

# 137 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

137 Aerial Port Flight activated, 6 Mar 1968  
Received federal recognition, 1 Apr 1968  
Redesignated 137 Mobile Aerial Port Flight, 1 Jan 1978  
Redesignated 137 Aerial Port Flight  
Redesignated 137 Aerial Port Squadron  
Inactivated, 1 Apr 2008

## STATIONS

Oklahoma City, OK

## ASSIGNMENTS

137 Mission Support Group

## COMMANDERS

Robert E. Hurley  
Lynn Shackelford  
Mike Woods  
Stanley Shore  
Maj Raymond W. Bolt

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Republic of Viet Nam Gallantly Cross with Palm, 1972

### **EMBLEM**

On a disc Azure, an American Indian shield blazoned: Or six crosses Argent, three and three, edged with fourteen wavy piles Sable, surmounted by a peace pipe and tomahawk feathered, crossed in saltire of the third, all detailed of the fourth, descending from the base of the shield five feathers Proper, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "137TH AERIAL PORT SQUADRON" in Blue 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 American Indian shield represents the unit's heritage and importance of Air National Guard; it is attached with five feathers representing port functions, deployment, coordination, documentation and inspection. The peace pipe, a symbol of peace, attached with a feather signifies communications. The tomahawk, a symbol of war, attached with a feather denotes readiness and coordination in self-defense capabilities.

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 137th APF was formed to manage transportation activities including movement of personnel and materiel by military and commercial air, motor, rail, water, and pipeline transportation facilities. The formal mission statement recently adopted by the unit is: "Provide airlift support of manpower/materials for the United States armed forces in the state, nation and throughout the world."

A Report of Inspection for Federal Recognition was completed and approved by Brigadier General Arthur W. Cruikshank, Jr., Vice Commander of the 22 Air Force, on 8 Apr 1968. On 22 Apr 1968, then Chief, National Guard Bureau, Colonel D. C. Shelton signed the certificate granting the Unit Federal Recognition with an effective date of 1 Apr 1968. At that time, the Unit was authorized 1 officer and 24 airmen for a total strength of 25

The 137th APF and its personnel have taken part in several deployments and missions, including: Viet Nam Airlift - 15 Dec 64 to 13 Aug 72

Effective 1 Jan 1978 the 137th Aerial Port Flight was redesignated as the 137th Mobile Aerial Port Flight, and reorganized to a strength of 2 officers and 60 airmen for a total of 62.

The 137th APF has achieved several notable accomplishments, including: Best Aerial Delivery

Team at the Volant Rodeo competition, 1983

Earthquake Relief- Ecuador, 1986; Desert Shield/Desert Storm - Saudi Arabia, 1991; Hurricane Iniki Relief- Kauai, Hawaii, 1991; Volant Partner - Italy, 1991; Operation Restore Hope - Somalia, 1993;

For FY93 the unit supported the 185th AS air drop qualification training by rigging, unloading, and recovering 54 Load Bearing Platforms (LBPs); 60 Container Delivery Systems (CDSs) and 664 Training Bundles (Simulated loads - TBs).

Fuerzas Unidas - Argentina, 1993 & 1994; Operation Provide Promise - Bosnia, 1994; Volant Partner - Belgium, 1994;

The 137th APF deployed with the unit to McChord AFB WA and worked with the 62nd Aerial Port Squadron. The APF personnel were able to process 1,938 passengers, handled 528 tons of cargo and worked with 16 C-5s, 134 C-141s and four C-130s, and loaded an M-1 Abrams tank onto a C-5 aircraft.

On 8 Sep, 1995, eight members of the 137th Aerial Port Flight and one member of our 137th Tactical Airlift Control Element loaded fourteen pallets containing 40,360 pounds of equipment, food and water for the victims of Hurricane Marilyn on St. Thomas Island in the Caribbean. Two things made this unloading procedure a bit more interesting. First our people loaded a C-5 aircraft, second, they performed their task in a driving rain storm.

Murrah Federal Building bombing support- OKC, 1995; Cobra Gold - Thailand, 1996.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.