

763 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

3 Floating Air Depot constituted, 11 Mar 1944

Activated, 15 Mar 1944

Redesignated 3 Aircraft Repair Unit (Floating), 29 May 1944

Inactivated, 2 Jan 1946

Disbanded, 8 Nov 1948

Reconstituted and redesignated 763 Maintenance Squadron, 29 Jul 2003

Activated, 1 Oct 2003

Inactivated, 10 Apr 2012

STATIONS

Kelly Field, TX 15 Mar 1944

Brookley Field, AL, 17 May-15 Nov 1944

Tacloban Harbor, Leyte, 15 Jan 1945

Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, 25 Feb 1945

Manila Bay, Luzon, 20 Sep-c. 1 Nov 1945

Los Angeles, CA, 26 Nov 1945

Brookley Field, AL, 13 Dec 1945-2 Jan 1946

Nellis AFB, NV, 1 Oct 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Service Command, 15 Mar 1944

V Air Service Area Command, 15 Jan 1945

Air Service Command, Nov 1945-2 Jan 1946

563 Rescue Group, 1 Oct 2003

347 Maintenance Group, 18 Aug 2006

23 Maintenance Group, 1 Oct 2006

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Leyte

Luzon

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 2003-31 Oct 2004

1 Nov 2004-31 Jul 2006

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM

On a disc per bend Sable and Azure, as a bend a lightning bolt throughout Or, in chief a pair of human footprints toes upward Vert, in base a wrench bendwise Argent, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Green scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Green scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "763D MAINTENANCE SQUADRON" in Black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 feet represent the rescue units all over the world. The wrench represents the maintenance professionals. The lightning bolt represents the high values and excellence with which these professionals conduct themselves. (Approved, 2 Mar 2004)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Aircraft Repair Units (Floating) mission was B-29 repair. These organizations provided bomber maintenance while on board a ship. The vessels were Liberty Ships with a total complement of 344 men. Liberty Ships had shop space big enough to accommodate components of the B-29s. These ships returned hundreds of wrecked or seriously damaged B-29s and fighters to battle.

The Aircraft Repair Units (Floating) were constituted as Floating Air Depots. The units were immediately redesignated as Aircraft Repair Units (Floating) and activated in 1944.

Aircraft Repair Units (Floating) maintenance training was accomplished at Brookley Field, AL and naval operations training was conducted at Point Clear, AL.

The ships were operated by the Army Transport Service, all of whose officers and men were merchant mariners. They were armed against air attack: each Liberty ship had a 3-inch gun at the bow and a 5-inch gun aft, plus twelve 20mm and two 40mm cannons. The guns were manned by Naval Armed Guard crews.

Acquiring the ships and getting them to the deepwater terminal at Point Clear, close to the Marine Air Technical Services Command at Brookley Field, outside Mobile, Alabama, began in the spring of 1944. Once in place, they had to be modified. For the Liberty ships this meant fitting them with machine tools, cranes, and all the elements of complete machine shops. Similarly, equipment for sheet metal work, fabric repair facilities. They carried a large inventory of steel, lumber, aluminum, and other materials to manufacture needed parts. Facilities had to be built into the ships to accommodate two R-4B helicopters on board. These were to locate downed planes, rescue their flight crews, ferry shipwrights and mechanics wherever they might be needed on the islands of the Pacific campaign, and to haul parts. Each ship was also equipped with two motor launches and two amphibious trucks for carrying parts too heavy for the helicopters. Divers were part of each crew, so room for their support equipment was also necessary.

Officials at Nellis AFB, Nev., last week transitioned the base's 763rd Maintenance Squadron from Air Force Special Operations Command to Air Combat Command. As part of the change, the unit is now designated the 823rd Maintenance Squadron and falls under the 23rd Maintenance Group located at Moody AFB, Ga. The move is "going to be pretty much transparent to everyone that works here [at Nellis]. It's not going to encompass anything new, and we won't have to reorganize any flight, section, or anything like that," said CMSgt. McKinney Crawford, the squadron's maintenance superintendent. He added, "What the change does do for us is make sure we know what our identity is. And, that is very important." Specifically, said squadron officials, it integrates the unit more closely with its sister squadrons-the 723rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Moody and the 923rd MXS at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. All three squadrons maintain HH-60Gs. 2012

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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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.