

# 139 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

139 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron  
139 Maintenance Squadron

## **STATIONS**

Rosecrans ANGB, St Joseph, MO

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

139 Maintenance Group

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC R.F. Shelley, #1972  
Maj John Slifer, #1973  
LTC Forrest J. Edelman

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc per fess nebuly Azure and Gules, issuant there from to chief a demi-bear Tenné, eye and nose garnished Sable, grasping in its upraised dexter paw a wrench bendwise sinister Argent, in base a horseshoe heel to base Or, nail holes Sable, winged as a vol White, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "139TH MAINTENANCE SQ" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "UBIQUE IN BELLUM ET PACIS" in Blue 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 nebuly division reflects the union and thus strength of the three support squadrons that make up the 139th Maintenance complex. The Squadron's home state of Missouri is denoted by a bear, a state symbol signifying the unit's bravery, endurance and strength. The bear grasps a wrench indicating the unit's maintenance function. The winged horseshoe stands for good luck in all sortees for all operational units who have the best available equipment maintenance by the Squadron.

## **MOTTO**

UBIQUE IN BELLUM ET PACIS

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

In March of 1978, over 450 officer and airmen of the 139th Tactical Airlift Group under the command of Colonel Robert G. Urquhart deployed to Gulfport, Mississippi, during "Operation Pony Express South." The purpose of the deployment was to improve the combat readiness of the 139th by accelerating flying and airdropping capabilities, small arms qualifications, and general military training facets of the mission. The Increased tempo of the mission was necessitated by the recent change in mission from air refueling to tactical airlift. POL loaded 162,700 gallons of JP-4 fuel onto eight C-130A, plus provided thousands of gallons of fuel in support of non-flying training. In terms of material to support the mission, Supply moved eight 463L pallets of aircraft spare parts weighing some 17,483 pounds. The attitude and support put forth by all 450 members was very evident and resulted in a highly successful operation. All in all, a great Summer Camp. CAMRON also brought nine pallets of materials and wheeled equipment, weighing some 47,427 pounds, to support the maintenance junction of the mission. The 139th Aerial Port Flight recovered over 60 drops weighing from 1800 to 3600 pounds each, during the two week operation. Then they transported them back to the base and repacked them for the next scheduled drops.

Three hundred eleven personnel from the 139th Tactical Airlift Group were federally activated on 28 December 1990 for six months. The first contingent left St. Joseph, Missouri on 2 January 1991 for Al Ain Air Base, United Arab Emirates. At Al Ain Air Base, the 139th TAG joined two National Guard units from Texas and West Virginia and two active duty C-130 squadrons from Germany and Korea to form the 1630th Tactical Airlift Wing Provisional. The 1630th was also named the First Desert Airlift Wing or "1st DAWG." On the 22nd and 23rd of March, the 139th

TAG deployed to Al Kharj Air Base, Saudi Arabia. Al Kharj is about 40 miles southeast of Riyadh. Deploying from the United Arab Emirates to Saudi Arabia brought the 139<sup>th</sup> TAG personnel under the strict Moslem culture. Morale, which had been very high at Al Ain, was stressed at the new base in Saudi by the cultural shock and the constantly changing rotation dates for redeployment home. The 180th Tactical Airlift Squadron deployed seventy-seven aircrew members with the eight C-130Hs belonging to the 139th TAG to Al Ain Air Base. The 139th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron personnel at Al Ain employed desert procedures with normal aircraft maintenance to obtain a fantastic 98% in-commission rate. The work schedule was seven to seven for two days and then twenty-four hours off, but maintenance personnel were always on twenty-four hour call. Al Ain Air Base became a closed base soon after the 139th TAG arrived. 139th CAM personnel generally worked on their own aircraft, but the shared equipment, parts and expertise with the other guard and active duty maintenance personnel at Al Ain. A popular spare time activity at Al Ain was the construction of patios, sun decks and porches, The base civil engineers provided building material and loaned tools for these projects. Various team sports such as basketball, volleyball and baseball also provided recreation during free time. After Al Ain became a closed base, the perimeter walk became a popular event. This walk took several hours since the base perimeter was about ten miles. One of the 139th's members did have a complaint, his "Desert Diet wasn't working." Breakfast and dinner were hot meals and lunch was supposed to be a MRE (meals ready-to-eat), but lunch turned out to be a catered affair from the local Hilton hotel. There was also a Pizza Hunt, Hardee's hamburgers, and Kentucky Fried Chicken available, if so desired. Food was plentiful and good, just like home.

The 139th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron deployed 131 personnel in support of "Operation Desert Storm." Nineteen maintenance people went to Rhein Main AFB, Germany where C-130 engines and props were reconditioned and returned to the Persian Gulf. ISO inspections on C-130s were also conducted at Rhein Main Air Base. The typical work schedule was seven to seven, five days a week. The workload at Rhein Main's C-130 engine shop went from about three engines per month, before "Operation Desert Shield," to over thirty per month. During the two and one-half months the 139th's prop and engine specialists were at Rhein Main, sixty-nine engines and fifty-six props were reconditioned and tested. The 139th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance personnel at Rhein Main put together about \$400 to purchase German food and beer for their fellow Air Guardsmen at Al Ain. The several hundred pounds of food and beer were airlifted to Al Ain on one of the 139th's C-130s returning from an ISO inspection.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *109 Tactical Airlift Group, 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 1948-1973.*