

## 615<sup>th</sup> CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

615 Contingency Response Wing

### STATIONS

Travis AFB, CA

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

### EMBLEM

Azure, an eagle descending from sinister chief Proper alighting upon a lightning bolt bendwise sinister abased Or issuant from base a demi-globe of the first gridlined Argent, all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "615TH CONTINGENCY RESPONSE WING" in Yellow 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 eagle suggests the global reach capabilities of the unit. The lightning flash reflects global power and the Wing's ability to mobilize and support resources in contingency, humanitarian and wartime missions. The globe symbolizes the unit's functions of linking resources and manpower worldwide.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

About a month after its formal stand up, one of Air Mobility Command's two new contingency response wings sent a team to Afghanistan to establish a new bare base airfield for Italian troops at Herat. The 47-member team, primarily from the 621st Contingency Response Wing, McGuire AFB, N.J., was expected to complete the operation in less than 45 days.

The McGuire unit was the first of two CRWs created by AMC to provide USAF with rapid air base set-up units, primarily comprising aerial port, command and control, maintenance, and security force personnel.

AMC on April 11 formally activated the second unit the 615th CRW at Travis AFB, Calif.

Depending on the mission, these wings also can deploy intelligence special investigations, medical, finance weather, and contracting personnel, according to USAF officials. For instance, to fill out the contingency response element working on the Herat base, the 621st CRW drew a finance NCO from Travis and a four-person medical team from MacDill AFB, Fla. 2005

4/14/2005 - TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. When the 615th Contingency Response Wing stood up here April 11, the mobility mission of 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force's expanded along with it. "The activation of CRWs and associated groups at Travis and McGuire (Air Force Base, N.J.) is not only historic, but clearly signals our resolve to posture our mobility forces for rapid base opening operations anywhere in the world," said Lt. Gen. William Welser I Force commander. Lessons learned from operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom drove the need for an integral "base opening" construct. Ad hoc teams lacked the understanding of how each part of a base-opening team integrates together. "Contingency response groups deliver a cohesive group of functional experts trained together to open the base. They'll be light, lean and quick to deploy and employ," said Col. Brooks Bash, 15th EMTF commander. The concept of the groups, developed at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in 1999, teams people from a broad spectrum of job specialties to fully assess and open new air bases at a moment's notice. It was a revelation in mindset compared to the old concept of sending makeshift groups of people to support the air operations portion of a bare base, Air Mobility Command officials said. While the groups do not actually seize the airfields, they are responsible for setting up the ensuing air base operations and necessary support functions for a deployed location. "CRG is a full-spectrum force," Colonel Bash said. "Whether opening an air base for combat forces or humanitarian relief forces, the CRG delivers base-opening capability worldwide with rapid and immediate results." "With the ever-increasing expeditionary nature of

modern warfare, Air Mobility Command must be organized to quickly and effectively open airfields and conduct continuous air mobility operations anywhere in the world," said Gen. John W. Handy, commander of AMC and U.S. Transportation Command. "The creation of CRWs moves us another step closer to an appropriate construct from which to shape and manage the future of our contributions to the nation's warfighting capabilities." Much like the value of an all-star team compared to a pickup squad, combatant commanders now have the first team ready to go at a moment's notice.

**From Touchdown to Healing Touch:** In a two-day trial held at Travis AFB, Calif., members of the 615th Contingency Response Wing and 60th Medical Group demonstrated the value of the Air Force's Expeditionary Medical Support Health Response Team concept currently under development. Within three hours of arriving at the mock disaster scene, these airmen were treating patients. Some 12 hours later, they had a newly erected medical facility running. The 38-member team, with its palletized hospital, is transportable in two C-17s and "designed to be mobile but fully functional," with disaster-response capability on par with a fixed hospital, said Col. Scott Russi, team commander during the demo. Though a "little tweaking" remains to optimize the team's equipment, the concept potentially adds "great capability to the Air Force medical service," said Col. Elmo Robison, Air Combat Command's expeditionary medical ops chief. 2011

**Restructuring Air Mobility:** Air Mobility Command will restructure some functions of the 18th Air Force and the US Air Force Expeditionary Center in an effort to become more effective and efficient. Headquarters, 15th Expeditionary Mobility Task Force, and Headquarters, 615th Contingency Response Wing—both located at Travis AFB, Calif.—will be inactivated. As will the 21st Expeditionary Mobility Task Force at JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J. The 615th CRW's subordinate units will remain at Travis, but will now fall under the EC within the 621st CRW at JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. The restructure also calls for the realignment of 18th Air Force's two Air Mobility Operations Wings—the 515th AMOW at JB Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, and the 521st AMOW at Ramstein AB, Germany. Those wings will fall under the EC, as will the 621st CRW, which is currently aligned under the 21 EMTF. "The reduction of 18th Air Force's span of control allows for greater focus on its mission to present operational flying air mobility forces to US Transportation Command," said Lt. Gen. Mark Ramsay, 18th Air Force Commander. "Ultimately, it will allow the 18th Air Force to put greater focus on the flying mission while the Expeditionary Center focuses on our contingency response, expeditionary combat support training, enroute and installation support, and building partnerships missions." 2011

**From Two to One:** Officials at Travis AFB, Calif., inactivated the 615th Contingency Response Wing, ending the unit's seven years of operations, according to a base release. The move leaves the Air Force with one consolidated unit, the 621st CRW at JB McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., to oversee the service's airmen who are specially trained to rapidly set up air bases and conduct airfield operations at austere locations around the world. "The 621st CRW must remain ready to answer the call whenever and wherever across the globe it comes," said Maj. Gen. William Bender, commander of the Air Force Expeditionary Center at McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, during the May 29 inactivation ceremony. The center oversees the 621st CRW, which assumed control of the 615th

CRW's two contingency response groups and one contingency operations support group, according to Travis' release. 2012

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 13 Aug 2011

Updated:

Sources

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