

787 AIR EXPEDITIONARY SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

787 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943

Activated, 1 Aug 1943

Redesignated 787 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945

Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945

Redesignated 787 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 9 Feb 1965 and activated (not organized)

Organized, 1 Apr 1965

Inactivated, 20 Jun 1965

Redesignated 787 Air Expeditionary Squadron and converted to provisional status, 24 Apr 2006

Activated, Jul 2006

Activated, 18 Nov 2014

Inactivated, 13 Feb 2015

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Aug 1943

Kearns, UT, 31 Aug 1943

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 30 Nov 1943-10 Feb 1944

Attlebridge, England, 9 Mar 1944-Jul 1945

Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 15 Jul 1945

Pueblo AAB, CO, 25 Jul 1945

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 26 Aug-17 Oct 1945

Eglin AFB, FL, 1 Apr–20 Jun 1965

Karadje, Niger, Jul 2006

Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport, Sengal, 18 Nov 2014 – 13 Feb 2015

ASSIGNMENTS

466 Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1943-17 Oct 1945

Tactical Air Command, 9 Feb 1965 (not organized)

33 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Apr–20 Jun 1965

United States Air Forces Europe to activate or inactivate as needed after 24 Apr 2006

ATTACHMENTS

86 Airlift Wing, July 2006

435 Air Ground Operations Wing, 18 Nov 2014 – 13 Feb 2015

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945

B-29, 1945

F-4

C-130J

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 22 Mar 1944-25 Apr 1945

DAKAR, Senegal More than 35 Airmen and two C-130J Super Hercules from Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, arrived here this week to establish the 787th Air Expeditionary Squadron and to fly humanitarian cargo into Liberia as part of Operation United Assistance, the mission to fight Ebola in West Africa. The Dyess AFB Airmen, all from the 317th Airlift Group and 7th Bomb Wing, joined forces with more than 70 Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group, who have been operating a cargo hub at Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport in Dakar since Oct. 5. The 787th AES flew its first sortie into Liberia Nov. 4, airlifting more than 8 tons of medical equipment, stretchers, blood, bleach and other supplies, according to Lt. Col. Michael Brock, a C-130 pilot and the squadron's commander. "Our airlift mission here is extremely important, particularly as the number of deployed U.S. forces continues to increase," Brock said. "We will be flying daily sorties into the affected areas to deliver supplies and equipment that are mission essential, both to the sustainment of troops and to ongoing efforts to contain and eliminate the Ebola outbreak.

"The 787th (AES) is executing a noble mission," he continued. "I'm very proud of the team and their professionalism as we've stood up our squadron here. We're excited to work with the 123rd CRG and build on the foundation they've established in Dakar." Two more C-130s and about 90 additional Airmen are expected to arrive from Dyess AFB and Little Rock AFB, Arkansas, in the coming weeks, bringing the 787th to full operational capacity for its 120-day mission by the end of the month. The 787th's Airmen are working in close partnership with their Kentucky Air Guard colleagues, whose primary task is to offload cargo arriving in Senegal by 747 aircraft, stage it for forward movement, and upload it to Dyess C-130s for delivery to Liberia. Since Oct. 5, the Kentucky troops -- augmented by six active-duty Airmen from Travis AFB, California, and Joint Base Maguire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey -- have coordinated flights for 128 military and civilian-contract aircraft, processed 336 passengers and handled over 600 tons of cargo.

"I couldn't be more pleased by what our Airmen have accomplished in such a short period of time," said Col. David Mounkes, the commander of the 123rd CRG and Joint Task Force-Port Opening Senegal. "It is especially gratifying to know that we're part of a much larger, global effort to render assistance to people who need our help fighting a horrible disease that has claimed more than 4,000 lives." "Our unit was created to respond to contingencies of all kinds, from wartime taskings to natural disasters," he said. "Every Airman in the group volunteered to join because he or she wanted to be a part of something that can deliver aid where it's needed, when it's needed, as efficiently as possible. This is what we do, and we feel privileged to be able to do it." The Air Force operations in Senegal are part of a massive "whole-of-government" approach to Operation United Assistance, directed by the U.S. Agency for International Development and incorporating a broad array of federal agencies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to the Department of Defense.

The U.S. military has committed approximately 3,900 troops to support the mission. They will staff medical laboratories, provide training to local health-care workers, and build up to 17 100-bed Ebola Treatment Units and a 25-bed hospital. More than 1,600 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen,

Marines, DOD civilian employees and contractors are currently deployed to Senegal and Liberia in support of Operation United Assistance. 2014

Members of the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group recently transferred control of a humanitarian cargo hub in Senegal to a relief group. The Ebola-response mission was initially set to last 45-to-60 days, Maj. Dale Greer, spokesman for the Joint Task Force-Port Opening Senegal, told Air Force Magazine in October, shortly after the unit's arrival. While in the country, the unit established an international staging base to help route supplies and equipment from the airport into the affected areas, processed more than 750 tons of relief supplies for airlift to Liberia, and "ensure[d] capabilities [were] rapidly provided to the affected region and to health care providers," Greer said.

