

## 34 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

4 Air Cargo Control Squadron constituted, 3 Dec 1945

Activated, 19 Jan 1946

Inactivated, 5 Jun 1947

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

Reconstituted and redesignated 34 Mobile Aerial Port Squadron, 17 Mar 1983

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1983

Redesignated 34 Aerial Port Squadron, 15 Dec 1993

### STATIONS

General Mitchell ARS, Milwaukee, WI

Wiesbaden, Germany, 19 Jan 1946

Camp Billy Mitchell, Dotzheim, Germany, 1 Apr 1946-5 Jun 1947

General Billy Mitchell Field (later, General Mitchell IAP; General Mitchell IAP-Air Reserve Station), WI, 1 Oct 1983

### ASSIGNMENTS

51 Troop Carrier Wing (also known as European Air Transport Service, Provisional), 19 Jan 1946-5 Jun 1947

440 Tactical Airlift (later, 440 Airlift) Wing, 1 Oct 1983

440 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Oct 1985-30 Sep 1987:2

Oct 1992-2 Oct 1993: 1 Jun 1997-30 Sep 1998

## EMBLEM



On a diagonally divided disc of ultramarine azure and Air Force or, a vert sphere is positioned at fess point. The sphere is outlined with sable longitude and latitude lines. A brown palletized container delivery system cargo load suspended by two argent parachutes is-positioned on the or field at dexter base. It extends over the sphere and into the azure field at dexter chief. A brown palletized cargo load secured with standard top and side nets is placed slightly above sinister base. Two stellar constellations are also prominent on the disc. On the lower left quadrant of the ultramarine azure field is Aquila, the eagle. On the upper right quadrant of the air force or field is Columba, the dove. The disc is bordered with sable. Two gules scrolls are attached above and below the disc. The scrolls are also bordered with sable. Both scrolls are blank. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are used in the design. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of air force personnel. These colors also represent day and night to illustrate the 24 hour operational capability of the squadron. The green sphere represents the global scope of the squadron's mission and it identifies the squadron as an integral part of the

military airlift command's worldwide team. The stellar constellations represent the squadron's capability to perform in wartime as well as peacetime and humanitarian operations. The cargo loads represent the varied scope of the squadron's air cargo handling capabilities. (Approved, 10 Aug 1989)

## **MOTTO**

Anything, Anytime, Anywhere

## **OPERATIONS**

Seventy-nine members of the 34th Aerial Port Squadron were called to active duty in early April to deploy for 12 months in support of the global war on terrorism. The reservists left on Sunday, April 10 for Charleston AFB, S.C., to join their active duty counterparts at one of the busiest military airports in the world. Aerial port personnel are trained to process passengers and cargo, load and unload aircraft, whether at a fixed location or in the field, from developed or bare bases in any environment. After a period in Charleston they will deploy to classified overseas locations to operate aerial ports to meet the mission requirements of American troops engaged in operations against terrorism. Members of the 34th APS regularly deploy to worldwide locations as part of their annual training requirements. This deployment is the largest in the history of the squadron which was formed 20 years ago and is now part of Air Mobility Command (AMC) for the Air Force. Most members of the 34th live and work in southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois.

The 79 deployed members of the 34th Aerial Port Squadron are back home and going through the process of demobilization. The members returned in small groups throughout January and February. Their journey began last year in April when the Airmen left Milwaukee for Charleston AFB, S.C. The reservists performed their normal duties of passenger and cargo processing and handling while preparing for deployment, so their active duty counterparts could come back home. In preparation for deployment the 440th Airmen received training in areas such as weapons, and chemical and biological warfare awareness. Reservists began deploying to various places for 120-day deployments in August, September and October, with 44 heading to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar; six to Ali Al Salem AB, Kuwait; two to Bagram AB, Afghanistan; 17 to Kandahar AB, Afghanistan; five to Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan and one to Ali AB, Iraq. The Airmen performed a variety of missions while serving overseas and some worked with local nationals. "It was different than when you are just performing your traditional reservist job," said Staff Sgt. Darius Warren, who works in the squadron's ramp services section. "Being in a different place gives the job a different flavor." Like most of the military deployed to the region they worked 12-hour shifts, five to seven days a week in hot, humid, dusty and dirty weather. Aerial port operations is a broad career field, said Capt. Glenn Evenson, 34th APS operations officer, so reservists need to be ready to work in a number of areas when they deploy. "It was a good feeling to be overseas making a difference by doing our jobs," said Tech. Sgt. Bonnie Bast, 34th APS team supervisor. Their work certainly didn't go unnoticed as some squadron Airmen were recommended for various awards, but are waiting for approval from CENTAF, said Captain Evenson. "After getting over the anxieties of going there and leaving your family, you definitely get used to the environment and enjoy

your job and feel pride for what you're doing," said Captain Evenson.

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USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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