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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND

MEMORANDUM FOR 439 AW/CC

1 June 2011

FROM: HQ AFRC/HO
255 Richard Ray Blvd
Robins AFB GA 31098-1661

SUBJECT: Freedom of Information Act Request for 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron C-123 Tail Numbers and Flying Hour data from 1973 to 1981.

1. The Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Directorate of Historical Services received a Freedom of Information Act request on 23 May 2011. The FOIA, forwarded from MSgt Joseph Gluckert, 439th Airlift Wing/HO, requested the tail numbers and flying hours of all C-123 aircraft flown by the 731st Tactical Airlift Squadron, Westover AFB, Massachusetts, from 1973 to 1981. The FOIA was initially submitted by Major (retired) Wesley T. Carter. Major Carter requested the tail numbers and flying hour data to support his contention that he developed cancer because of exposure to dioxins and toxins embedded in the C-123 aircraft flown by the 731 TAS. Major Carter also requested data regarding any attempts to identify or remove suspected contaminants or hazardous materials from the Air Force Reserve's C-123 fleet. The C-123 aircraft in the 731 TAS fleet had been used to disperse chemical defoliants over Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War.

2. Regarding the FOIA request, AFRC/HO performed a search of its holdings and ascertained both the total flying hours per reporting period and the tail numbers of all C-123 aircraft flown by the 731 TAS. Total flying hours per aircraft was not available because the 439 TAW did not report those numbers in its histories during the 1973-1981 period. No records addressing the identification and removal of contaminants or hazardous materials in the 731 TAS's C-123 fleet were found in the HQ AFRC/HO archives.

4. Please contact Mr. Paul Larson, HQ AFRC/HO, at 478-327-2383 or DSN: 497-2383 if you have any additional questions or concerns regarding Mr. Carter's FOIA request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Betty R. Kennedy", is positioned above the printed name.

BETTY R. KENNEDY
Director of Historical Services

Attachment:
731st Tactical Airlift Squadron Flying Hours and Tail Numbers

439th Tactical Airlift Wing, Westover AFB, Massachusetts

731st Tactical Airlift Squadron: 1 April to 31 December 1974¹

Flying Hours

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Hours Scheduled	455.0	543.1	553.2	533.1	670.5	606.6	487.0	446.5	442.0
Hours Flown	455	429.1	393.3	362.8	539.2	469.8	459.0	354.0	360.0
Sorties Scheduled	86	109	105	107	123	76	115	113	111
Sorties Flown	68.6	59.6	24.8	46.7	35.8	56.6	69.6	43.4	39.6

Aircraft

C-123K	54-730	C-123K	54-663
C-123K	54-583	C-123K	56-4362
C-123K	56-4361	C-123K	54-680
C-123K	54-669	C-123K	54-706
C-123K	54-703	C-123K	54-580
C-123K	54-629	C-123K	54-681
C-123K	54-635	C-123K	54-707
C-123K	54-565	C-123K	54-581

¹ (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 April-30 June 1974;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 July-31 September 1974;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 October-31 December 1974."

731st Tactical Airlift Squadron: 1 January to 31 December 1975²

Flying Hours

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hours Scheduled	507.5	491.0	468.0	492.0	502.0	506.0	495.0	477.4	477.2	610.0	486.5	262.0
Hours Flown	385.5	364.6	442.4	477.4	449.6	479.0	458.5	441.5	420.0	414.0	474.6	251.9

Aircraft

C-123K	54-730	C-123K	54-663
C-123K	54-583	C-123K	56-4362
C-123K	56-4361	C-123K	54-680
C-123K	54-669	C-123K	54-706
C-123K	54-703	C-123K	54-580
C-123K	54-629	C-123K	54-681
C-123K	54-635	C-123K	54-707
C-123K	54-565	C-123K	54-581

731st Tactical Airlift Squadron: 1 April to 31 December 1976³

Flying Hours

	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Hours Scheduled	549.1	477.7	443.0	485.5	499.5	450.4	447.6	514.0	443.1
Hours Flown	482.4	475.1	392.5	462.5	487.7	435.5	449.6	416.9	365.6

²(U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 January-31 March 1975;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 April-30 June 1975;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 July-31 September 1975;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 October-31 December 1975."

