

165 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

165 Aerial Port Flight
165 Mobile Aerial Port Flight, 1974
165 Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, Oct 1982
165 Aerial Port Squadron, 5 May 1994

STATIONS

Savannah ANGB, Savannah, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

165 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

2LT Venie E. Brown
2LT Carl K. Bragg
1LT James C. Acton
Maj Ervin D. Meyer
1LT Howard I. Seif
LTC Ervin D Meyer
LTC William Tumlin
LTC Herbert Hall, 1 Dec 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM**MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

In 1968, the National Guard Bureau authorized the formation of the 165th Aerial Port Flight in support of the 165th Military Airlift Group. The commander during 1968 and 1969 was 2nd Lt Venie E. Brown

In 1974, the unit was redesignated the 165th Mobile Aerial Port Flight with a mission change which included the capability to deploy to a bare base environment with the associated mobility equipment authorized. Training and proficiency was increased in order to be prepared for the worldwide deployment of personnel and equipment.

In 1977, while 1LT Howard I. Seif was in command, Mobile Aerial Port unit roles received increased emphasis due to the need for rapid deployment forces support.

In Jan 1978, the unit received a major reorganization with a 50% increase in personnel authorized. Major Erwin D. Meyer assumed command.

In July of 1978, the unit deployed 18 personnel to Rhein-Main Air Base, Germany for field training. Since that initial deployment, the unit has deployed personnel to all points of the world such as Spain, Greece, Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Egypt, Panama, Philippines and many state-side locations.

In October 1982, the unit again was involved in a major reorganization when the personnel strength was increased by 100% going from 62 personnel to 123. The unit was redesignated from a Flight to the 165th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron. This reorganization involved an enormous recruiting and training drive. The unit achieved 90% manning by March 1983.

In addition to our normal field training deployments unit personnel participated in such exercises as Bright Star, Gallant Eagle, European Rotation, Blazing Sky and Reforger.

In March of 1985, by order of the Military Airlift Command, all Mobile Aerial Ports were reduced to 106 personnel.

In May 1987 the Mobile Aerial Port Squadron moved from its long time home in Building 1914 to its present home in Building 1925. This was a brand new facility that allowed for expansion and much better organized operations. The new facility came complete with a "parachute drying tower" and offices with adequate working space. We were, and are, proud of our new home.

November 30, 1987, saw the deployment of 7 personnel from this unit to Quito, Ecuador for humanitarian relief to that country. Personnel worked with members of the Oklahoma Air National Guard and elements from Howard AFB, Panama.

One of the things that the "Port" is extremely proud of is its record during "Operation Desert Shield" and "Operation Desert Storm." From 18 August 1990 to 31 August 1991, 51 personnel were deployed for a total of 3781 man days. The operational order was signed on 12 August and on 18 August, we were some of the first of the Air National Guard to deploy. During these operations our unit members deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany; Rhein Main AB, Germany; Torrejon AB, Spain; Mildenhall RAF, England; Saudi Arabia; Dover AFB, DE; Pope AFB, NC; and McGuire AFB, NJ.

Six members of the "Port" volunteered for disaster relief after Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida. They deployed to Miami for two weeks and assisted in a variety of ways and for which they were awarded the Air Force Humanitarian Service Medal. Their overall perspective of the devastation was, "it was like people picking through a trash heap to try to piece their lives back together again."

Members of the "Port" have been involved in many and varied humanitarian operations throughout the world. From 28 December 1992 until 28 February 1993, five personnel deployed to Dover AFB, Delaware in support of "Operation Restore Hope." During the month of September 1993, four members of the unit deployed to Rhein Main AB, Germany in support of "Operation Provide Promise." In addition, 14 members of the unit deployed to various places in the State of Georgia to help their friends, neighbors and fellow Georgians during "Operation Crested River."

The Squadron began its "Phoenix Ace" training in April of 1993. Major Howard Seif took 13 individuals to Little Rock AFB, AR where they spent two weeks training in combat tactics and defensive methods. Another trip in April of 1994 saw an additional 13 personnel trained in the same scenario.

On the 5th of May 1994, by order of the Adjutant General, William P. Bland, the 165th Mobile Aerial Port Squadron was renamed and re-designated the 165th Aerial Port Squadron. The "MAPS" became "APS" but little else changed. Even though the word "Mobile" is missing from

the name, the unit still has the capability and expertise to deploy and begin immediate operation to any place in the world.

January 22, 1995, began a new humanitarian effort and relationship with MAP International. MAP International is a humanitarian organization in Brunswick, Georgia that ships donated medical relief supplies to all parts of the globe. Working together, MAP and the folks from APS have shipped over 600,000 pounds of relief supplies during 1995. This relationship continues to grow because MAP International knows that it has found a willing and committed partner in caring about others.

After many long months of research and different designs, the "Port" submitted a design for a unit patch. This patch, which is round with the Georgia Flag at the top, Aerial Port symbols of a forklift and parachute at the bottom and the unit statement "Forever Dedicated" was approved on 5 September 1995 and procedures began to have the patches made and purchased for the entire unit. The unit patch was issued to each member during June 1996 UTA.

In May of 1996, eight members of the "Port", along with individuals from the 164th APS, 136th APS, 123rd ALF, and the 179th MSS, were deployed to Rhein Main AB, Germany. These individuals spent one hundred and twenty days in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. While deployed they were also instrumental in making Operation Cooperative Osprey "96 a huge success. Cooperative Osprey "96 was a NATO Partnership for Peace exercise involving fourteen different countries. This exercise involved a tremendous amount of logistical planning, implementation, and international public relations.

In February of 1997, one individual of the "Port" was deployed to Tuzlia, Bosnia with Operation Joint Guard to serve as a supervisor with the Air Terminal Operation Center.

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit yearbook. *165 Tactical Airlift Group, Georgia Air National Guard, Savannah, GA, 1946-1984.*

Unit yearbook. *Georgia Air National Guard History, 1941-2000*