

## 731 AIR MOBILITY SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

611 Military Airlift Support Squadron constituted, 18 Mar 1969

Activated, 8 Apr 1969

Inactivated, 1 Jan 1986

611 Military Airlift Support Group established, 8 Nov 1985

Activated, 1 Jan 1986

611 Military Airlift Support Squadron and 611 Military Airlift Support Group consolidated, 3 Mar 1987

Redesignated 611 Airlift Support Squadron, 1 Jun 1992

Redesignated 631 Air Mobility Support Squadron, 1 Jul 1994

Redesignated 731 Air Mobility Squadron, 15 Mar 2001

#### STATIONS

Kimpo AB, Korea, 8 Apr 1969

Osan AB, Korea, 29 Aug 1971-1 Jan 1986

Osan AB, Korea, 1 Jan 1986

#### ASSIGNMENTS

65 Military Airlift (later, Military Airlift Support) Group, 8 Apr 1969

61 Military Airlift Support Wing, 1 Jan 1972

316 Tactical Airlift Group, 1 Oct 1978

834 Airlift Division, 15 Nov 1983-1 Jan 1986

834 Airlift Division, 1 Jan 1986

Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1992  
603 Airlift Support Group, 1 Jun 1992  
615 Air Mobility Support (later, 715 Air Mobility Operations) Group, 1 Jul 1994  
515 Air Mobility Operations Group, 5 Jun 2008

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Robert J. McClellan, 8 Apr 69  
Maj Merritt B. Pound, Jr., 1 Jun 69  
LTC Bruce M. Tobe, 9 Jun 70  
LTC Donald E. Lockstrom, 5 Jun 71  
LTC Lloyd S. Jacobson, 1 Jul 72  
LTC Russell N. Herring, 10 Jul 73  
LTC Richard W. Cross, 29 Jun 74  
LTC Don S. Bengston, 16 Jun 75  
Maj Donald B. Justice, 8 Sep 75  
LTC Donald G. Lawson, 30 Sep 75  
LTC Michael L. Beavers, 25 Sep 76  
LTC Dan A. Roberts, 29 Aug 77  
LTC Lawrence E. Bielstein, 20 Aug 78  
LTC Edward D. McCall, 18 Jul 79  
LTC Jack A. Martines, 15 Jul 80  
Col Jerold L. Weiss, 17 Jun 82  
Col Albeit L. Abernathy, 18 Jun 84  
Col Ralph E. Olson, Jun 86  
Col William L. Wacker, 22 Jun 88  
Col Dennis D. Wood, 10 Sep 90

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

None

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

None

#### **Decorations**

##### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

[8 Apr] 1969-30 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1972

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1985-31 Dec 1986

(1 Jul 1985-1 Jan 1986 as 611 Military Airlift Support Squadron; 1 Jan-31 Dec 1986 as 611

Military Airlift Support Group)

- 1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989
- 1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996
- 1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999
- 1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001
- 1 Jul 2001- 30 Jul 2003
- 1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005
- 1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006
- 1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007
- 1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm  
[8 Apr 1969]-28 Jan 1973

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation  
19-20 Aug 1972

**EMBLEM**



611 Military Airlift Support Group emblem approved, 23 Sep 1987



611 Military Airlift Support Squadron emblem



631 Air Mobility Support Squadron emblem

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (AFNS) -- A dark, mysterious storage compound rests on the edge of the Osan Air Base flightline. Vaults litter the sulfur-smelling storage area holding items valued in the millions, with others priceless to the United States. One small group of Airmen hold the responsibility of accepting, storing and transferring these critical items aiding in the safety and stability of the South Korea. From a small blood sample to aircraft ammunition, the 731st Air Mobility Squadron's special handling section assists in the distribution of critical military items to installations across the Korean Peninsula. We deal with everything that has potential to save a life or end it," said Airman 1st Class Kevin Johnston, a 731st AMS special planning technician.

The 731st AMS assists all Osan AB units, but they work closely with the 51st Munition Squadron and 51st Medical Group, as well as Army and Marine units around South Korea, including the Demilitarized Zone. "Anything they bring to the peninsula to sustain that mission goes through us, such as helicopters, bullets and grenades, to help them keep the DMZ postured," said Staff Sgt. Richard Allen, a 731st AMS special planning supervisor. As well as equipment, the special handlers also support the mortuary affairs capability of South Korea. "If any of our service members sustained life-ending injuries, we would be the ones to bring their body back to the states for ceremony and recognition," Allen said.

Depending on the situation, special handlers may be called to perform a joint inspection, which Johnston recently assisted with the U.S. Navy. "The situation was a helicopter was landing onto a Navy carrier and it crash-landed," Allen said. "To help, Johnston and another Airman had to travel to the location, inspect that helicopter for air worthiness and put it on a plane to be shipped back to the States." With the critical nature of their career, special handlers require advanced training to handle certain items. What I like the most about my job is its significance to the mission," Allen said. "We can ship a 1-pound box, but the total value of that box can range in the millions of dollars. We have our hands on a lot of multi-million dollar (pieces of) equipment, and for us to support that on a daily basis is amazing to me." 2016

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.

Unit yearbook. *611 Military Airlift Support Squadron. The A.M.B. Yearbook, 1979. The Best in MAC, Osan Air Base, Korea, ATSA MY BOOK.* 1979.

Unit yearbook. *611 Military Airlift Support Squadron. Osan AB, Republic of South Korea. The Year of the Beaver, 1977.*