

732 AIR MOBILITY SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

616 Military Airlift Support Squadron constituted and activated, 27 Dec 1965
Organized, 8 Jan 1966
Inactivated, 26 Mar 1973
Redesignated 616 Military Airlift Group, 30 Oct 1975
Activated, 1 Nov 1975
Redesignated 616 Airlift Support Squadron, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 632 Air Mobility Support Squadron, 1 Jul 1994
Redesignated 732 Air Mobility Squadron, 15 Mar 2001

STATIONS

Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam, 8 Jan 1966-26 Mar 1973
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 1 Nov 1975-

ASSIGNMENTS

61 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966
69 Military Airlift Support Group, 8 Jul 1966
61 Military Airlift Support Wing, 1 Jan 1972-26 Mar 1973
Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Nov 1975
834 Airlift Division, 9 Aug 1990
Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1992
619 Airlift Support Group, 1 Jun 1992
615 Air Mobility Support (later, 715 Air Mobility Operations) Group, 1 Jul 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-12

COMMANDERS

Maj Keith D. Ricks, 8 Jan 1966
Maj Thomas A. O'Neill, 14 Feb 1966
Col Ernest E. Triplett, 1 Jun 1967
Lt Col James E. Conover, 15 May 1968
Col John Combe III, 29 Jun 1968
Col Jack H. Wrinkle, 29 May 1969
Col Gerald V. Kehrl, 14 May 1970
LTC Craig W. Bergin, 22 Nov 1970
Col Robert F. Sherman, 8 Jun 1971
Col Glenn W. Jones, 2 Jun 1972
Inactive, 26 Mar 1973
Col James R. Olson, 1 Nov 1975
Col Robert C. Ingram, Jr., 14 Jun 1978
Col Philip J. Riede, 7 Nov 1980
Col James E. Callahan, 24 Aug 1983
Col William P. Martin, Jr., 7 Aug 1986
Col Harvey W. C. Shelton, 20 Jun 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Global War on Terrorism: GWOT-S.

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam:

Vietnam Defensive

Vietnam Air

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969

Vietnam Winter/Spring 1969-1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8-23 Jan 1966

8 Jan-30 Jun 1966

1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1972

1 Jul 1972-26 Mar 1973

1 Jun 1986-31 May 1987

1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005

1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007

1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2008

1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009

1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2010

1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2011

1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013

1 Oct 2014-30 Sep 2016

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star

23 Oct-27 Nov 1972

EMBLEM



616 Military Airlift Group



632 Air Mobility Support Squadron

732 Air Mobility Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, issuant from a landscape in base consisting of a snow-capped mountain (Light Blue and Argent) above a mount Vert garnished with snow fields of the third, the head of a Husky dog of the like detailed Gray in sinister howling at a mullet in dexter chief Or, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the disc a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "732D AIR MOBILITY SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 husky is symbolic of transportation, dependability, loyalty, and speed. The star represents the navigational tools utilized by the squadron. The mountain alludes to the unit's strength, stability and dedication to duty. (Approved, 6 Jun 2001)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

After the Squadron was activated and Major O'Neill assumed command, A program of improving facilities was launched on a self-help. basis which continued throughout the entire year and well into 1967. Unable to obtain the necessary labor from the overworked Civil Engineers. Major O'Neill set out to improve office and maintenance facilities using our own personnel. At first the unit occupied a portion, of Building 971 (which is the present Airlift Command Post). In January 1966, no Forward Supply Point, communications room, hangar or proper maintenance or command post facilities were in existence; Maintenance was being performed under contract by Air Vietnam.

The program that lay ahead was clear and definite. A tremendous amount of time and human effort. Would be required to obtain, construct and refurbish, new and existing buildings. The Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) flight hangar adjacent to the one building allocated to the unit seemed the logical point for our Maintenance Section and the Forward Supply Point, the MACV flight detachment was well entrenched, and a new hangar and office space had to be provided them prior

to their moving. By April, the 8th Aerial Port Squadron and their passenger service facilities had moved out of all but one small room in Building 971. A new building, building 977, was built by the newly arrived maintenance and supply personnel. The Maintenance and Supply Sections were established in this building.

