

165 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

165 Fighter-Interceptor Group designated and allotted to Georgia ANG, 1958
Extended federal recognition and activated, 10 Jul 1958
Redesignated 165 Air Transport Group, 1 Jul 1962
Redesignated 165 Military Airlift Group, 3 Jan 1966
Redesignated 165 Tactical Airlift Group, 8 Aug 1975
Redesignated 165 Airlift Group, 16 Mar 1992
Redesignated 165 Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

Travis Field (later Savannah International Airport), 10 July 1958
Savannah Air National Guard Base, 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

Georgia Air National Guard, 10 Jul 1958

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-86, 1958–1962
C-97, 1962–1965
C-124, 1965–1975
C-130, 1975

COMMANDERS

Col Ralph G. Kuhn, Jul 1958
Col William F. Summerell, May 1963

Lt Col Phillips D. Hamilton, Feb 1972
Col Charles B. Culbertson, Oct 1973
Col James W. Buckley, Aug 1976
Col William P. Bland, Jr., Aug 1984
Col Douglas M. Padgett, May 1987
Col Scott A. Mikkelsen, Mar 1991
Col John H. Oldfield, Jr., May 1993
Col William N. Searcy, Mar 1996
Col Steven Westgate, Dec 1999
Col. Thomas R. Moore
Col Henry A. Smart, 2007
Col Jesse T. Simmons, Jr., #2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1972-30 Apr 1973

10 Dec 1974-9 Dec 1976

10 Dec 1976-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980

1 Jun 1981-31 May 1983

1 Jun 1983-31 May 1985

1 Feb 1992-31 Jan 1994

1 Aug 1994-31 Jul 1996

EMBLEM



Per fess abased azure and gules a fess nebuly or between in chief a winged arrow wings displayed of the like between two arrows argent all with barbs up, and in base a saltire of the first fimbriated silver. Blue and gold are the colors used for the Air Force. Wings refer to aircraft and nebuly refers to clouds. The arrows indicate guidance and symbolize martial readiness. Three arrows are used to represent basic cargos, delivery processes, and intratheater operations. The saltire denotes a strong support system and also alludes to runways. The saltire along with the colors red, white and blue were suggested by the Flag of the State of Georgia and denotes the unit's allotment.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

With the decision to retire "Old Shakey", C-124s, it appeared for a time that the 165th would be required to convert from a transport mission to a tactical air support mission. Although the unit would have converted from eight C-124s to 24 O-2 which were used by forward air controllers to direct tactical air strikes, there would have been a loss of nearly 20 of its full time personnel since the small aircraft required less maintenance. This, and the fact that the tactical air support mission was "less exotic" than the airlift mission, caused local officials to seek reversal of the planned conversion. Led by Colonel William H. Kelly, Base Detachment Commander, the local officials contacted Governor Jimmy Carter and through his assistance and that of Senator Sam Nunn and many others, a decision was made to convert to the tactical airlift mission of the C-130.

September 1964. While Hurricane Dora swept along the Atlantic coast, personnel of the 165th Tactical Airlift Group (Heavy), Georgia ANG, evacuated patients from the Towne's Nursing Home in Savannah Beach at the request of civil authorities. They also provided shelter for 68 families living at Travis Field, the unit's home station. Food and supplies for the families were provided by the Red Cross.

1984 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

Personnel authorized consisted of 125 officers and 781 airmen. The year 1984 was one of challenge, commitment and involvement. In January 1984, the 165th CEF Fire Department deployed for 15 days to MacDill Air Force Base, FL. Twenty-one members of the 165th WSSF deployed to Little Rock AFB AR, where they participated in the exercise "Volant Scorpion". This exercise dealt with base defense tactics. April was impressive with the 165th TAG receiving its fifth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 158th TAS deployed to Panama during May 84 in support of the US Southern Command. This deployment was known as VOLANT OAK, the "Panama Rotation" and is an annual rotation which has been ongoing since 1977. ANG and AF Reserve forces provided tactical and defense support of the Panama Canal Zone. C-130 aircraft, aircrews and support personnel were deployed to Howard AFB, Panama. More than 300 of the 165th TAG personnel deployed to Wright Army Airfield, Fort Stewart, GA, with seven C-130s,

