

## 80 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



### MISSION

The mission of the 80 Aerial Port Squadron is to deploy trained personnel and serviceable equipment to provide aerial support of airland operations in high threat areas; augment aerial port of embarkation/aerial port of debarkation; and operate unit move, on-load and off-load locations.

### LINEAGE

80 Aerial Port Squadron constituted, 25 Jun 1971  
Activated in the Reserve on 1 Apr 1972  
Redesignated 80 Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, 1 Dec 1975  
Redesignated 80 Aerial Port Squadron, 15 Dec 1993

### STATIONS

Dobbins AFB (later, Dobbins ARB), GA, 1 Apr 1972

### ASSIGNMENTS

Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Apr 1972  
94 Tactical Airlift (later, 94 Airlift) Wing, 8 Oct 1976  
94 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992  
94 Mission Support Group

### COMMANDERS

Lt Col Daniel W. Brinks  
Capt Paul Riley  
Maj David L. Roberts  
Lt Col Joe Bingham, 8 Dec 1990

Lt Col Larry N. Goff, 1 Oct 1991  
Lt Col William Hearnberg, 1 Aug 1992  
Lt Col Larry N. Goff, 30 Oct 1993  
Maj David W. Peltola, 1 Aug 1998  
Maj Marshall S. Irvin, Jr., 2 Mar 2003  
Lt Col John L. Fitter, 29 Mar 2004  
Lt Col Todd R. Laughman, 3 Jun 2006  
Lt Col Detlef Klann, 3 Aug 2008 (Interim)  
Maj Timothy Pertuis, 1 Mar 2010  
Maj Teresa Dutcher  
Maj Kelly Bronson, 2 Feb 2013  
Lt Col Susan McMullen  
Lt Col Ben Walker, 2016  
Lt Col Craig Bolding, Dec 2020

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8 Oct 1976-30 Nov 1977

1 Jan 1981-31 Dec 1982

1 Jan 1984-31 Jul 1985

15 Aug 1987-14 Aug 1989

30 Aug 1990-29 Aug 1992

16 Aug 1992-15 Aug 1994

16 Aug 1995-15 Aug 1997

## **EMBLEM**



On a blue disc, a bald eagle proper in flight grasping a green forklift with black tires between a yellow stylized aircraft bends sinisterwise in dexter chief and a yellow lightning flash arcing to base in sinister base; all within a narrow yellow border. Attached below the disc a blue scroll edged with a narrow yellow border. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 and the forklift represent the basic mission of the unit, that of moving cargo in the most proficient and economical means possible. The lightning bolt, a symbol of speed and quickness, refers to the manner in which the unit carries out its mission. (Approved, 24 Mar 1988)

80 Aerial Port Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, above an arched lightning bolt in dexter base Or and a stylized aircraft affronté bendwise sinister Argent in sinister base a bald eagle affronté wings elevated and displayed Proper; all within a narrow Black border. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "80TH AERIAL PORT SQ" in Black letters. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "MOVING FREEDOM" in Black 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 bald eagle commemorates the unit's personnel as people of action and courage in accomplishing their mission in unpredictable environments. The aircraft illustrates the mission of the unit—transporting cargo through proficient and expedient means. The lightning bolt symbolizes the speed and reach with which the unit carries out its mission throughout the globe. (Approved, 22 Sep 2021)

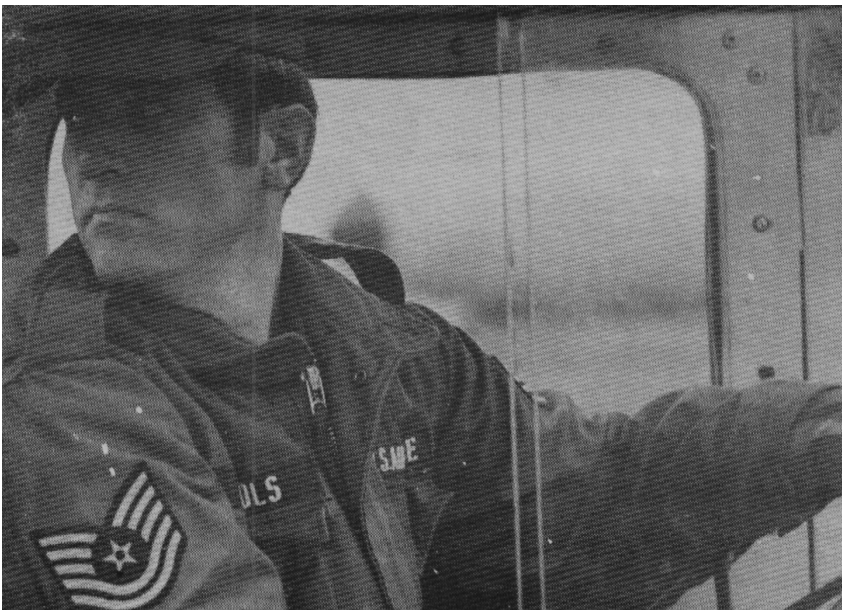
**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**



