

135 DIRECT AIR SUPPORT CENTER SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

135 Direct Air Support Flight
Redesignated 135 Direct Air Support Center Squadron
Inactivated

STATIONS

Warfield ANGB, Middle River, MD

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Roy Bands

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Direct Air Support Flight (later renamed the Direct Air Support Center Squadron) was a new type of unit for the Air Guard. The DASF was essentially a command post that coordinated requests from Army commanders for close air support. In combat, these requests would be routed through Air Liaison Officers (ALO) assigned to each Army combat unit. The ALOs would then send the requests to the Direct Air Support Center for prioritization. The DASC would then scramble attack fighters from alert status to attack the targets under control of an airborne Forward Air Controller, usually flying an O-2. The DASC was outfitted with the latest communications gear to be able to talk with the ALOs and FACs.

Many of the displaced aircrew members became "ROMADs." This acronym stood for Radio Operator Maintenance and Driver. ROMADs were issued MK 107 or Mk 108 jeeps that were outfitted with UHF, VHF, FM and HF radios. The two-person team of ALO and ROMAD were a formidable team with the ability to instantly communicate vital battlefield information from almost any place on earth. They were assigned directly to the S-3 Army Operations Officer of front line combat units. Their communications gear was so advanced that the Army frequently used them to communicate between their own units in rapidly changing battle situations.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 19 Feb 2021
Updated:

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