

137 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 137 Airlift Squadron provides global strategic airlift of cargo and passengers on Air Mobility Command and National Guard Bureau directed training, contingency, exercise and humanitarian relief operations in support of Department of Defense agencies.

LINEAGE

483 Bombardment Squadron (Dive) constituted, 3 Aug 1943
Activated, 10 Aug 1943
Redesignated 504 Fighter Squadron, Nov 1956
Inactivated, 24 May 1946
Reconstituted and redesignated 137 Fighter Squadron and allotted to NY NG
137 Fighter Squadron (SE) extended federal recognition, 24 Jun 1948
redesignated 137 Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 1 Sep 1952
Redesignated 137 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 May 1958
Redesignated 137 Aeromedical Transport Squadron, Feb 1961
Redesignated 137 Air Transport Squadron (Heavy), Dec 1962
Redesignated 137 Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1966
Redesignated 137 Tactical Air Support Squadron, 28 May 1969
Redesignated 137 Military Airlift Squadron, 1 May 1984
Redesignated 137 Airlift Squadron 15 Mar 1992

STATION

Hunter Field, GA, 10 Aug 1942
Drew Field, FL, 6 Feb 1943

Walterboro AAFld, SC, 3 Jul 1943
Rice AAFld, CA, 17 Sep 1943-9 Mar 1944
Fowlmere, England, 5 Apr 1944-8 Sep 1945
Drew Field, FL, c. 22 Sep-7 Nov 1945
Hunter Field, GA
Drew Field, FL
Westchester County Airport, White Plains, NY
Stewart ANGB, Newburgh, NY, May 1983

ASSIGNMENTS

339 Bombardment (later Fighter-Bomber; Fighter) Group, 10 Aug 1942-18 Oct 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

A-24, 1942
P-39, 1943
P-51, 1944
P-47
F-47
F-51
F-94, 1953
F-86, 1958
C-119
C-97
U-3
O-2, 1971
C-5, 1985
C-17

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Offensive, Europe
Air Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Germany, 10-11 Sep 1944

EMBLEM





MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in ETO, 30 Apr 1944-21 Apr 1945

the 137th Fighter Squadron of the N.Y. Air National Guard received federal recognition and began operations at the Westchester County Airport in White Plains, N.Y. The unit was initially equipped with F-47

In September 1952, the unit was redesignated the 137th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and received the F-51 as well as a new air defense mission. In 1953, the unit entered the “jet age” when it received the F-94.

The 137th FIS was another New York ANG unit that was flying the F-94A/B when it converted to the F-86H in May 1958 when it was redesignated the 137th TFS. The F-86Hs were replaced in February 1961 when the squadron equipped with C-97. The unit flew from White Plains, NY.

2 July 1985. The 137th Military Airlift, New York ANG, received its first C-5A marking the return of the Air Guard to the strategic airlift mission.

Shortly after receiving its first C-5A, in Oct 1985, the unit airlifted 84,600 pounds of cots and bedding to Puerto Rico following Hurricane Gloria.

In Oct 1988, the 105th transported 300,000 pounds of hurricane relief and reconstruction supplies to the island nation of Jamaica following Hurricane Gilbert.

11 December 1988. Starting on this date, Air Guardsmen flying C-141Bs from Mississippi's

172nd Military Airlift Group (MAG) and C-5As from New York's 105th MAG participated in an airlift of clothing, food, and supplies to Armenia after a powerful earthquake devastated that region of the Soviet Union.

In Jan 1989, the unit carried 146,610 pounds of earthquake relief supplies to Soviet Armenia. In Mar 1989, the 105th responded with less than 24 hours notice to an AMC request to airlift a more than 80,000-pound submersible vehicle from Andrews and Homestead Air Force Bases to Kadena Air Base, Japan, to assist in search and recovery operations for an Air Force HH-3 helicopter which crashed in the East China Sea.

1989 ended on a dramatic note for the 105th Airlift Wing by supporting a wartime mission for "Operation Just Cause" in Panama. More than 2,200,000 pounds of cargo airlifted by the 105th in support of that operation represented approximately 25 percent of the initial total airlift effort of all the Military Airlift Command's C-5 fleet assigned to both active duty and reserve component elements.

Throughout the summer and fall of 1989, the 105th continued to support reconstruction efforts in Jamaica by airlifting National Guard civil engineering teams and equipment to the hurricane-ravaged island.

