

87th AIR BASE WING HISTORY

In May 1952, U.S. Air Force leadership established the 87th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, at Atterbury Air Force Base (AFB), Indiana, under the command of Col George C. Riley. The unit performed a training mission in support of the Korean War. Two groups comprised the 87th Troop Carrier Wing, the 87th Troop Carrier Group and the 87th Air Base Group.

The 87th Troop Carrier Group replaced the 923d Reserve Training Wing as part of the new wing/base organization system. They performed training under the supervision of the 2d Air Reserve District and the 2466th Air Force Reserve Training Center. The group operated a mix of aircraft in the training of reserve aircrews. The aircraft included the B-25 *Mitchell* bomber, the T-7 *Hawker Hunter* and T-6 *Texan* trainers, and the C-46 *Commando* and C-47 *Skytrain* cargo aircraft.

The 87th Air Base Group consisted of five squadrons. These included the 87th Food Service Squadron, 87th Installations Squadron, 87th Communications Squadron, and the 87th Air Police Squadron.

The 87th Troop Carrier Wing inactivated in February 1953 and the 434th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium replaced them at Atterbury AFB. The 87th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, was re-designated as the 87th Tactical Airlift Wing in July 1985 but never reactivated.

As a result of the 2005 Congressional Base Relocation and Closure Commission, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst (JB MDL) was established in central New Jersey. The new installation was a combination of McGuire Air Force Base, Fort Dix, Naval Air Engineering Station–Lakehurst, forming the nation’s only tri-Service Joint Base. In February 2009, the 87th Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, was re-designated and reactivated as the 87th Air Base Wing, assuming responsibility for installation support for the missions on JB MDL. The 87th Air Base Wing reported to the 18th Air Force until December 2010, when the United States Air Force Expeditionary Center assumed oversight of the 87th Air Base Wing and JB MDL.

All units assigned to the 87th Air Base Wing possess the same numerical designation as the wing. The wing consists of two groups, the 87th Mission Support Group and the 87th Medical Group, and 14 wing staff agencies. The 87th Mission Support Group consists of 6 squadrons: the 87th Civil Engineer Squadron; the 87th Communications Squadron; the 87th Contracting Squadron; the 87th Force Support Squadron; the 87th Logistics Readiness Squadron; and the 87th Security Forces Squadron. The 87th Medical Group consists of 4 squadrons: the 87th Aerospace Medicine Squadron; the 87th Dental Squadron; the 87th Medical Operations Squadron; and the 87th Medical Support Squadron. Wing staff agencies include Air Forces Smart Operations for the 21st Century (AFSO 21), Business Office, Chaplains, Community Support Coordinator, Command Post, Comptroller Squadron, Equal Opportunity, History Office, Inspector General, Legal Office, Plans and Programs, Public Affairs, Safety, and Sexual Assault Response and Prevention.

The 87th Air Base Wing includes a command structure consisting of an Air Force Joint Base Commander, an Army Joint Base Deputy Commander; and a Navy Joint Base Deputy

Commander. 87th Air Base Wing personnel include Airmen, a Soldier, and Sailors. During its tenure at JB MDL, the wing has supported several significant operations and activities, to include: Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy recovery operations; visits by the President of the United States; the United Nations General Assembly; the Commission on the Structure of the United States Air Force; and thousands distinguished visitors. The wing has since earned four Outstanding Unit awards and a myriad of Air Mobility Command, Air Force, and national-level awards. The 87th Air Base Wing continues to operate with a focus on delivering championship caliber installation support to enable the JB MDL partners' missions of rapid global mobility, training, and innovation and to fulfill the wing's motto, "Win as One!"