

18 TRANSPORTATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

18 Motor Vehicle Squadron, Fighter, Single-Engine constituted, 10 Aug 1948

Activated, 14 Aug 1948

Redesignated 18 Motor Vehicle Squadron, Fighter, Jet, 23 Dec 1949

Redesignated 18 Motor Vehicle Squadron, 20 Jan 1950

Redesignated 18 Transportation Squadron, 8 Oct 1956

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1957

Activated, 30 Sep 1974

STATIONS

Clark AFB, Philippines, 14 Aug 1948

Pusan AB, South Korea, 1 Dec 1950

Pyongyang East, North Korea, 1 Dec 1950

Suwon AB, South Korea, 1 Dec 1950

Chinhae, South Korea, 9 Dec 1950

Osan-ni, South Korea, 26 Dec 1952

Kadena AB, Japan, 30 Oct 1954-1 Oct 1957

Kadena AB, Japan, 30 Sep 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

18 Air Base Group, 14 Aug 1948

18 Maintenance and Supply Group, 10 Feb 1949-1 Oct 1957

18 Tactical Fighter Wing, 30 Sep 1974

313 Air Division, 11 Feb 1981

18 Logistics Group, 1 Oct 1991

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Korea:

CCF Intervention, 1950-1951

First UN Counteroffensive, 1951

CCF Spring Offensive, 1951

UN Summer-Fall Offensive, 1951

Second Korean Winter, 1951-1952

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter, 1952-1953

Korea Summer, 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1978-30 Sep 1979

1 Oct 1979-31 May 1980

1 Jul 1981-31 May 1983

1 Jun 1983-31 May 1984

1 Jun 1987-31 May 1989

1 Jun 1989-31 May 1991

1 Jun 1991-31 May 1993

1 Jun 1993-31 Aug 1994

1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1995

1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1997

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citations

1 Dec 1950-31 Jan 1951

1 Feb 1951-31 Mar 1953

EMBLEM

Approved, 29 May 1987

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

It was a blistering hot day, 4 July 1950, when the "Travelers of the Oxcart Highways" started churning the dust of the Korean peninsula. The city of Taegu and vicinity was the christening point for these throttle jockeys and wrench pullers in the fight against communism.

After a brief regrouping, the mudgrips of the 18th Motor Vehicle Sqdn. once again started grinding over Korean mountains, through rocky river beds and once in awhile, as conditions required, through marshy rice paddies. The mechanics usually worked in a bath of sweat repairing vehicles when mud covered the mechanism and parts were scarce.

As the "Fighters for Freedom" pushed the Disintegrating Communist Army up the peninsula, the need for frontline support drew the 18th Fighter Bomber Wing to the north. The Motor Vehicle Squadron played a most important role in the operation, as tons of supplies, material, and troops were transported to waiting aircraft and sea ports.

When the very unexpected "New War" started, the Travelers struck their tents and commenced the long trek south, carrying a large part of the Wing's supplies and equipment. After weaving in and out of destroyed tanks and other equipment for several days a magnificent job was completed. This jaunt of several hundred miles was a considerable task under normal native circumstances, but this was accomplished despite the fact that all equipment and material had to be transported to the new operations site.

As the battle grew grim the 18th once again took the trails southward. During the trip south and upon arrival at the new airstrip a huge amount of vehicular operation was required.

The problem of sub-zero temperatures and adverse weather conditions confronted the outfit during all winter months of operation. Through the untiring efforts of the motor pool and maintenance section along with other units in the organization, the Motor Vehicle Squadron played an important role in the build-up of the base and is doing a fine job of keeping the operation of the Wing at its outstanding efficiency level.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 16 Nov 2010
Updated: 21 May 2021

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit history. *Truck-busters: 18th FBW...its Saga of the Korean Conflict in the Far East*. 1951.