

## 1. World War II

(C-47\*; 1942-1945)

[McClellan Field, CA; N. Africa, Italy]



**C-47 Skytrain (DC-3)\***

The indirect ancestor of the 62d Airlift Wing (AW) was the 62d Troop Carrier Group (TCG), whose four TC squadrons (4, 7, 8 and 51) flew C-47 airlift and airdrop missions from N. Africa and Italy during World War II. It later became the 62d Operations Group within the 62 AW.

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## 2. 62d Troop Carrier Wing

(C-82\*; 1947-1950) (C-124\*; 1951-1969)

[McChord and Larson AFBs, WA]



**C-124C Globemaster II\***

The 62d Troop Carrier Wing (TCW) was activated on 15 August 1947 at McChord Field. It flew troop carrier operations, tactical exercises, and humanitarian missions with C-82s and later with C-54s from 1947 to 1950. In 1952, the Wing moved to Larson AFB (Moses Lake, WA).

Among the major missions of the C-124s were airlifting French troops from France to Indo-China (BALI HAI, 1954), and taking supplies to Alaska and Canada for the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line.

The 62 TCW returned to McChord AFB in 1960, and was designated the 62d Air Transport Wing in 1965 because of evolving missions and aircraft.

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## 3. 62d Military Airlift Wing

(C-141\* & C-130\*, 1966-1991)

[McChord AFB, WA]



**C-141B Starlifter\***

The arrival of the C-141 jet transport in 1966 brought a new name to the Wing.

The 62d Military Airlift Wing (MAW) did the missions of its predecessors faster, better, and farther. The Wing kept focused on trans-Pacific missions due to the long war in Vietnam and fluctuating tensions in Korea. Among the most memorable missions was bringing former POWs out of Hanoi, N. Vietnam (HOMECOMING, 1973). In the same year, 62 MAW rushed supplies to Israel during the Yom Kippur War (NICKEL GRASS). McChord's aircraft also participated in annual exercises to demonstrate U.S. capability to supply and reinforce troops in Germany facing Soviet forces (REFORGER, 1969-1993).



**C-130E Hercules\***

In 1975, the C-130s of the 36th Tactical Airlift Squadron (TAS) were assigned to McChord AFB, where they stayed for 14 years. The 62 MAW became the only Military Airlift Command (MAC) wing with strategic and tactical airlift aircraft.

In late 1983, the 62 MAW flew in support of the invasion of Grenada (URGENT FURY). Later, the 4 and 8 MAS made personnel and equipment airdrops to help remove Panama's dictator (JUST CAUSE, 1989).

In 1990 and 1991, McChord's crews flew in the DESERT SHIELD/STORM deployment and campaign in the Persian Gulf area. Later, they evacuated Americans from the Philippines after Mt. Pinatubo erupted (FIERY VIGIL, 1991).

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#### 4. 62d Airlift Wing

(C-141\*, C-17, 1992-Present)  
[McChord AFB/Field, WA]

In 1992, McChord's host wing was renamed the 62d Airlift Wing (AW). The 36 AS transferred to Japan in 1993. The 7 AS then transferred from California, rejoining its old sister squadrons from World War II.

The 62 AW traded its C-141s for C-17s between 1999 and 2002, and added the 10 AS in 2003. The C-17 has done well in the high operations tempo of conflicts in Iraq (IRAQI FREEDOM/NEW DAWN, 2003-) and Afghanistan (ENDURING FREEDOM, 2001-). Its wide fuselage, ability to use relatively short runways, and long range, (with air refueling capability) have greatly

expanded the scope and impact of airlift operations by the 62d Airlift Wing.

Since assuming its current name, the 62 AW has flown over 830,000 hours in a variety of missions. Many missions have been humanitarian, such as supplies to Rwanda (SUPPORT HOPE, 1994), relief and evacuation for Haiti (UNIFIED RESPONSE, 2010) and U.S. disaster assistance (Katrina, 2005; Sandy, 2012).

Among the special missions flown by the 62 AW are the strategic airlift support of U.S. National Science Foundation stations in Antarctica (DEEP FREEZE), and transport of nuclear and/or nuclear-related cargo (PNAF). McChord AFB has hosted international air mobility competitions (RODEO) since 1994, and is now the permanent site for this biennial event.

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#### 5. 62d Airlift Wing Unit Decorations

AF Meritorious Unit Award  
(2001-2003)

16 AF Outstanding Unit Awards  
(one with Valor)(1961-2013)

[62 AW/HO, v9, 7/14]

#### 62d Airlift Wing



C-17 Globemaster III

#### McChord Field, JBLM, Washington

Note 1: Major deployments are listed in CAPITALS; "Operation" is omitted.

Note 2: Aircraft marked "\*" are displayed or under repair by McChord's Air Museum.