SSgt Wallace Ross, 80 APS operates a 10k forklift loading aircraft at Rhein-Main (USAF photo)



TSgt Harold Echols, 80 APS backing up a 40K loading while loading freight on the ramp at Rhein Main. 1975 (USAF photo)



TSgt Jon Burton, 80 APS operating a 10K forklift on the ramp loading freight at Rhein-Main. (USAF photos)



SSgt Jackie Brown working the passenger process desk for departing passengers at Rhein Main. 1975 (USAF photo)



TSgt Harold Echols, SSgt Allen West, SSgt Wallace Ross, MSgt Robert C. Duckworth, and SSgt Stephenson Cagle talk the day's schedule over on the working ramp at Rhein Main. (USAF Photo)

All reserve training requirements were accomplished this quarter including the annual tour. Twenty-four members deployed to Rhein-Main AB, Germany from April 1-15 to perform their annual training. Twenty-two personnel fulfilled their training at Dobbins from June 13-17 1978

From 29 July to 12 August twenty-two personnel performed two weeks annual tour at Dover AFB, DE. While there they participated in the bases ORI and were converted to 12-hour shifts. During the other UTAs in August and September the unit was mainly involved with MHE and upgrade training. 1978



80 APS member guiding a 10K All Terrain forklift unto a trailer. (USAF photo)



80 APS member recovering a bundle (USAF photo)



80 APS personnel loading a CDS unto a Deuce and Half. (USAF photo)

A mobility exercise was conducted 13 April and 28 April 1984 at Dobbins AFB. All Wing units at Dobbins (with the exception of the 79 APS and 80 MAPS) were tasked for the April 13th exercise, with 3U9 members and 45,158 pounds of cargo scheduled to be processed. The 79th and 80th were not involved as they did not pull their UTA with us that weekend. They were, however, involved during the 28th exercise, during which 77 persons were processed with 15 of the 80 MAPS members actually deploying to Panama. The exercise was for personnel processing only; no equipment was tasked.

1986 From the 80 MAPS, 30 airmen participated in training at Lawson AAF, Georgia, Barnett DZ, Alabama, and Savannah, Georgia, accomplished 32 drops and recovered training bundles. This training familiarized personnel with a number of pieces of material handling equipment, plus indoctrinated them with the aerial spray mission. In addition, two people completed active duty tours during this period. Other Members of the 80th MAPS received much training during the first half of 1987. Some of the training includes load planning, OJT documentation, airlift planning, ammunition courier duties reporting and countering the hostile human resources and COMSEC. All training was carried out in an outstanding manner and most of the personnel enjoyed it.

"Patriot Tiger is normally a wing-wide exercise held at Westover Air Force Base, MA," said

Maj. Larry Goff, 80 Mobile Aerial Port squadron operations officer. But since the exercise was canceled this year because of Desert Storm. "We have a 25-person team," said Goff. For two weeks the team lived in the field, performing aircraft loading exercises, engine running onloads and offloads, chemical warfare training, defending against aggressor attacks, and supporting aerial delivery missions. Tent canvases were placed over hardback frames on the dead runway at Dobbins AFB. Shower facilities were set up and prime readiness in base services provided hot meals at breakfast and dinner time. Meals-ready-to-eat were provided at lunchtime. The exercise is done in a wartime scenario, said Goff. We have perimeter guards, each person carries an M-16, and we perform our duties in full chemical warfare gear. If an aggressor attacks, we are prepared to defend ourselves. The wartime mission of the 80 MAPS is to provide mobile air cargo terminal capabilities in support of the Military Airlift Command's airlift operations and tactical airlift forces. In the event of a national emergency they would mobilize and deploy worldwide. 1990