³ (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 April-30 June 1976;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 July-31 September 1976;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 October-31 December 1976."

Aircraft

C-123K	54-607	C-123K	54-663
C-123K	54-583	C-123K	56-4362
C-123K	56-4361	C-123K	54-680
C-123K	54-669	C-123K	54-706
C-123K	54-703	C-123K	54-580
C-123K	54-629	C-123K	54-681
C-123K	54-635	C-123K	54-707
C-123K	54-565	C-123K	54-581

731st Tactical Airlift Squadron: 1 January to 31 December 1977⁴

Flying Hours and Data: 1 January to 30 June 1977

Aircraft	16
Hours Scheduled	2,547
Hours Flown	2,590.8
Sorties	781
Tons of Cargo	27.15
Passengers	1,051
Troops Dropped	1,606
Tons of Cargo Dropped	6.6

Flying Hours and Data: 1 July to 31 December 1977

Aircraft	16
Hours Scheduled	2,437
Hours Flown	2,401.1

⁴(U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 January-31 March 1977;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 April-30 June 1977;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 July-31 September 1977;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 October-31 December 1977."

Aircraft

C-123K	54-607	C-123K	54-663
C-123K	54-583	C-123K	56-4362
C-123K	56-4361	C-123K	54-680
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C-123K	54-629	C-123K	54-681
C-123K	54-635	C-123K	54-707
C-123K	54-565	C-123K	54-581

**731st Tactical Airlift Squadron:
1 January to 31 March 1980 and 1 October to 31 December 1980⁵**

Flying Hours: 1 January to 31 March 1980

	January	February	March	Quarter Total
Hours Scheduled	460.2	403.0	0	863.2
Hours Flown	455.0	352.3	0	807.3

Flying Hours: 1 October to 31 December 1980

Hours Scheduled	1,416.0
Hours Flown	1,207
Sorties	280
Tons of Cargo	16.70
Passengers	648
Troops Dropped	1,283
Tons of Cargo Dropped	26.0

⁵(U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 January-31 March 1980;" (U) Microfilm, 439th TAW, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 October-31 December 1980."

Aircraft: 1 January to 31 March 1980 and 1 October to 31 December 1980

C-123K	54-607	C-123K	54-663
C-123K	54-583	C-123K	56-4362
C-123K	56-4361	C-123K	54-592
C-123K	54-669	C-123K	54-706
C-123K	54-703	C-123K	54-580
C-123K	54-629	C-123K	54-681
C-123K	54-635	C-123K	54-707
C-123K	54-565	C-123K	54-581

731st Tactical Airlift Squadron: 1 January to 31 March 1981⁶

Flying Hours

Hours Scheduled	1,334.5
Hours Flown	1,393.1
Sorties	322
Tons of Cargo	38.8
Passengers	760
Troops Dropped	2,310
Tons of Cargo Dropped	23.8

Aircraft

C-123K	54-565	C-123K	54-669
C-123K	54-580	C-123K	54-681
C-123K	54-581	C-123K	54-683
C-123K	54-592	C-123K	54-703
C-123K	54-606	C-123K	54-706
C-123K	54-610	C-123K	56-4361
C-123K	54-629	C-123K	54-583
C-123K	54-663	C-123K	54-586
C-123K	54-635	C-123K	54-607

⁶(U) Microfilm, 439th TAW/HO, "History of the 439th TAW, 1 January-31 March 1981."

Aircraft Disposition following C-123 Retirements⁷

56-4361	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-607	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)
56-4362	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-610	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)
54-565	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-629	McGuire AFB
54-580	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-635	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)
54-581	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-663	Foreign Country Sale
54-583	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-669	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)
54-586	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-681	Sheppard AFB
54-592	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)	54-683	Smithsonian
54-606	Foreign Country Sale	54-703	Foreign Country Sale
54-706	Davis-Monthan AFB (AMARG)		

⁷ (U) Article, 439th Airlift Wing, "Wing gains eight C-130s; loses 731st TAS," *The Patriot*, Vol. III, No. 3, Mar 81. In October 1982, the 713st Tactical Airlift Squadron relocated to Peterson Field (AFB), Colorado.