Beginning in Oct 1989, the unit responded to another storm, Hurricane Hugo, transporting more than 2 million pounds of relief supplies to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

7 Aug 1990, former Governor Mario Cuomo announced that the Department of Defense requested, and approved, the participation of personnel and C-5A aircraft in direct support of "Operation Desert Shield" in the Persian Gulf region.

24 Aug 1990 the 137th Airlift Squadron was called to active duty by President George Bush Sr. to provide continued support throughout the operation. While the 137th was formally deactivated on 15 May 1991, the majority of unit members chose to remain in active status until Aug 1991 in response to AMC's need for continuing airlift support for "Operation Desert Storm." By the end of May 1991, the 137th flew some 836 missions and 1,391 sorties during "Operation Desert Storm." Feb 28, 1991, a part of the 105th U.S. Air Force Clinic was also called to active duty with duty stations at Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Md. All medical personnel were released from active duty during May 1991.

In Dec 1991, the 105th carried more than 145,000 pounds of clothing, blankets and medical supplies to Bucharest, Romania.

In Feb 1992, the unit participated in Operation Provide Hope, the airlift of humanitarian aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union), delivering 384,000 pounds of relief materials to Saint Petersburg, Russia, and Yerevan, Armenia.

In Sep 1992, the unit responded to South Florida, delivering more than 1 million pounds of

food, tents, mobile kitchens, vehicles and emergency services personnel after Hurricane Andrew hit the Homestead area.

In Nov 1992, the 105th airlifted 118,450 pounds of cargo, including generators, portable shelters and medical supplies and equipment to Zagreb, Croatia, to support the U.S. Army's 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

From Dec 1992 to April 1993, the 105th supported Operation Restore Hope providing humanitarian airlift of 2,800,000 pounds of supplies and more than 600 passengers into Somalia.

Following massive flooding in the central United States in Jul 1993, the unit airlifted 10 reverse osmosis water purification systems weighing a total of more than 380,000 pounds and capable of providing more than 600,000 gallons of potable water a day to Des Moines, IA.

In Aug 1993, the unit carried 75 tons of relief supplies and equipment to Southern Turkey to be used to help Kurdish refugees from Iraqi terrorism.

In Oct 1993, the 105th returned to Somalia, delivering military personnel and almost 860,000 pounds of equipment non-stop—with triple air refueling—directly from bases in the United States to Mogadishu.

In Jul 1994, 105th aircraft began carrying humanitarian relief supplies to the people of Rwanda—by early Sep, 1,635,189 pounds of supplies and equipment were delivered to East Africa.

In late Sep 1994, the unit began airlifting more than a million pounds of supplies and equipment to Haiti as part of Operation Uphold Democracy.

Oct 1994, 105th aircraft and volunteer crews played a key role in “Operation Vigilant Warrior” and “Operation Southern Watch,” deterring potential Iraqi aggression in the Arabian Peninsula.

The 105th played a key role in Jul 1995 for Operation Quick Lift when it airlifted 431,000 pounds of cargo and 190 British troops from RAF Brize Norton, United Kingdom, to Split, Croatia, in support of the United Nations' Rapid Reaction Deployment Force.

In Aug 1995, the 105th airlifted personnel and equipment to Kuwait in support of “Operation Vigilant Warrior II” and “Exercise Intrinsic Action.”

Immediately following Hurricane Marilyn in Sep 1995, the unit airlifted 527,200 pounds of desperately needed supplies and equipment to the citizens of the American Virgin Islands.

In Dec 1995, 105th Airlift Wing C-5 crews embarked on the first of six missions in support of

President Clinton's peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, transporting almost 800,000 pounds of U.S. Army support equipment to the European theater.

In Mar 1996, the 105th participated in Partners in Peace; a joint-force operation bringing needed office supplies to Rwanda for the War Crimes Tribunal. The mission also carried medical supplies for the World Food Program.

In Sep of 1996, the 105th returned to Puerto Rico, delivering 22,000 pounds of bedding after the island was hit by Hurricane Hortense.

In Apr of 1997, the 105th flew 160,000 pounds of produce and fruit to Fargo, North Dakota, after flooding there forced thousands from their homes.

In Jan 1998, during the Martin Luther King holiday weekend, the 105th Airlift Wing became a hub for northern New York ice storm relief activity as the unit members received and downloaded 70 emergency generators from five C-5. The 105th also loaded the 7,500-pound generators onto Army Guard flatbeds for transport upstate to the ice storm victims. The 105th again assisted their northern state neighbors by helping clean up communities damaged by a tornado in late May of 1998.