During April, May and June 1966 more than 100 personnel arrived in the squadron, and by 1 July 1966 the squadron was ready to assume the complete ground maintenance function of a MAC support squadron, the base provided the squadron with a 40'x100' building to store our Forward Supply aircraft parts. The contract with, Air Vietnam for maintenance of MAC aircraft was terminated, and the building of the "Pony-Circuit" was begun in July and completed in August.

On 1 July, building 972 was acquired from the MACV flight detachment., The Orderly Room was moved out of Building 971; the Maintenance Section was moved out of Building 977, and they jointly shared the newly acquired Building 972. Building 977 was then utilized by the Forward Supply Point and Detachment 1, 57th Aeromedical Evacuation. Squadron.

On 3 and 15 August the MACV flight detachment moved out of buildings 973 and 975. The majority of the maintenance functions with the exception of the Chief of Maintenance's Office and the Maintenance Control Section were moved, into Building 975.

In September of 1966 the NCO Advisory Council recommended that we have periodic squadron parties. A survey was conducted to determine how often the parties should be held, who should manage the parties and what beverages and foods should be served at the parties. All squadron personnel participated in the survey, and the NCOs were chosen to manage the parties. A party was held once monthly thereafter, and each party became better than the last. The original party committee was comprised of CMSgt Joseph M. R. Proulx, SMSgt Max L. Rice, SMSgt Luke Zinsky, MSgt William H. Gordon, MSgt Bruce E. Derrick, and MSgt Oscar R. Melvin, Sr. This committee was augmented by other NCOs who also did an outstanding job in arranging the parties.

In early October the MACV detachment moved out of the hangar.

The unit had now acquired the needed facilities, and further expansion of facilities would not be required. As each building was acquired it was completely refurbished, and the squadron was able to boast of some of the finest facilities on Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

During October the squadron began a Civic Action Program. This program was designed to aid the destitute people of Vietnam. The Squadron in, conjunction with Detachment 1, 57th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron sponsored the Sanctuary de Phu My. This institution is a refuge for orphans and other destitute Vietnamese civilians. The men of the Squadron assisted the Sanctuary through contributions and through soliciting contributions from civic and religious groups in the U.S.

During November and December of 1966 the Forward Supply Point moved its aircraft parts and supplies into the hangar, and the new Supply Building and Maintenance Building were completely refurbished. With the acquisition of the hangar and its complete renovation, the Squadron's

expansion program was finally completed.

In early December 1966, the Squadron was notified that commercial contract aircraft would begin, to operate into Bien Hoa AB, carrying Army troops in order to relieve congestion in the Saigon Area. Our unit was selected to furnish the necessary support for these aircraft. An initial survey was conducted in early December 1966. By 2 Jan 67, MSgt John A. Gordon and 9 maintenance personnel plus Captain James Sniezak and 3 ACP personnel were at Bien Hoa, awaiting the arrival of the first aircraft. Captain Sniezak was later replaced by Captain Wilmans, and MSgt Gordon was replaced by MSgt Donald D. Penrod, MSgt Lonnie K Fairfield, and MSgt Robert W. Bolten, who each served one month at Bien Hoa. The 13 original men and 8 civilian technical representatives and mechanics serviced an average of 150 aircraft per month.

During the months of January through April 1967, Squadron personnel continued to improve facilities and methods operation. The aircraft delay rate of the unit was lowest in the 22nd Air Force. From a small detachment of seven Officers and three airmen with no maintenance or supply facilities, the unit grew to an organization consisting of 10 officers and over 200 airmen with full maintenance, supply and ACP facilities to handle an average. of over 800 aircraft each month.

In Alaska, MAC activated Detachment 1 with three C-12Fs under the 616th Military Airlift Group (MAG) at Elmendorf AFB on 1 May 1984.

As in PACAF, MAC owned the planes but Alaskan Air Command (AAC) retained daily operational control. In addition to the normal peacetime OSA role, the Alaskan C-12Fs provided support to the remote ground controlled intercept (GCI) sites throughout Alaska at a fraction of the cost previously paid for the routine C-130 airlift.

The group took charge of the 17th TAS operating C-130Es in April 1975, replacing the 21st TFW. The group upgraded to C-130Hs at the end of 1986, and added the C-12F assigned to detachment 1 during the mid-1980.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.

Unit Yearbook. *616 Military Airlift Support Squadron (MAC) Tan Son Nhut AB Republic of Viet-Nam, Apr 1966-Apr 1967*. Johnson Printing and Stationery Co. Taipei, Taiwan, China.