

4392 SUPPLY SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

4392 Supply Squadron

STATIONS

Vandenberg AFB, CA, 21 Jul 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Lorenzo Caliendo

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Every community needs a central purchasing and warehousing agency to supply its operational needs otherwise it would cease to function. In short order—and military installations, communities in their own right, are no exceptions. At Vandenberg, where we are faced with more complex and extensive requirements than most civilian communities, the task is ably managed by the 4392nd Supply Squadron under the command of Lt. Col. Paul P. Curtis. The magnitude of the squadron's task is not only reflected in the great number of organizations it must service—14 SAC, 25 tenant and 42 contractor elements operate here—but also in the diversified products it must deal with in large quantities. Everything from nuts and bolts to exotic missile fuels are in constant demand by base consumers. To get an idea of the true extent of these operations, the 4392nd SS handles about a quarter of a million supply requests every year. For many requests, it is not only necessary to purchase and distribute the supplies and equipment, but also the source within the commercial community must be located and contracts let.

As an example, during the first six months of this year, the squadron processed 130,800 requests with supply vehicles travelling over 180,000 miles to deliver the goods. Of course, the computerization of supply records when the UNIVAC Computer was installed in Base Supply helped expedite matters because of the increased speed and storage capabilities of the new system. Now, as soon as a supply item is received from the depot the date is fed into the computer, and a release order is available immediately if a request is on file. This increased efficiency has been accompanied by a constant drive for increased economy within the squadron's Cost Reduction Program. How effective this has been, is clearly evident in the fact that a savings of \$900,000 has been programmed over the next three years.

The 4392nd SS was designated and organized at Vandenberg July 21, 1961, with initial assignment to the 4392nd Aerospace Support Wing (now the Group) under the 1st Missile Division (now 1STRAD). For the men of the supply squadron, however, their heritage seemed to have begun four years before that when the 392nd SS was activated at Cooke, AFB, but this was only because they had continued in their same jobs after the 392nd was inactivated and the 4392nd came into being.

Since both actions occurred simultaneously without change of mission for the two units, the personnel and equipment made surplus of the inactivation of the 392nd were then used to man and equip the newly formed 4392nd. Nonetheless, there is no official connection between the two supply squadrons as far as history and lineage are concerned—despite the fact that there was no interruption in the effective manner in which the same supply personnel were handling the same logistical problems with the same high degree of efficiency. In fact, the 4392nd SS has amplified their efficiency over the years, so much so that in November, 1966 the squadron was selected as the Strategic Air Command representative in the worldwide competition for the Daedalion Award honoring the outstanding supply unit in the United States Air Force. Although it did not win, the squadron can be proud of its selection as the "Best in SAC", and today it is preparing itself for a second chance in the 1969 competition. In the interim, its efforts are not going unrecognized at Vandenberg having been rewarded with the last five consecutive 1STRAD

Unit PRIDE Awards.

THE 4392nd SS EMBLEM What symbol could be more appropriate for a supply squadron than the mythical bottomless pit, the "Horn of Plenty" On the 4392nd SS emblem the horn is displayed in golden yellow detailed in light brown to symbolize the squadron's unending supply capability and support" which it must maintain to sate the prodigious appetite of the myriad aerospace activities at one of the nation's largest air bases. Streaking from the cornucopia in a graceful red curve is a white missile with silver gray nose and tail fins to demonstrate the successful accomplishment of the squadron's primary mission: aerospace support. Superimposed on the dark blue sky in the background with its single white cloud are four groupings of golden yellow stars indicating both the unit's designation and universe. Starting at the base of the disc and reading clockwise, the stars read 4-3-9-2, a technique which was used on most of the unit emblems of the 392nd Squadrons which preceded the present 4392nd ASG organizations. Basically, the emblem is symbolic of the 4392nd SS and its vital mission of "everyday support which ultimately results in the launching of our missiles at Vandenberg." The emblem bears the ultramarine blue and golden yellow colors of the United States Air Force along with the national colors, red, white and blue. No distinctive motto has been authorized so the squadron uses its numerical designator on the white scroll beneath the emblem disc.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.