

939 OPERATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

939 Operations Group established and activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Portland Intl Aprt, OR, 1 Aug 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

939 Rescue (later 939 Air Refueling)Wing, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

MH-60, 1992

UH-60, 1992-1993

HH-60, 1992

HC-130, 1992

KC-135

COMMANDERS

LTC Frederick E. Stovel, 1 Aug 1992

Unkn, 9 Mar-15 May 1993

Col William P. Kane, 16 May 1993

Col Orel W. Carper, 24 Sep 1995

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1993-31 Aug 1995

1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999

1 Sep 1999-31 Aug 2001

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained for combat search and rescue, as well as performed search and rescue (SAR) and medical airlift missions primarily in the western United States. In addition, deployed aircrews to augment active duty SAR coverage primarily at Keflavik, Iceland and the Persian Gulf area, 1992-.

More than 500 people attended a formal ceremony in Portland, Ore., May 6 during which three of the 939th Air Refueling Wing's subordinate units were inactivated. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission mandated the drawdown. During the ceremony, wing Reservists, distinguished guests from Oregon and Washington, veterans, and family members witnessed the encasing of the 939th Operations Group, 939th Maintenance Group and 83rd Aerial Port Squadron's flags and guidons. The act symbolized the closure of the units and the end of 45 years of service in the Pacific Northwest.

"It's a tough thing to do — to close a wing — and we're doing it in several places," said Lt. Gen. John Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command and the presiding officer for the ceremony. "We've been here as the 939th for more than 45 years and had Reservists operating out of Portland for 50 years. It's a very hard thing for us to have to move out." The general explained the cost savings realized through base realignment and closure actions does stand to benefit the service in the long term. However, the downside, he said, comes in the form of Reservists being moved out of a number of communities across America, thus diminishing the ties Citizen Airmen have with those they serve and protect.

This is a unit of dedicated professional and highly trained Airmen. You've flown thousands of sorties and offloaded millions of gallons of jet fuel to refuel airplanes that are defending America and helping those forces in combat." General Bradley issued a personal thanks to the 939th members for "every single day spent away from jobs and families." He concluded his remarks by saying, "I understand the pain of leaving a great unit. ... leaving a great community. We've done it in a lot of places recently, and I can't think of anything I like doing less. I want you to know your leadership appreciates you and what you do. My prayers are with you."

In a final show of recognition, General Bradley presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award streamer to Col. William N. Flanigan, commander of the 939th ARW, who, in turn, placed it on the wing's flag.

“This ceremony marks the closure of a chapter in the long and storied history of the Reserve here at Portland,” Colonel Flanigan said. The Air Force Reserve assigned the mission of global air refueling to the 939th in April 2003. At the same time, it designated the 304th Rescue Squadron (also at Portland) a geographically separated unit responsible for combat search and rescue. The 304th RQS is scheduled to continue operating after the closure of the wing. The remaining units of the 939th will close in June 2008. 2007

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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