The humanitarian operation will continue at the Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport, despite the 123rd CRG's departure. The 787th Air Expeditionary Squadron will take it from this point. "As one of the first Air Force assets in theater, the 123rd Contingency Response Group's mission was to open an airfield for military cargo operations, establish an aerial port of debarkation, and hand off the operation to follow-on forces within 60 days," said David Mounkes, commander of the 123rd, in a release. 2014

DAKAR, Senegal — Airmen from the Kentucky Air National Guard's 123rd Contingency Response Group transferred control of a humanitarian cargo hub to replacement forces Nov. 18, successfully completing their support of an Ebola-response mission that has processed more than 750 tons of relief supplies for airlift into Liberia. While the Kentucky unit's role is winding down as its members prepare to redeploy to the United States, the humanitarian cargo operation will continue at Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport under the direction of the new troops — more than 70 Airmen assigned to the 787th Air Expeditionary Squadron.

"As one of the first Air Force assets in theater, the 123rd Contingency Response Group's mission was to open an airfield for military cargo operations, establish an Aerial Port of Debarkation, and hand off the operation to follow-on forces within 60 days," explained David Mounkes, commander of the 123rd. "We've now completed that mission, and the 787th is ready to take over. I know they will do a superb job." Lt. Col. Michael Brock, commander of the 787th, expressed his gratitude to the men and women of the Kentucky Air Guard for their "outstanding stewardship" of the aerial port from its inception.

"I'd like to express our sincere thanks to the 123rd CRG for shaping the environment for future success," Brock said. "Due to their exceptional professionalism, our Airmen are fully prepared to carry on this mission without missing a beat, delivering equipment and supplies to Liberia that are essential for combating an Ebola outbreak that has claimed over 5,000 lives." Mounkes said he was proud of his forces, which include more than 70 Air Guardsmen from Louisville, Kentucky, and seven active-duty Airmen from Travis Air Force Base, California, and Joint Base Maguire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. Those Airmen arrived in Senegal Oct. 4 to find a bare-base facility consisting of little more than two empty buildings and a vacant lot situated next to an airport taxiway.

From that, the Airmen built a fully operational aerial port in less than 24 hours, supplying their own satellite-based voice and data communications, electric power generation, airfield command-and-control capability, all-terrain forklifts, specialized cargo-handling equipment and

aircraft maintenance assets. "I could not be more pleased with what our Airmen accomplished here in a rapidly changing, dynamic environment," Mounkes said. "They hit the ground running and never let up, getting critically important humanitarian cargo and troop-support equipment downrange to help fight the worst Ebola outbreak in history."

That cargo, which arrived in Senegal aboard civilian 747s and U.S. Air Force C-17 and KC-10 cargo aircraft, included items like tents, latex gloves, human blood, stretchers, electric generators, and food and water. Airmen from the 123rd worked around-the-clock to offload cargo as it arrived, prioritize it for forward movement, and upload it to U.S. Air Force C-130s for final delivery in Liberia. Since beginning operations in Senegal, the Kentucky Airmen have coordinated the movements of 188 in-bound and out-bound aircraft, processed 809 passengers for airlift and handled 754.9 tons of cargo, Mounkes said.

"The U.S. Government's response to this outbreak is a massive commitment of resources from multiple federal agencies, all under the direction of the U.S. Agency for International Development," Mounkes noted. "The Department of Defense alone has committed to deploying nearly 4,000 forces to build multiple Ebola treatment facilities in Liberia, staff medical laboratories and train local health-care workers. "That kind of response requires a tremendous level of logistical support, and I'm proud to say that our Airmen played a central role in establishing the air bridge needed to provide it."

Mounkes also expressed his appreciation to the people and government of Senegal for their support throughout the deployment. "The Senegalese Military and the High Airport Authority continue to be essential partners in this effort, and their contributions have been fundamental to the success of the mission in every way," he said. For many of the deployed Kentucky Air Guardsmen, Operation United Assistance has been one of the high points of their careers. "It's really satisfying to know that all the cargo we sent to Liberia is going to help people who need it," said Capt. Matt Skeens, the 123rd's logistics readiness officer.

"It's been a lot of hard work, but it's absolutely worth it when you know you're making a direct impact on people's lives. This mission has been one of the most rewarding things I've ever done." Master Sgt. Charles Wilding agreed. "I think the entire CRG has done astounding things here," said Wilding, non-commissioned officer in charge of aerial port operations. "Working with all the different entities, including the U.S. Army and the Defense Logistics Agency, has been a real pleasure. Everyone put forth maximum effort, and we all came together like a big family to deliver a lot of support downrange. "2014

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.