kitchen facilities and tents. The bare base operation was the first readiness exercise conducted by the C-130 unit. It was entitled Operation "BLUE BOY". During the month of June, sixty members of the 165th CE Flight deployed for 16 days to Zweibrucken AB, Germany for construction and engineering operations. In July twenty-five members of the 165th MAPS deployed for 16 days to Rhein-Main AB, Germany, where they were integrated with active duty counterparts. Five physicians and 28 medical personnel of the 165th Tactical Hospital were deployed to Zweibrucken Air Base, for 15 days of military medical operations involving joint USAF and NATO personnel. In August of that year, the 158th TAS provided transport for aerial demonstrations of the US Air Force Academy's "Wings of Blue" and the US Navy's "Chutin Stars" skydiving teams. December 1984 closed out with C-130 aircraft of the 165th TAG participating in "QUICK THRUST". This was a joint service training exercise held twice yearly at Fort Stewart, GA. The exercise this month was the largest in the history of the operation.

1985 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

The 165th Combat Support Squadron deployed 48 personnel to RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom to aid and assist the 513th Tactical Airlift Wing in preparation for their upcoming Military Airlift Command Operational Readiness Inspection. This provided excellent exposure for our personnel in the USAFE AOR. The 165th TAG deployed six C-130s and more than one hundred personnel to Howard AFB, Panama in support of the VOLANT OAK rotation. They conducted real world tactical missions throughout Central and South America. The 165th Tactical Airlift Group deployed with the 172nd TAG, Jackson, MS and 137th TAW Oklahoma City, OK to a co-located operating base at RAF Benson, UK to participate in a VOLANT PARTNER scenario. There was a combined total of eight C-130 aircraft, and twenty air crews with associated support personnel. RAF Benson is physically located some 45 miles from London, near Oxford and is the home station of the Queen's Flight. Dates were September 21st-October 6th, 1985. The 165th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 158th TAS participated in formal Tactics School Training at St. Joseph, MO, November 16th-24th, 1985 with one aircraft and eleven personnel. The 165th Tactical Airlift Group participated in an Operational Readiness Exercise at the Army National Guard Training Center at Fort Stewart, GA October 28th - November 3rd, 1985.

1986 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

January 1986 marked the initial USAF program to test personnel for drugs in the 165th Tactical Airlift Group. During the period of April 9th - 13th, 1986 the 165th TAG maintenance squadron supported the Blue Angels with one C-130 and a support crew of nine unit members, at Hunter AAF Savannah, GA. The 165th TAG participated in an Air Force sponsored AIRLIFT RODEO with one C-130 and crew at Pope AFB, NC. During July 19th - August 2nd, 1986 members of the 165th Civil Engineering and Services Squadron deployed to Camp Rapid, SD. The 165th Civil Engineers constructed and repaired facilities while the 165th Services Flight supported the engineers and 62 Civil Air Patrol members with food service. In July the 165th Tactical Airlift Group was awarded its sixth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA). The Citation to Accompany the Award stated "During this period, the group excelled in the management of material and personnel resources in support of its tactical mission, in achieving its highest level of combat readiness ever, and in its enhancement of the Total Force policy. The outstanding

knowledge and technical skill of the group resulted in the accomplishment of a superior mission ready status capable of meeting the needs of national defense". Members of the Group participated in Georgia Guard "Hayday", by delivering 45,867 bales of hay for beleaguered farmers and their livestock, The hay distributed by the Guard was shipped by rail to Georgia from Illinois. During August 1986, members of the 165th TAG participated in two VOLANT OAK deployments to Howard AFB, Panama with 5 C-130 aircraft.

