

## 437<sup>th</sup> AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is composed of nearly 1,000 combat-ready maintainers and support personnel, comprised of Active Duty, Civilian, and Air Reserve Technician components. They inspect, service, and maintain the assigned C-17 aircraft at Joint Base Charleston. These maintainers enable aircraft to perform assigned global airlift missions ranging from combat support operations and humanitarian relief to aeromedical evacuations. The squadron is also responsible for no-notice and scheduled deployments of maintainers supporting Charleston aircraft and other AMC aircraft in austere locations, maintaining worldwide airlift dominance.

The 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron is responsible for the maintenance of 52 assigned C-17A aircraft worth more than \$10 billion dollars. The 437 AMXS primarily performs flight line tasks to include daily mission launch and recovery, pre-and post-flight inspections, maintenance troubleshooting, aircraft systems repair, and minor modifications. The squadron is organized into two aircraft maintenance units (Gryphons and Blue Knights), a Viper Support Flight, and the one-of-a-kind Maintenance Special Operations Flight (MASOP), which is charged with the DoD's only 24/7 JCS-directed Strategic Alert Response commitment.

### LINEAGE

437<sup>th</sup> Organizational Maintenance Squadron constituted and activated, 27 Dec 1965  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, 1 Aug 1990  
Redesignated 437<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 1 Oct 2002

### STATIONS

Charleston AFB, SC, 8 Jan 1966

### ASSIGNMENTS

Military Air Transport Service, 27 Dec 1965 - 8 Jan 1966

437<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966 - 1 Oct 1991  
437<sup>th</sup> Logistics Group, 1 Oct 1991 - 1 Feb 1993  
437<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Feb 1993 - 1 Apr 1995  
437<sup>th</sup> Logistics (later, 437<sup>th</sup> Maintenance) Group, 1 Apr 1995

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Southwest Asia:

Defense of Saudi Arabia, 1990-1991

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait, 1991

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor

11 Sep 2001 - 30 Jun 2003

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

11 Jul 1966 - 10 Jul 1967

11 Jul 1967 - 10 Jun 1968

11 Jul 1968 - 12 Jun 1969

13 Jun 1969 - 12 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1972 - 30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1982 - 30 Jun 1984

1 Jun 1984 - 30 Jun 1986

1 Jul 1988 - 30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989 - 30 Jun 1990

21 Sep - 31 Oct 1989

1 Jul 1993 - 30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995 - 30 Jun 1997

1 Jul 1997 - 30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998 - 30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012

### **EMBLEM**

The emblem is symbolic of the squadron. The gold and blue background signifies the excellence required of assigned personnel and denotes the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The four basic divisions of the emblem surmounted by the globe are indicative of the "Four Corners of

the Globe" and refer to the widespread operations of the squadron and its organization under the Military Airlift Command. The dovetailed partition lines symbolize the effective precision of the squadron's support maintenance functions. The stars allude to the high quality and advanced modern concepts used in performance of the unit's mission, and the maintenance tools represent the required skill and knowledge of assigned personnel. The emblem bears the Air Force colors of golden yellow and ultramarine blue. (Approved, 3 Jul 1967)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Originally activated on 27 Dec 1965, the 437th Organizational Maintenance Squadron directly supported airlift missions for the former 437th Military Airlift Wing by maintaining the various squadrons of C-124, C-130, and new C-141A. With the onset of the Vietnam War, Charleston Air Force Base maintainers continued to deliver mission capable C-141A aircraft to meet the ongoing mobility requirements in southeast Asia. Re-designated the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron on 1 Aug 1990, maintainers assisted in the preparation and launch of over 800 aircraft departures supporting Operation DESERT SHIELD and Operation DESERT STORM.

In Jun 1993, maintenance personnel prepared as the first C-17A arrived at Joint Base Charleston. 1 Oct 2002, the 437th Aircraft Generation Squadron became the 437th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and now prides itself as the single largest squadron in Air Mobility Command. The 437 AMXS continues to play an instrumental role supporting current DoD initiatives aimed at ensuring success in the Global War on Terrorism, and all other national military interests including humanitarian efforts worldwide.

---

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 16 Nov 2010

Updated:

### 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.