

## 437<sup>th</sup> MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 437th Maintenance Squadron is responsible for the maintenance of 51 assigned C-17A aircraft worth more than \$10 billion dollars. MXS primarily performs back shop and flightline support to include structural, avionic, hydraulic, electrical, environmental, survival, and fuels maintenance. Additionally, we conduct scheduled Home Station Check (HSC) inspections, Non-Destructive Inspections (NDI), and Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) support. Our world-class Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory supports Test Measurement & Diagnostic Equipment maintenance for the entire region. Furthermore, our maintenance flight produces time critical wheel and tire assemblies for locations around the world.

The 437th Maintenance Squadron (MXS) consist of seven flights which include 14 unique sections. Our no-fail mission is about providing safe, reliable aircraft and delivering uncompromised combat capability to the war fighter--absolutely anywhere in the world. MXS is composed of over 500 combat-ready maintainers and support personnel, comprised of Active Duty, Civilian, and Air Reserve Technician components. They inspect service, maintain, and support assigned C-17 aircraft and associated equipment at Charleston Air Force Base, SC. These maintainers enable aircraft to perform global airlift missions ranging from combat support operations and humanitarian relief to aeromedical evacuations. The squadron is also responsible for maintenance around the world through AEF and short-notice deployments in support of any mission, anywhere.

### LINEAGE

437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, Troop Carrier, Medium constituted, 10 May 1949

Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949

Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, 1 Mar 1950

Ordered to Active Service, 10 Aug 1950

Inactivated, 10 Jun 1952

Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron, 8 Nov 1954  
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957  
Activated on 27 Dec 1965  
Organized on 8 Jan 1966  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 1 Aug 1990  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron on 1 Aug 1994  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 1 Apr 1997  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron,

### **STATIONS**

Chicago-Orchard (later, O'Hare Field-Chicago International) Airport, IL, 27 Jun 1949  
Shaw AFB, SC, 14 Aug 1950-16 Oct 1950  
Brady Field, Japan, 8 Nov 1950-10 Jun 1952  
O'Hare International Airport, IL, 15 Jun 1952-16 Nov 1957  
Charleston AFB, SC, 8 Jan 1966

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance and Supply Group, 27 Jun 1949-10 June 1952; 15 Jun 1952-16  
Nov 1957  
Military Air Transport Service, 27 Dec 1965-8 Jan 1966  
437<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966-1 Oct 1991  
437<sup>th</sup> Logistics (later, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance) Group, 1 Oct 1991

### **COMMANDERS**

#### **HONORS**

##### **Service Streamers**

##### **Campaign Streamers**

##### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor  
11 Sep 2001-30 Jun 2003

##### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

[8 Jan]-31 May 1966  
11 Jul 1966-10 Jul 1967  
11 Jul 1967-10 Jun 1968  
11 Jul 1968-12 Jun 1969  
13 Jun 1969-12 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1972-30 June 1973  
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984  
1 Jun 1984-30 Jun 1986  
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1989  
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1990  
21 Sep-31 Oct 1989  
1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995  
1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997  
1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1998  
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000  
1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012

### EMBLEM

437<sup>th</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron emblem: On a background of the day and night sky, indicating round-the-clock operations, a hand holding an aircraft appears as a symbol of the squadron's mission of support in keeping the aircraft flying. The triangle is an ancient Egyptian symbol, its three points representing the sun, moon, and stars. It is used to signify the heavens, from where our help comes. The motto expresses the spirit of our personnel. The emblem bears the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow. (Approved on 27 September 1966)



437<sup>TH</sup> Maintenance Squadron emblem: On a disc per pale Azure and Celeste, in the first a formation of five mullets and a crescent moon all Argent, in the second a demi sun in splendour Or; all within a narrow border Azure. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "AD EXACTA CAPACES" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "437TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The background of day and night sky indicates around-the-clock maintenance operations. The sun resembles a compass rose, symbolizing the

Squadron's mission of support in keeping the unit's aircraft flying worldwide. The stars are in a constellation cluster, representing the teamwork required among Active Duty and Air Reserve component officer and enlisted members and civilians to make the mission happen. The motto, "AD EXACTA CAPACES," in Latin translates to "CAN DO" in English. The motto expresses the spirit of unit personnel.

### **MOTTO**

AD EXACTA CAPACES--Can Do (To Exact Standards)

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

In the past year, the men and women of the 437/315 MXS, active duty, reservists, and civilians alike, have surpassed the very highest expectations. With each and every day that passes, the "Mavericks" continue to improve processes, streamline procedures, and exude the squadron's slogan of "Only the Best!" That slogan, and its underlying themes, run rampant throughout the squadron and are embraced by the outstanding personnel assigned. Our team's flawless flightline and back shop support spurred a record 13,916 global mobility missions supporting 51,606 flying hours. Amazingly, Team Charleston boasted a 95% worldwide maintenance departure reliability-rate recognized as the best in AMC strategic airlift. Amazingly we achieved these phenomenal successes despite flying the oldest C-17s in the fleet. We did it through teamwork and by reaching for the STARS: Safety, Training, Attitude, Readiness, and Standards.

The AMC Logistics Quality Mgmt Office noted that the 62 AW (Norton AFB) would replace the 97 AW (Altus AFB) in the TF33 C-141 engine two-level maintenance test (Coral Thrust) scheduled to begin 1 April 1993. The 437 AW, one of two bases originally selected for the test, remained a participant. Coral Thrust was "to demonstrate how engine two-level maintenance (would) work, to measure the processes, and to identify the repair cost. The test was to run until 1 Oct 93. Col Robert Wilson, 437th Logistics Gp cmdr, travelled to Tinker AFB to attend planning meetings regarding the test program. (see 1 Apr/3 Jun 93 entries) 14 Jan 1993

The 437th Equipment Maintenance Sq completed its first extensive repair of a TF-33 engine aft cowl door under the depot-level reparable (DLR) program. If the item was sent not-reparable this station to the depot, the wing would have incurred a cost of \$33,000 in repair and transportation charges. The aircraft structural maintenance section accomplished the repair for only \$1,936. 28 Feb 1993

---

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Aug 2011

Updated:

### Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.