2003 A 15-member team of reservists from the 80 Aerial Port Squadron is participating in a 60-day contingency mission supporting the 436 Aerial Port Squadron and Operation Enduring Freedom at Dover AFB, Del. Despite a stifling heat inside the 436 Aerial Port, the work never ceases. People and forklifts bustle back and forth between pallets stacked high with cargo. Master Sgt. Chester England, 80th APS cargo supervisor zips between pallets on a forklift, transporting boxes to their proper location. When he is finished, fellow aerial port workers first cover the pallet with plastic, then use a netting to secure it. The end products, odd-shaped plastic covered bulks, are organized and shelved to await their destination aboard a C-5 Galaxy. The process of preparing pallets is a task that requires support and teamwork, and England is doing his part to lend a hand. The group of reservists arrived Aug 1 after a 15-hour drive from Dobbins ARB. After arriving, the reservists were briefed on current military operations, safety and emergency procedures and chain of command allowing for a smooth transition into Dover's aerial port operations. The reservists were then sent to jobs in air terminal operations, ramp processing, cargo processing, fleet and passenger terminal services.

While offering support to the 436 APS the reservists get a chance to update their training. "One of the good things about working here is working with new equipment" said Tech. Sgt. Tommy White, 80 APS air terminal operations specialist. While at Dover, the 80 APS has the opportunity to work with and learn about new tools such as the handheld cargo processing scanner and the new generation service loader." White said. "Such equipment is not always available at Dobbins ARB because of the base focus on training. Members of the 80 APS week alongside the 436th APS members 12 hours a day, five days a week.

2006 Eighty-eight members of the 80th Aerial Port Squadron returned to Dobbins Air Reserve Base last month after nearly a year on active duty working in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Happy families and friends patiently stood by as the reservists were officially welcomed home by Brig. Gen. Thomas Stogsdill, 94th Airlift Wing commander, Col. Steven Slick, 94th Mission Support Group commander, Lt. Col. John Fitter, 80th APS commander, and Chief Master Sgt. James West, 94th Airlift Wing command chief.

Lt. Col. Fitter thanked the squadron for a job well done and for their dedication to the



mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. "I am extremely proud of every one of you and am glad to have you back home," Lt. Col. Fitter told the group. "You did an outstanding job. You went above and beyond and did more than what you were deployed to do. We are all so happy to have you back home with your families and are looking forward to integrating you back into the unit. Welcome home."

The deployment was the first for the 80th APS and it presented some challenges for the reservists and their families. "Leaving my family was hard," said Staff Sgt. Ralph Cordy who left behind his wife and three sons. "My wife is a full-time nursing student and runs her own business. I felt guilty leaving her with three boys to handle but she understood." Although he is a firefighter for Dekalb County, in the Air Force Reserve, Sergeant Cordy is a cargo specialist and regularly deals with exporting and importing supplies and equipment.

However, while deployed, Sergeant Cordy worked primarily in passenger services handling troop movement for U.S. and Spanish service members heading to and from Iraq. "It was different but it was a good learning experience," he said. According to Senior Master Sgt. Sandra Wright, 80th APS first sergeant, the squadron is made up of several entities including a joint inspection section; an air terminal section; an operation center; a passenger services section; a ramp section; a cargo section; a fleet services section; and load planning section. The mission of the squadron is to deploy trained personnel and serviceable equipment to provide aerial support of airland operations in high threat areas; operate c-air interface; augment aerial port of embarkation/aerial port of debarkation; and operate unit move, on-load and off-load locations.

