



VF-98 Military Air Transport Service (MATS)

The Military Air Transport Service (MATS) is an inactive Department of Defense Command activated on 1st June 1948. MATS was a consolidation of the USN Naval Air Transport Service and the USAF Air Transport Command.

MATS provided world-wide transport of cargo and personnel until 8th January 1966. It was organized into 3 major transport divisions:

1. Atlantic
2. Pacific
3. Continental

Commencing in 1948, MATS flew airlift missions into French Indo China, providing support for the French and its Colonial troops fighting the Viet Minh. In 1954, at the request of France, wounded Legionnaires were flown from Dien Bien Phu to France and Algeria. The MATS Pacific Division flew the wounded as far as Travis AFB. Continental and Atlantic Divisions completed the flight to France.

Suggested Aircraft

C124 Globemaster II

Mission Legs

1. Load wounded at Travis AFB, KSUU. Fly to Mason City, KMCW. 1328 nm.
2. Continue flight from Mason City to Westover ARB, KCEF. 917nm.
3. Continue flight from Westover to Gander Int, CYQX. 854 nm.
4. Continue flight from Gandr to Lajes AB, LPLA. 1327 nm.
5. Continue flight from Lajes AB to Paris-Orly, LFPO. Unload patients. 1396 nm

NOTAMS:

Total mission distance 5795 nm.

5 flights required for ribbon credit.

Normal range of C124 aircraft is in excess of the individual flight durations. Mileage has been reduced, as always on medevac flights; to reduce further stress on patients. Pilots should also reduce altitude where possible, for the same reason.