Feb 1998, the 105th flew four missions and 336,005 pounds of cargo in support of "Operation Phoenix Scorpion," in a continuing effort to deter potential Iraqi aggression.

In Sep 1998, the unit flew five missions in support of AMC relief missions to the Caribbean after Hurricane Georges hit the area. The 105th flew five missions carrying a total of 294.9 tons of supplies to Puerto Rico. And although humanitarian airlift missions have slowed considerably since 1999, the 105th is still ready and willing to respond to a humanitarian crisis anywhere in the world at a moment's notice.

Sep 2001 Immediately following the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the men and women of the 105th Airlift Wing quickly prepared Stewart to become a staging area for military and civilian emergency response teams. Additionally, from September 11 through early November, more than 200 unit personnel voluntarily deployed to New York City to provide Ground Zero perimeter control, medical and civil engineering assistance, command and control and ministry services.

Nov and Dec 2001, elements of the 105th were activated in support of "Operation Enduring Freedom" after the tragic attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The Security Forces Squadron, the 137th Airlift Squadron and a small number of personnel from the Maintenance Squadron were called to federal duty to participate in worldwide missions in support of the war on terrorism. These personnel and the unit's C-5A aircraft, continue to support this operation as well as "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

December 2004. The Air Guard participated in Operation Unified Assistance, a multinational

effort to deliver relief supplies and personnel to coastal areas in Southeast Asia after the region was devastated by a tsunami on 26 December 2004. At least one ANG aircraft - a C-5A from the 105th Airlift Wing from Stewart Air National Guard Base, New York — took part in the massive airlift which ended in February 2005

The first of eight C-17s destined to replace the C-5As of the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift Wing landed Monday at Stewart ANG Base in Newburgh. "It's sad to see the C-5As go, but it's the right thing for the future of the base," said Brig. Gen. Verle Johnston, 105th AW commander, reported the Hudson Valley Times Herald-Record. Stewart will officially mark the transition to the Globemaster in an acceptance ceremony on Aug. 6. The wing currently operates a fleet of 13 C-5s that will gradually phase out as crews transition to the C-17 over the next two years. "It's a beautiful airplane. It's a breath of fresh air," remarked SMSgt. John Sheehy, a 105th AW crew chief, who flew on the C-17 on its delivery flight from Charleston AFB, S.C. Lower maintenance requirements will likely mean workforce cuts to a sizable portion of the wing's maintenance division, according to the Times Herald-Record. 2011

137 Military Airlift Squadron New York Air National Guard at Westchester County Airport was redesignated 137 TASS Tactical Air Support Squadron and reorganised for FAC Forward Air Control on 1 May 1969 reequipping with Cessna U 3 prior to receiving O 2A Super Skymaster aircraft. The Squadron was assigned to 105 Tactical Air Support Group tasked with training Forward Air Controllers operating in conjunction with ground FAC and ROMAD radio operator maintenance and driver teams. The Squadron was called to active service on 24 to 26 March 1970 to assist mail delivery during the New York City Postal Strike. The NY ANG ramp at Westchester Airport continued to be the gateway of choice by foreign dignitaries visiting New York.

The Squadron assisting local governmental health agencies in the detection of violations of water and stream pollution laws with observations and photographs taken during training missions. 105 TASG was upgraded to Wing status on 14 June 1975 retaining the Group until August 1978 when the Group was inactivated and 137 TASS was reassigned directly to 105 Tactical Air Support Wing. 105 TASW reverted to Group status on 1 July 1979 when the Wing organization was transferred to 174 Tactical Fighter Group to accommodate the newly planned and organized A 10 Thunderbolt II Wing.

137 TASS deployed with 105 TASG to Lechfeld AB West Germany in 1981 to observe A 10 Close Air Support and forward air control operations in the NATO USAFE environment including an in depth look at Forward Operating locations and NATO air tasking orders. With Westchester Airport not having the capacity to support a conversion to new aircraft or mission the Group and Squadron relocated to Stewart International Airport in May 1983. The Squadron and Group were retasked to Airlift and redesignated 137 Military Airlift Squadron and 105 Military Airlift Group on 1 May 1984 becoming the first ANG unit to operate the C 5A Galaxy.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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