

603rd DIRECT AIR SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

603rd Direct Air Support Squadron operated a number of two man mobile Air Liaison Officer Forward Air Controller teams attached to the US Army 7th Division at Camp Casey

LINEAGE

603rd Direct Air Support Squadron activated, 15 May 1968
Inactivated, 1 May 1970

STATIONS

Osan AB, South Korea, 15 May 1968-15 Jan 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

5th Tactical Control Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The teams with radio mounted jeeps for direct voice contact with aircraft pilots accompanied Army units on patrols along the Korean De-Militarised Zone DMZ and were tasked with calling in and controlling USAF ground attack aircraft for close air support for the ground units in the event of hostilities. Patrols were undertaken along rough ground tracks adjacent to the DMZ and the teams had to be on high alert because of the volatile aggressive nature of North Korea which had never declared the Korean War as over and with patrols sometimes encountering fire from the North Korean side of the DMZ. As well as patrolling the teams learnt their local terrain to identify and select with the Army the best vantage points for operation and undertook regular FAC exercises with the US Army and ROK Army including live fire operations.

Forward Air Controller Aircraft for Korea. Crews from the 603 DASS ferried the first six O-2A aircraft from Itazuke Air Base, Japan, to Osan Air Base, Korea, on 28 April, giving PACAF an airborne FAC capability in Korea. Prior to the arrival of the O-2s, all forward air controllers in Korea had been jeep-mounted. A total of 28 aircraft, representing the last shipment of O-2As for Southeast Asia, were diverted to Itazuke for subsequent assignment to the 603d.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

