

146 LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

146 Logistics Readiness Squadron

STATIONS

Channel Islands ANG, Port Hueneme, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

146 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Michael N. Dugas

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In, Apr 2008, Chief Master Sgt. Joel Reynoso, Major Abe Quinteros and LTC John Connolly, all of the 146th Logistics Readiness Squadron, returned from a most rewarding experience in Lagos, Nigeria. The effective coordination was conducted by Cpt Clayton Smith from California State Headquarters and Maj Jeffrey Price. Maj Jeffrey Price, the bilateral affairs officer currently

-serving tour in Nigeria, was able to close many of the gaps, making arrangements for the arrival of the California team and supplying many of the necessities for both students and instructors, making the class a success. The overall mission objective was to familiarize members of the Nigerian Air Force with an Overview of the Airlift Affiliation process while contributing to the joint partnership program that continues to bring California and Nigeria even closer together. The class consisted of 20 Nigerian Air Force members varying from supply clerks to C-130 loadmasters to general LRS personnel. Rank structure of the class contained officers up to the grade of colonel, warrant officers and enlisted personnel. All Nigerian senior officers were involved and diplomatic relations were clearly enhanced. The learning environment consisted of approximately 70 percent classroom study and 30 percent field experience. Maj Quinteros and Chief Master Sgt. Reynoso using material from the Airlift Affiliation course that had been taught to our own airman, assembled a lesson to give an overview of material preparation for airlift to load planning a C130E, the cargo aircraft used by the Nigerian Air Force. From the beginning LTC Connolly placed an emphasis on assuring a positive channel of questions and answers throughout the conference. Each day the students were presented with group activities in the planning process of preparing cargo for airlift. From joint inspection, figuring center of balance to paper planning different loads on a C-130E, these practice helped compliment the learning process. To further build on the learning objectives of the day, homework was assigned daily. On the second day the instructors informed the class to come in their work utility uniforms and be prepared for hands instruction. The students were taught to take the center of balance on various vehicles and later in the day the class practiced palletizing material on a 463L pallet. To close the day the class walked out to a C-130. The instructors demonstrated the use of a chain device to secure vehicles to the aircraft floor, as well as, identify pallet positions identified on the aircraft. The lesson on the aircraft helped solidify and demonstrate the importance of proper airlift preparation and the importance of material placement within the aircraft for aircraft center of balance. This hands-on lesson was to prepare students for next days lesson on load planning. The instructors commented that the Nigerian student performance was remarkable. Where they lacked in resources and experience, they made up for in exceptional intelligence as well as determination to learn the subject matter. There was a considerable eagerness to absorb the instructed information from each pupil. In the end, every student finished with a minimum of 90 percent on the final exam. To build on relations between student and instructors, the instructors would join the class for lunch in the base cafeteria. This exchange allowed the students to ask more candid questions about life in the U.S. and know the instructors on a more personnel level. It allowed for good airmen to airmen exchange. Instructors further commented on the hospitality of the base personnel, air base commanders and general population of Lagos. As for future visitations, the Nigerian air command staff remarked that they would be open to any and all future seminars. A student survey was conducted following the seminar resulting in overwhelmingly positive feedback. Student remarks stressed that they learned volumes of information in four days and that they wish there had been more time to continue. There only complaint was that the course was too short. In conclusion, the gain of the trip was monumental. The students repeatedly expressed their gratitude while the Nigerian command staff echoed similar praise while speaking in warm sentiment of the newly enhanced U.S.-Nigerian partnership. The team California team felt they mutually benefited from their experience with the Nigerians citing not

just the Nigerian eagerness and innovation but their commitment to mission objectives.

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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.