

305th AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The men and women of the 305th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron provide combat-ready, worldwide deployable personnel. The 305 AMXS performs scheduled and unscheduled organizational-level maintenance for all transient and 13 assigned C-17A aircraft valued at \$2.8 billion.

LINEAGE

305th Periodic Maintenance Squadron
Redesignated 305th Organizational Maintenance Squadron, 1959
Redesignated 305th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL, 16 Jun 1952-1 Jun 1959
Bunker Hill AFB, later Grissom AFB, IN, 1 Jun 1959
McGuire AFB, NJ

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

William A. Utley, #1954
LTC Dan Lang

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 305th Periodic Maintenance Squadron was activated at MacDill AFB, 2 January 1951, and was designated The 4221st Organizational Maintenance Squadron. It was assigned the mission of accomplishing high quality, major inspections and maintenance on all aircraft in the Wing as required. As the Wing was then equipped with the B-29 of World War II fame, this was no easy job. However, the Squadron turned in an efficient job.

Major Aaron Z. Bessant was the original commander of the 4221st Organizational Maintenance Squadron and guided it thru the hectic days of organization. He was succeeded by Lt. Col. Dale A. Benadom in December 1951. In January 1952, Lt. Col. Benadom was succeeded by Major Henry M. Kundig.

On 16 June 1952, the 4221st was redesignated as the 305th Periodic Maintenance Squadron. The mission remained the same. In October 1952 the Wing was re-equipped with B-47 aircraft. The change from reciprocating engine to jet powered aircraft involved a complete retraining of all Squadron maintenance personnel, both officers and airmen.

The Squadron accomplished the change over with a versatility that made it a credit to the 305th Wing, and an asset to the Strategic Air Command. Major Kundig remained in command until February 1954, at which time he was reassigned to Sedalia AFB, Missouri. The present Squadron Commander, Major William A. Utley, assumed command at that time.

The 305th Periodic Maintenance Squadron was the first maintenance squadron in the Strategic Air Command to test under actual working conditions the Preplanned Inspection system under a centralized control. Even though the system developed numerous "snags", the hard work and initiative of Squadron maintenance men evolved an efficient operation. Under this system, the time aircraft were out of commission for inspections was reduced from eight to three and one half days.

One of the big obstacles effectively overcome by the Squadron in initiating the new system, was a requirement for an entirely new and different type of maintenance work stands and docks, to fit the B-47 and KC-97 aircraft. The versatile mechanics of the Squadron went into the construction

business and built from the ground up, five docks, which are in use today.

The Squadron is now operating two KC-97 tanker docks and four B-47 docks under the Preplanned Inspection system, which has been accepted as standard throughout the Strategic Air Command and in several other USAF commands.

In September 1953, the 305th PeT. Maint. Sq. left MacDill AFB for a period of TOY in the United Kingdom. This was the first overseas training deployment attempted by a maintenance Squadron in which the organization was to operate on a "split" basis. B-47's were maintained at Brize Norton RAF base and KC-97's were maintained at Mildenhall RAF base in the United Kingdom. All maintenance and inspection support required by the wing was accomplished efficiently and ahead of schedule. The Squadron returned to MacDill in December 1953 with the deployment and "split" overseas operation proved a complete success.

The 305th Periodic Maintenance Squadron is a "working" Squadron. As in all maintenance organizations, the glamor of actual flying of aircraft is missing, however, the men of the Squadron achieve their greatest satisfaction from knowing that they are providing the Wing with safe, combat ready aircraft in the best tradition of the United States Air Force.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

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