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## 403 Operations Group (AFRC)

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**Lineage.** Established as 403 Troop Carrier Group on 7 Dec 1942. Activated on 12 Dec 1942. Inactivated on 15 Oct 1946. Redesignated 403 Troop Carrier Group, Medium on 10 May 1949. Activated in the Reserve on 27 Jun 1949. Ordered to active service on 1 Apr 1951. Inactivated on 1 Jan 1953. Activated in the Reserve on 1 Jan 1953. Inactivated on 14 Apr 1959. Redesignated: 403 Military Airlift Group on 31 Jul 1985; 403 Operations Group on 1 Aug 1992. Activated in the Reserve on 1 Aug 1992.

**Assignments.** I Troop Carrier Command, 12 Dec 1942; 50 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 May 1943; XIII Air Force Service Command, Sep 1943; Far East Air Service Command, 13 Dec 1945; 322 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jan 1946; 54 Troop Carrier Wing, 26 Jan-15 Oct 1946, 403 Troop Carrier Wing, 27 Jun 1949-1 Jan 1953. 403 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Jan 1953-14 Apr 1959. 403 Airlift Wing (later, 403 Wing), 1 Aug 1992-.

**Components.** *Squadrons.* **6:** 15 May-15 Oct 1946. **9:** 31 May-15 Oct 1946. **13:** 22 Aug 1943-15 Oct 1946. **19:** 31 May-15 Oct 1946. **53** Weather Reconnaissance: 1 Nov 1993-. **63:** 12 Dec 1942-15 May 1946 (detached 10 Oct 1943-3 Jul 1944); 27 Jun 1949-1 Jan 1953; 1 Jan 1953-14 Apr 1959. **64:** 12 Dec 1942-15 May 1946; 27 Jun 1949-1 Jan 1953; 1 Jan 1953-14 Apr 1959. **65:** 12 Dec 1942-26 Jul 1943; 20 Feb 1945-27 Jan 1946; 27 Jun 1949-1 Jan 1953; 1 Jan 1953-16 Nov 1957. **66:** 12 Dec 1942-21 Jul 1943; 20 Feb 1945-15 Jan 1946; 27 Jun 1949-17 Apr 1951. **815** Airlift: 1 Aug 1992.

**Stations.** Bowman Fld, KY, 12 Dec 1942; Alliance, NE, 18 Dec 1942; Pope Fld, NC, 3 May 1943; Baer Fld, IN, 20 Jun 1943; Camp Stoneman, CA, 18 Jul-24 Aug 1943; Espiritu Santo, 15 Sep 1943; Los Negros, 30 Aug 1944; Biak, 4 Oct 1944; Leyte, 25 Jun 1945; Clark Fld, Luzon, 1 Feb 1946; Manila, Luzon, c. Jun-15 Oct 1946. Portland Muni Aprt, OR, 27 Jun 1949-29 Mar 1952; Ashiya AB, Japan, 14 Apr 1952-1 Jan 1953. Portland Intl Aprt, OR, 1 Jan 1953; Selfridge AFB, MI, 16 Nov 1957-14 Apr 1959. Keesler AFB, MS, 1 Aug 1992-.

**Commanders.** Col Harry J. Sands Jr, 12 Dec 1942; Lt Col Norton H. Van Sicklen, 24 Aug 1945-unkn; Col Audrin R. Walker, c. Jun-15 Oct 1946. Unkn, 27 Jun 1949-31 Mar 1951; Lt Col Robert B. Asbury, 1 Apr 1951; Lt Col Henry C. Althaus, 25 Jul 1951; Maj Wallace C. Forsythe, 22 Apr 1952; Lt Col Ernest W. Burton, Aug 1952-1 Jan 1953. Unkn, 1 Jan 1953-1958; Maj Phillip Kuhn, by Apr 1958-14 Apr 1959. Col John B. Goodwin, 1 Aug 1992; Col Frank W. Waid, 6 Jun 1993; Col Francis B. Lane, 15 Sep 1996; Lt Col Wallace W. Farris, 6 Jun 1998-.

**Aircraft.** C-47, 1942-1946; C-46, 1945-1946. T-7, 1949-1951; T-11, 1949-1951; C/TC-46, 1949-1952; C/V-C-47, 1952; C-54, 1952; C-119, 1952. C-46, 1953-1957; TC-47, 1957-1959; C-119, 1957-1959. C-130, 1992-; WC-130, 1992-.

**Operations.** Trained for overseas troop carrier operations from late 1942 to the summer of 1943, when it moved to the South Pacific. Transported men and supplies to forward areas in the Solomon Islands and flew passenger and cargo routes to New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, and New Caledonia. The group also moved personnel of Thirteenth Air Force units to the Southwest Pacific theater. Supported campaigns in New Guinea and the Philippines by transporting men and cargo to combat areas, evacuating casualties, and landing or dropping supplies for guerilla forces. On 23 Feb 1945, dropped paratroops at Laguna de Bay, Luzon, to free civilian internees held by the Japanese. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for transporting ammunition, food, and other supplies to Eighth Army forces in Mindanao and for landing on jungle airstrips to evacuate wounded personnel from Apr to Jun. From the Philippines, ferried occupation troops to Japan, evacuated liberated prisoners, and flew cargo and passenger routes to Japan and Australia. From Jun 1949 until 1 Apr 1951, when it was called the active duty, the group trained as a reserve troop carrier unit in Oregon. In Mar and Apr 1952, moved to Japan for operations against communist forces in Korea. Using C-119s, the group dropped paratroops and supplies, transported personnel and equipment, and evacuated casualties. On 1 Jan 1953, relieved from active duty and inactivated in Japan, it activated again as a reserve unit, training for airlift, air evacuation, and aeromedical evacuation missions until inactivation in 1959. From 1992, the group flew Air Force Reserve airlift and weather reconnaissance missions.

**Service Streamers.** None.

**Campaign Streamers.** *World War II:* New Guinea; Northern Solomons; Bismarck Archipelago; Western Pacific; Leyte; Luzon; Southern Philippines. *Korea:* Korea Summer-Fall, 1952; Third Korean Winter.

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers.** None.

**Decorations.** Distinguished Unit Citation: Philippine Islands, 17 Apr-30 Jun 1945. Navy Unit Commendation: [Sep 1943]-15 Jul 1944. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: [1 Aug] 1992-30 Apr 1994; 1 May 1994-30 Apr 1996; 1 May 1996-31 Aug 1997. Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII), Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation [1952].

**Lineage, Assignments, Components, Stations, and Honors through** 24 Jan 2000.

**Commanders, Aircraft, and Operations through** 30 Sep 1998.

**Supersedes** statement prepared on 29 Jul 1996.

**Emblem.** Group will use the wing emblem with the group designation in the scroll.

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**Approved by** Judy G. Endicott.

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