1987 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

1987 was good for the 165th Tactical Airlift Group also. We achieved 424% of our yearly blood drive goal that year, and it was the tenth anniversary of the Air National Guard's participation in VOLANT OAK. VOLANT OAK is the C-130 rotation in which air reserve forces provide airlift support for the US Southern Command at Howard AFB Panama. The 165th pulled two rotations that year, involving two airplanes one time and three at another. In January Lt Col Steven Westgate became the VOLANT OAK liaison officer, coordinating all units and their deployments. In April, the 165th participated in TEAM SPIRIT '87. This annual exercise tests the rapid deployment of US forces outside the country and methods of receiving, staging, and employing them on the Korean Peninsula. The 165th flew numerous missions during this exercise period from Camp Keystone (Tent City) located at Kimhae AB in Pusan, Korea. Support for this operation came from Aircraft Maintenance, Medical, Intelligence, Supply, Fuels Management, Vehicle Maintenance, Public Affairs, and many more. In May people were on the move in other ways also. Col William P Bland turned over command of the 165th to Lt Col Douglas M Padgett. Col Bland went to serve a three year tour as Deputy Commander of the Air National Guard Support Center in Washington DC. August 1987 was also an interesting month. Aircraft number 80-0322 was at Columbus Municipal Airport, GA on the 18th, when a thunderstorm and micro burst suddenly came up. While taxiing out, the aircraft was tilted by 68 mph winds, severely damaging the aircraft engines and props. Although no crew members were injured, it was several months before the C-130 was back to flying a regular schedule.

1988 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

Following tradition, 1988 was a very busy year for the 165th Tactical Airlift Group. The unit flew over 3,688 hours utilizing most of the hours allocated to them for routine flying training missions and Guard lift operations. Routine flying missions include flights within the local area which are used to develop and polish flying skills for crew members. Guard lift missions are primarily cross-country flights where the 165th supports movement of cargo and personnel of other units in their assigned missions. The Mobile Aerial Port Squadron (MAPS) joined the 165th in early May and immediately went into action on what they thought would be a training exercise. The MAPS was divided into shifts to augment host station personnel in moving the 7th Infantry Division to Honduras. Already averaging 100 tons of cargo a day in support of TEAM SPIRIT exercise in Korea, the Travis AFB unit, with help from the 165th personnel, processed an additional 535 tons of cargo and 1,167 Army personnel in one 24 hour period. The "Total Force Concept" had certainly come to life. Twenty-five MAPS members deployed to Osan AB, Korea for a joint US/Korean exercise known as TEAM SPIRIT. The twenty-five member training team, commanded by Capt Howard I. Seif, performed their normal work routine as material and personnel moved in and out of the Korean base during the two week exercise. In addition to

on-going training throughout the year, twelve C-130 aircraft and approximately 250 personnel supported REFORGER 88 at RAF Benson in Great Britain from September 4th - 17th. In addition to 165th TAG personnel, guardsmen also came from Will Rogers World Airport, OK, and Kanawha, WV. The deployment was designed to demonstrate the capability of US and Allied Forces to work together in support of NATO.

1989 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

The 165 TAG's aircraft flew 1,718 missions carrying 904 tons of cargo and 7,700 passengers. Also an additional 148 tons of cargo and 1,231 paratroopers were air dropped. Total Force exercises and deployments included VOLANT PINE, European Airlift Augmentation, ANG Dedicated Airlift, Puerto Rico Airlift Augmentation, TEAM SPIRIT, SNOWBIRD, TRIPLE REFLEX, BLAZING TRAILS, Pan American Games, VOLANT OAK, and ABREITO RUTAS. Other support was provided for: Fort Bragg Jump School, ROTC Cadet Orientation, Civil Air Patrol, U.S. Air Force Academy, 1/75th Rangers, Navy Parachute Team, Navy Seals, Golden Knights, Wings of Blue and numerous static displays. The award covered the period of January 1st, 1987 to September 30th, 1987. In July 1989 the Service Flight became the 12th military unit of the 165th TAG.

