Air Force, 3 Oct 1946–1 Apr 1949
1 Operations Group, 1 Nov 1991

ATTACHMENTS

Seventh Army for operations, Aug–12 Dec 1944
Sixth Army Group for operations, 22 Dec 1944–14 May 1945
Twelfth Army Group, 15 May–12 Jun 1945
First Air Force, 15 Jan–1 Feb 1949
363 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 9 Mar–1 Apr 1949

WEAPON SYSTEMS

L–1, 1943–1944
L–4, 1943–1944

L-5, 1943–1945, 1945–1946

L-6, 1943–1944

RA-24, 1943–1944

L-5, 1946–1949

L-13, 1947–1948

R-6, 1948

H-5, 1948–1949

UH-1, 1991

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Rome-Arno

Northern France

Southern France with Arrowhead

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Euro

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Army Meritorious Unit Commendation

15 Aug–31 Dec 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 May 1992–30 Apr 1994

EMBLEM



72 Liaison Squadron emblem (Approved, 6 Nov 1943)

72 Helicopter Squadron emblem: Azure, a maltese cross per bend Vert and Vert four bendlets Sable fimbriated Or surmounted by a bald eagle perched and elevated on a billiard eight-ball in base both proper; all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. (Approved, 19 Jul 1993)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in MTO and ETO, Aug 1944–May 1945.

Transported personnel and equipment, as well as provided search and rescue assistance, Nov 1991.

Another chapter of Langley history ended on 5 December 1995 with the departure of the base's last helicopter, prior to the inactivation of the 72d Helicopter Squadron on 15 December.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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