Squadron members spent their deployment in several locations including Kuwait International Airport, Kuwait; Manas International Airport, Kyrgyzstan; Rhein Main Air Base, Germany; Pope Air Force Base, N.C.; Incirlik Air Base, Turkey; and Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan; and Dover Air Force Base, Del. before returning to Dobbins in staggered groups. Sergeant Cordy drove from Dover AFB and headed straight for a football field in Henry County to see one of his sons play in a pony-league football championship game. "My boys were totally surprised to see me," he said. "And, when I got home the house was decorated. It was nice." The 80th APS was activated to active duty under the presidential authorization to call up members of Air Force Reserve Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although the reservists will not continually rotate in and out as a squadron, according to Sergeant Wright, they will continue to support (air and space expeditionary force) missions as needed.

Making sure cargo is delivered in a timely and safe manner to any location in the world is central to what the men and women of the 80th Aerial Port Squadron here do very well. But what sets them apart from any other Air Force aerial port is their commitment to their work and to each other. "Everyone here is like family," said Staff Sgt. Tamara Franklin, an aerial porter and passenger service representative who joined the squadron in 2003. "We call it a team but we're more like a family."

Made up of several entities, the squadron is comprised of a joint inspection section, an air terminal section, an operation center, a passenger services section, a ramp section, a cargo section, a fleet services section and a load planning section. Together they provide aerial support of air-land operations in high threat areas, augment aerial ports of embarkation/debarkation, and operate unit moves as well as on-load and off-load locations.

It's definitely a team effort said Sergeant Franklin. "Everyone pitches in," said Sergeant Franklin. "We can clown around with each other but when it's time to get the job done, it's all business. It feels great knowing when it's time to get the job done; we get it done in the safest way, the best way."

Master Sgt. Xavier Sanford, assistant non-commissioned officer in charge of cargo, said collaboration is primary to mission accomplishment. "Every job ties in to the other," said Sergeant Sanford. "We need each other to make the process work. I've seen a lot of positive change happen over the years. The focus is on being mission ready. That's good." Helping to make them a stronger, more professional organization is the squadron's steady contribution to the global war on terrorism. In 2005, 88 Airmen were put on active duty under the presidential authorization to call up members of Air Force Reserve Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

They were deployed to several countries including: Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, Turkey and Afghanistan. Both Sergeant Franklin and Sergeant Sanford were among the squadron's initial 88 Airmen to deploy. Twenty aerial port Airmen are currently preparing for a deployment rotation. Since 2006, 80th APS has earned the distinction of having served the most man-days in support of The Global War on Terror of any aerial port in the Air Force Reserve Command according to their commander, Lt. Col. Todd Laughman. "We're incredibly proud of that distinction," said Colonel Laughman. "Our mission is very important to the Air Force, unloading, loading and tracking everything coming in and out. Everything runs through aerial port. "We're also really proud of our sister units who constantly help us do our jobs," he said. "Without their hard work we wouldn't be as effective as we are." 2008

Ten members of the 94th Maintenance Group and the 80th Aerial Port Squadron, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, returned home May 17 after a 120-day deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The returning Airmen performed vehicle maintenance and assured the safe and timely delivery of supplies to the region. "Think about the sacrifice these Airmen have made," said Col. Marshall S. Irvin Jr., 94th Mission Support Group commander. "It was important for the country, and will go down in annals of history."

Family members, senior staff and members of the Airmen and Family Readiness Office were present to welcome the Airmen home and brief them on programs such as the Yellow Ribbon Program and TRICARE plans. Is it important for returning Airmen to be aware of and take advantage of the TRICARE plans available to them and their families, said Adamor Rodriguez Jr., Georgia National Guard health benefits advisor. Some plans are available at no cost to the returning Airman.

The base has been so helpful, said Denise Howard, wife of Tech. Sgt. Dallas Howard. Family readiness has called on all the holidays and gave us plenty of information on how to deal with the deployment. "Take some time to get re-acclimated to your families," said Irving. "Let them get re-acclimated to you. You received a briefing on yellow ribbon. This program is good for you and your family. I highly encourage you to go to yellow ribbon." The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program is a Department of Defense-wide effort to promote the well-being of Reserve members, their families and communities, by connecting them with resources throughout the deployment cycle. Reintegration during post-deployment is a critical time for

members of the Reserve, as they often live far from military installations and members of their units. 2012

27 Aug 2013 Members of the 80 Aerial Port Squadron returned from a 6 month deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Southwest Asia.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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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.