1990 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

In January of 1990, the 165th TAG was called to state active duty to support law enforcement efforts in Atlanta. The unit transported Army National Guardsmen to Atlanta where they were utilized in crowd control for the January 6th Ku Klux Klan rally and the January 20th Nationalist Movement Rally. The following month saw elements of the 165th in the South Pacific, when Group aircraft transported the Oregon National Guard Band to World War II observance ceremonies. This mission supported the celebration of the Oregon National Guard's participation and sacrifice in World War II. Group aircraft visited Wellington, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia; Hobart, Tasmania; Port Moresby, New Guinea; Wake Island, Guam and Hawaii. During the summer of 1990, the unit deployed three aircraft and more than sixty personnel to Howard AFB, Panama. The unit flew numerous missions in support of the Southern Command and South American Embassies. During the August deployment to the Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena, MI, hostilities broke out in the Persian Gulf. Before the call went out from the National Guard Bureau for volunteers, many members of the unit stepped forward to offer their services. As the airplanes landed following the Alpena deployment, volunteer aircrews began flying stateside support missions. Two volunteer crews and maintenance personnel were sent to the United Arab Emirates to fly support missions in the theater of operations, returning to Savannah in October. Many more unit members, in technical support positions, deployed to bases in the United States and Europe to assist in the massive airlift for DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. In order to maintain its high degree of combat readiness, the 165th Airlift Group volunteered as the test unit for the Self Contained Navigation System (SCNS). The adoption of SCNS for Air National Guard utilization included three months of operational testing and evaluation in New Mexico, California, and the local area. These tests took place throughout 1990.

1991 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

This marked the first year that the Georgia Air National Guard aggressively participated in the

"War on Drugs" in our state. The unit provided nearly one-half of the program's full-time support, working with the Coast Guard, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Naturalization Services, and US Customs. A changing of the guard occurred in March of 1991, when Lt Col Scott A Mikkelsen assumed command of the 165th Tactical Airlift Group from Col Douglas M Padgett. Col Padgett later became Assistant Adjutant General for Air for the State of Georgia. During 1991 the unit flew Naval support missions to the South Pacific and North Atlantic. Also, the unit's planes flew to Paraguay to join other American aircraft at an International Open House hosted by the President of Paraguay. This noteworthy mission received high praise from the US Southern Command Commander for goodwill in South America.

1992 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

June saw the 165th AG participating in a VOLANT OAK deployment at Howard AFB, Panama. The Unit was tasked to fly missions in Central and South America while maintenance crews turned aircraft around the clock to support VOLANT OAK flying requirements. During the deployment, the 165th flew several Civic Leaders to tour Panama to see for themselves how the Air National Guard operates on such deployments. The 158th also found itself deployed to Ascension, Paraguay, South America in June while participating in "FUERZAS UNIDAS 92-PARAGUAY", a united forces exercise with the Paraguayan military. In August, the 165th sent an air crew and maintenance personnel to participate in the Air National Guard's Tactics School. The academic portion of the school is taught in St. Joseph, MO, and the actual hands-on flying is completed in Arizona. The school teaches aircrews how to fly very low-level in a combat environment and to avoid the possibility of ground and airborne threats. As a side note, it's interesting to point out that this is a one-of-a-kind school for Active Duty and ANG C-130 aircrews and is taught by all ANG instructors. The United States was in a state of shock as Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida and Louisiana killing 15, leaving over 250,000 homeless and causing over \$20 billion dollars in damage making it the costliest natural disaster ever to hit the United States. As a result, the 165th was asked to airlift supplies and personnel into South Florida to aid in the relief efforts. Over the next few days, the 165th flew many missions in support of the relief efforts and the Aerial Port Squadron deployed to Homestead AFB FL to help with the downloading of supplies and personnel.

1993 History for the 165th Airlift Wing

The 165th Civil Engineering Squadron, 165th Services Flight, 165th Tactical Hospital and the 224th JCSS, were in Panama to assist in a project to renovate schools, medical facilities and rural roads. The 15-day exercise consisted of improving the mess hall, a tactical operations center, wiring military police facilities, and running water lines. On May 1st, 1993, Lt Col John H. Oldfield, Jr. assumed command of the 165th Airlift Group. The 165th Airlift Group deployed to Saudi Arabia in April and May 1993 to provide support for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. SOUTHERN WATCH provides the airpower to back up United Nations sanctions against Iraq. While in country, the 165th joined the 4404th Composite Wing. Four C-130H and six crews and a contingent of maintenance personnel volunteered. Missions included aeromedical, passenger

