

# **1620 TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING (PROVISIONAL)**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

1620 Tactical Airlift Wing (Provisional)

## **STATIONS**

Abu Dhabi Bateen, UAE

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Early in the decade, Desert Shield, the allied response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, called the 314<sup>th</sup> into action. The unit's resources were used to form the 1620th Tactical Airlift Wing, Provisional (TAW, P) for the operation.

On August 14, 1990, sixteen 314th C-130E's and 422 personnel (87 aircrew, 335 support crew) departed for Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The 1620<sup>th</sup> contributed sixteen operational aircraft to the Gulf War. Six would be relieved by six reserve 314th C-130' s at a later point - bringing the total number of 314th C-130's deployed to the Gulf War to twenty-two.

On August 21, 522 additional base personnel flew to the Gulf in a Boeing 747 from the Civil Reserve Fleet. One hundred of the service men and women, including 30 medical specialists from the base hospital, were delivered to Bateen Air Base, Saudi Arabia. The remainder were delivered to twelve other locations in the region. This addition brought Little Rock Air Force Base's contribution to the Gulf War to 944 personnel. These personnel were from the 314<sup>th</sup> Supply Squadron, 314th CSG, 314th Transportation Squadron, 314th Services Squadron, 314th CES, 314<sup>th</sup> ACS, 314th Security Police Squadron, 314th Comptroller Squadron, 50th T AS, 2nd MAPS, 17th WS Detachment 20, and the 189th AANG.

During "Desert Shield," the 314th contingent moved 15,456 passengers and 17,351.5 tons of cargo in 1,436 missions flown over 8,765 flight hours. Medical personnel from the base hospital supported medical operations in their areas of assignment. To save the crews from boredom during their long hot Saudi nights, local librarians gathered 5,000 books and sent them to the Gulf.

"Operation Desert Storm" began on January 17, 1991, with a massive aerial assault on Iraqi forces in the Persian Gulf. During the 38-day bombing effort, the 314th' s workload increased, reaching a peak between January 18 and 24 as the allies prepared for invasion. During this "Surge," the 314th moved 2,427 passengers and 1,313 tons of cargo with 97.9% of their payloads arriving on time.

On February 24, the ground assault began. During a 100-hour wheeling movement through the Iraqi desert, the 314th delivered 8,506 passengers and 6,214.3 tons of cargo to forward areas. Overwhelming force crushed the Iraqi resolve, and tired Iraqi soldiers surrendered in droves. On February 28, a 314<sup>th</sup> (1620th) TAW C-130E was the third allied aircraft to land in Kuwait City after hostilities ceased. With the Iraqi situation temporarily under control, the 314th contingent withdrew to Little Rock Air Force Base on March 27, 1991, shedding its 1620th TAWP designation.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit history. Little Rock AFB, AR. *Heartland, The History of Little Rock AFB*. Timothy Burford and Stephanie Burford. WireStorm Publishing. Las Vegas, NV. 2002.