

606 MILITARY AIRLIFT SUPPORT SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

606 Military Airlift Support Squadron

STATIONS

Mactan Isle Air Field, Philippines

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Austin F. Dunlap

Lt Col Archie W. Grant

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

A1C Garland B. Miller Jr.'s quick thinking and action has been credited with saving a C-124 from a fire which could have destroyed the plane and endangered several lives. The incident occurred while Miller and A1C David A. Lile, both of the 606th Military Airlift Support Sq., were

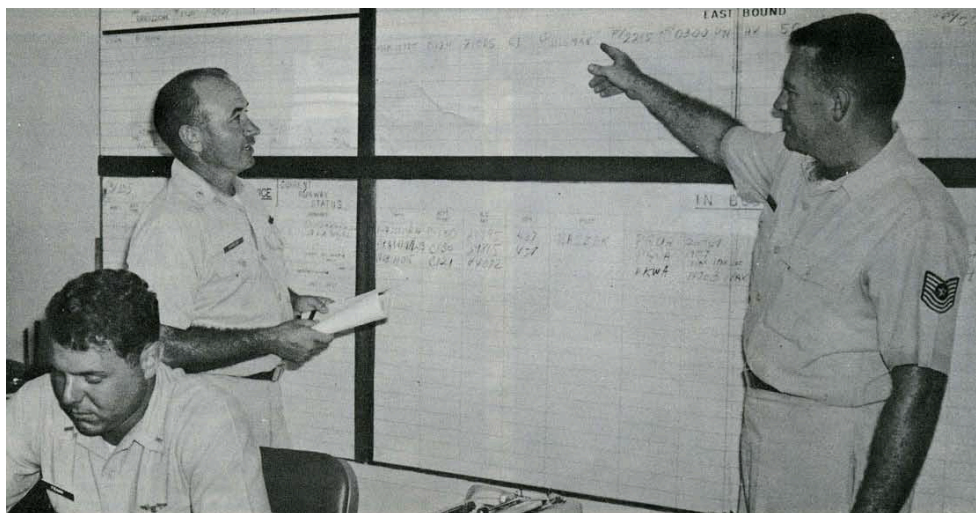
working on an aircraft of the 63rd Military Airlift Wg., Hunter AFB, Ga. The C-124 was transiting Mactan on a Pacific flight when one of its two auxiliary power units went out and required maintenance. The unit is located in the left outboard engine nacelle through an access door approximately 24 inches square and descend a ladder about six feet into a small work area. After repairs had been made, Lile was at the engineer's control panel operating the power unit controls and Miller was down in the nacelle to observe the unit. The men were in communication with each other over the aircraft intercom system when the asbestos wrapping on the exhaust pipe began to smoke as the unit heated. Miller advised Lile to idle the unit, but the smoke continued to increase.

Miller told Lile to shut down the unit and it was done immediately. As the unit stopped, the exhaust pipe and forward portion of the power unit burst into flames. Miller quickly told Lile the situation and climbed out of the nacelle. Lile lost communication with Miller and didn't use the built-in fire control system to put out the fire for fear Miller was trapped in the small area. When Miller climbed out of the nacelle, he ran along the wing to the fuselage access door, entered the plane and went to the rear where he knew two fire extinguishers were located. He grabbed one of the extinguishers and rushed back down into the smoke filled nacelle and put out the flames.

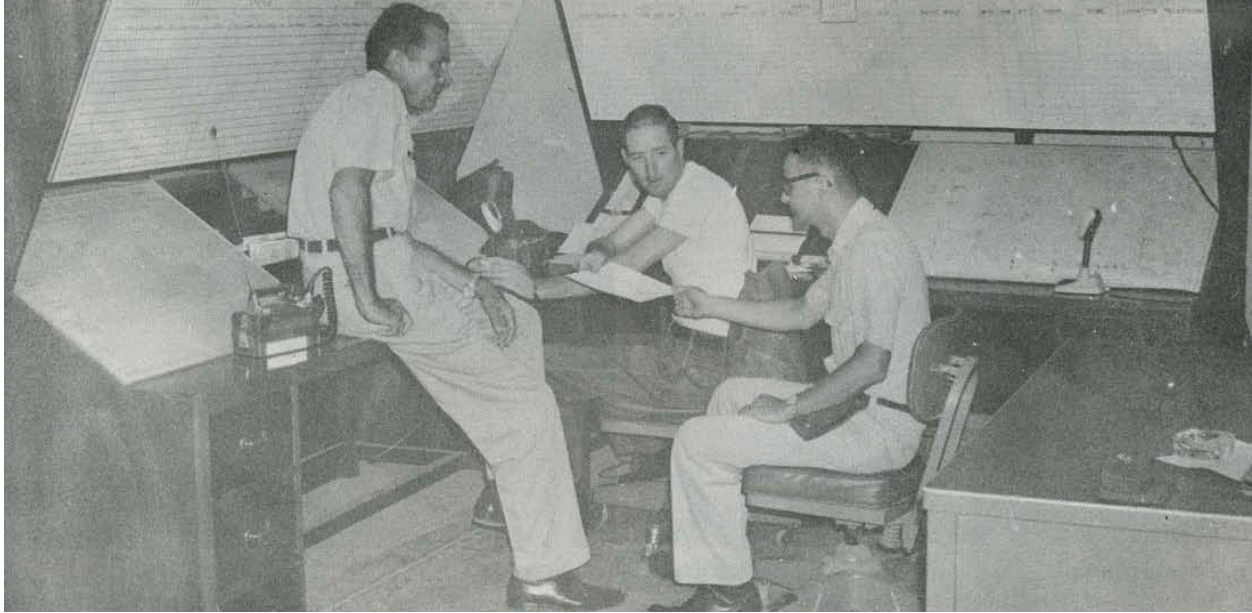
Miller's act was all the more commendable because he knew the close proximity of the fire to the fuel lines and an oil storage tank. Only his rapid assessment of the situation and quick action prevented what would have been a disastrous fire. Maintenance on Military Airlift Command aircraft transiting the Pacific on flights to and from the United States is accomplished at Mactan by the 606th Squadron's maintenance men. The unit has performed all types of work on planes passing through here, but the fire in the Globemaster was the first incident of its type here. Other aircraft were parked near the C-124 and had the fire not been extinguished, officials speculated it could have reached the fuel and caused it to explode and burn. That it was prevented is attributed only to Miller's action.



A C-124 was saved here recently from fire by A1C Garland B. Miller Jr., shown here demonstrating how he went back into the nacelle of the burning craft to extinguish the flames. Miller was checking out an auxiliary unit in the nacelle when the asbestos wrapping on the exhaust pipe began smoking and burst into flames. The aircraft saved by the airman belongs to the 63rd Military Airlift Wg. at Hunter AFB, Ga.



AIR COMMAND POST staffers of the 606th Military Airlift Support Sq. have moved into the larger quarters recently vacated by the Weather Detachment, providing the ACP with greater working space. In this photo snapped at the new ACP, MSgt. Ivan Bishop, right, goes over the status board listings of Military Airlift Command planes scheduled in and out of Mactan, with Maj. John Morrison, officer in charge of the section.



MAINTENANCE CONTROL CENTER workers of the 606th Military Airlift Support Sq. here are now working in new quarters designed to improve the flow and control of maintenance work performed by the unit on MAC planes transiting the Pacific. Shown here at the new controller consoles are, left to right, Lt. Col Austin F. Dunlap, squadron commander, SSgt. Charles R. Fisher, senior controller and 1st Lt. Michael Petrelli, staff maintenance officer.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.