

In July 2006, the 86 AW evacuated American citizens from Lebanon after fighting erupted in the southern region of the country. The wing continued to participate in humanitarian operations in countries affected by natural disasters or conflicts and wars, such as the invasion of Georgia by Russian forces in 2008.

From April 7, 2009, to November 7, 2009, the wing transitioned from the C130E to the C-130J *Super Hercules*. The wing organizational structure and mission also changed in 2009 when the 435th Air Base Wing was redesignated as the 435th Air Ground Operations Wing, and the 431st Air Base Group was inactivated. The 435 AGOW assumed mission areas performed by elements of the 86th, while mission areas previously performed by the 435 ABW were assigned to the 86th Airlift Wing. The 86th, one of the largest wings in the Air Force, became the host wing for Ramstein Air Base.



C-130J *Super Hercules*

In 2010, the 86th played a role in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM supporting the Commander of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. In 2011, the 86th participated in Operation ODYSSEY DAWN to protect the Libyan people from Moammar Gadhafi's regime.



Airmen load cargo into a C-130J Super Hercules for its departure in support of Joint Task Force ODYSSEY DAWN

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II: Sicily; Naples-Foggia; Anzio; Rome; Arno; Southern France; North Apennines; Rhineland, Central Europe; Air Combat EAME Theater

Operations

1944 Strangle
 1944 Dragoon
 1991 Provide Comfort
 1990 Desert Shield/Storm
 1993 Deny Flight
 1996 Assured Response
 1997 Assured Lift
 1997-1998 Northern Watch
 1997-1998 Southern Watch
 1997-1998 Phoenix Scorpion
 1998-2000 Joint Forge
 1998-2000 Provide Hope
 1999 Allied Force
 1999 Joint Guardian
 1999 Shining Hope
 2003 Rapid Guardian
 2003 Iraqi Freedom
 2006 Joint Task Force Lebanon
 2008 Georgian Humanitarian Relief
 2010 Enduring Freedom
 2011 Odyssey Dawn

Awards

1944 Distinguished Unit Citation
 1945 Distinguished Unit Citation
 1955-1958 AF Outstanding Unit Award
 1964-1965 AF Outstanding Unit Award
 1981-1982 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 1993-1995 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 1996-1997 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 2002-2003 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 2003-2004 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 2004-2005 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service (with Valor)
 2005-2006 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 2006-2007 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 2008 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service
 2009-2010 AF Outstanding Unit Award For Exceptionally Meritorious Service

86TH AIRLIFT WING



Enduring Courage

Service with Distinction



The rich heritage of the 86th Airlift Wing (AW) began on January 13, 1942 with the establishment of the 86th Bombardment Group (Light). The 86th was activated on February 10, 1942 at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma. In September 1942, it was redesignated as a Dive Bombardment Group. In April 1943, the Group left for North Africa, where it was attached to Twelfth Air Force. The 86th distinguished itself in action in Sicily, Italy, France, and southern Germany. The 37th Airlift Squadron (added to the 86th Airlift Wing in 1994) also distinguished itself in WWII. The squadron took part in airborne assaults on Italy (Operation AVALANCHE), Normandy, Holland and Germany (Operations OVERLORD, MARKET GARDEN, and VARSITY).



Lt Col George Lee, Commander 86th FG, 1944

The honors earned by the 86th Bombardment Group during World War II were bestowed on the 86th Fighter Wing which was activated at Neubiberg, Germany on July 1, 1948, a week after the Soviets blocked the land routes to Berlin and the US initiated the Berlin Airlift.

From July 1948 to November 1968, the 86th provided air defense, primarily of West Germany and Europe, initially as a wing, and later as a division. During its eight years as an air division (1960-1968), the organization supervised the improvement of a manual radar system to a semi-automatic air weapons control system.



F-86F Sabre

In November 1968, the 86th was redesignated as a Fighter Interceptor Wing. In October 1969, the 86th was redesignated as a Tactical Fighter Wing. From November 1969 to June 1971, the 86th performed tactical reconnaissance missions, and added tactical fighter operations later in 1971.

From January 1973 to June 1985, the 86th supported numerous military units located in the vicinity of Ramstein AB, Germany. It also took part in exercises that provided the wing with air combat tactics training essential to its mission.

In April 1991, the 86th deployed to Turkey to enforce the no-fly zone against Iraq. Wing aircraft took part in attacks on surface-to-air missile sites in northern Iraq. In June 1992 the 58th Airlift Squadron (AS) and its C-12, C-20, C-21, CT-43, C-135 and UH-1 aircraft were assigned to the wing, adding an airlift mission to the wing's portfolio.



F-4E Phantom

In 1993 and 1994, the wing deployed pilots, maintenance personnel, and aircraft to Aviano AB, Italy, to enforce a new no-fly zone over Bosnia and Herzegovina. As part of the UN mandate and NATO operations, the wing also airlifted humanitarian relief cargo to Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1993 and 1996.

The end of the Cold War brought about a major change for the 86th, which shifted from a fighter wing to a combat airlift wing, and assumed the C-130 airlift mission previously carried out by the 435th Airlift Wing. In July 1994, the wing traded its F-16 fighters for C-130E AWADS aircraft and relinquished its long-standing fighter mission.

From 1998 to 2000, the 86th played a significant role in Operation JOINT FORGE by airlifting troops and cargo to support the Bosnia and Herzegovina peacekeeping mission, evacuating US and third-country nationals from Liberia, and transporting African peacekeeping forces to Liberia. At the same time the Wing supported Operation PROVIDE HOPE, by delivering medical supplies to the Republic of Moldova. In 1998, the wing supported the deployment of US forces to Southwest Asia after Iraq refused to cooperate with United Nations weapons inspectors. In August 1998 the wing evacuated personnel injured in the terrorist bombing of the US embassy in Kenya.



86 AW Personnel Supporting Operation PROVIDE HOPE

In 1999 the 86th participated in NATO operations to end Serbia's suppression of ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. The 86th ferried US forces within the European theater, delivered relief supplies to refugees in Albania and Macedonia, and airlifted cargo and peacekeepers to Kosovo.

In 1999, the 86th also delivered relief supplies to earthquake victims in Turkey. In 2000, the 86 AW flew relief supplies to flood stricken Mozambique. The 86 AW also airlifted victims of the terrorist bombing of the USS Cole from Yemen. Additionally, the wing continued to provide airlift support for air units enforcing the no-fly zone over northern Iraq.

After the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the 86th geared up to support US Central Command operations in Iraq. On March 11, 2003, the wing's C-130s flew their first Operation IRAQI FREEDOM mission and on March 27, 2003, members of the 86th Contingency Response Group parachuted into Bashur airfield with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, the largest airborne combat insertion since Operation JUST CAUSE in 1989. Within a short time, the 37 AS began to fly into Bashur with its C-130E Hercules.



C-20H Crew deployed to Al Udeid, Qatar
June—October 2006

August 2004, the wing expanded its role in the Global War on Terrorism when wing personnel deployed as part of the Air Expeditionary Force to Al Udeid, Qatar, and Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait, where they served as part of the 320th and 386th Air Expeditionary Wings, respectively. In 2004 and 2005, the 86 AW also joined in the humanitarian relief effort to bring supplies to Morocco, Chad, Mali and Rwanda (near the Dafur Region of Sudan).



Members of 86 AW engaged in mission planning