shuttles, heavy equipment shuttles, supplies, mail and paratroop drops. Volunteers later received the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM) and Kuwait Liberation medal from the Republic of Kuwait. 165th Airlift Group flew to Bosnia to assist in the relief effort. On October 1st, 1993, all US based C-130 aircraft were transferred to Air Combat Command (ACC). We left Air Mobility Command on that date to begin a new chapter as part of ACC and the 8th Air Force. 165th AG joined Operation PROVIDE PROMISE, a multinational effort to provide food, clothing and medical supplies to refugees from civil war in what was once Yugoslavia. Three of the group's C-130 were used in the operation which was scheduled to last about 90 days. Basing at Rhein-Main AB Germany, the unit flew daily missions into the high threat airspace over Bosnia.

January 25th, 1994 marked a 100,000 flying hour accident free achievement for the 165th Airlift Wing. It took 24 years of hard work and dedication by hundreds of individuals to accomplish this. The last accident was a C-124 crash in the Alaskan mountains on August 26th, 1970. Over 100 people of the 165th joined the 137th Airlift Wing of Oklahoma City, OK and the 130th Airlift Group from Charleston, WV, for a deployment to Chievres AB, Belgium June 5th -18th for "PHOENIX PARTNER" '94. The purpose for the exercise was to demonstrate our ability to operate from a forward base and perform the tactical mission. Missions were flown to Greece, Italy, Germany, and Denmark. In early July, over 260 members of the 165th AG volunteered in the relief efforts of Operation CRESTED RIVER. Much of middle and Southwest Georgia were inundated with flood waters. The Georgia Army and Air National Guard responded. The teamwork displayed during this state emergency was phenomenal. Many people performed in non-traditional roles. All answered the call to perform whatever, from filling water containers to maintaining order and security to helping the Red Cross prepare meals. Personnel were deployed to Macon, Atlanta, Albany, Tifton, Bainbridge, and Americus. On July 4th, 1994, Tropical Storm Alberto stalled over the State of Georgia and over the next 48 hours deposited over 25 inches of rain in some areas. This heavy rain caused extensive flooding along the Flint and Ocmulgee river flood plains in Central and Southwest Georgia. In response to the flooding, the Georgia National Guard conducted the largest State Active Duty mobilization since the 1960's. This operation was called Operation CRESTED RIVER. Fifty-six counties in Georgia were declared federal/state disaster areas. Operation CRESTED RIVER was initiated on July 5th when Governor Zell Miller ordered 12 Georgia National Guardsmen to State Active Duty to conduct flood evacuation operations. Subsequently, an Executive Order was issued declaring a State of Emergency authorizing the Adjutant General of Georgia to activate personnel and equipment to conduct the following missions: Security, Emergency Evacuation, Levee Construction/Sandbagging, Water Purification and Distribution, Aviation Support, Transportation Support, Debris Removal, Emergency Road Repair, Damage Assessment, Medical Support, Shelter Operations, Communications, and Search and Rescue. As the flood waters of the Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers rose, so did the number of Georgia National Guard personnel on duty. On July 17th, a peak strength of 3,847 soldiers and airmen was reached. This 3,000 plus task force consisted of personnel from the Georgia Army and Air National Guard, the Alabama National Guard, the United States Army, United States Marine Corps, and even one Seaman from the United States Navy. All personnel involved in the relief effort were under the command and control of, or in direct support to the Adjutant General. The rising waters of the

Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers started to create major flooding problems on July 5th 1994. As the Ocmulgee River rose, several lakes became filled to capacity and overflowed. This overflow resulted in heavy damage to several dams. Additionally, the flooding of the Ocmulgee River in Macon (population 100,000) caused the loss of the city's water system. The Flint River flooding began a few days after the Ocmulgee and produced more wide spread destruction. At one point, the Flint River was over six miles wide. Total area flooded was greater than the entire land areas of the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts combined, due to the relatively flat terrain in Southwest Georgia, once the river reached flood stage. Participants were later awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM) and a similar state award. In August, two aircraft and approximately sixty 165th personnel were tasked to support Operation SUPPORT HOPE. The 165th provided assistance to humanitarian agencies and third-world nations conducting famine relief operations in Zaire. Based at Entebbe, Uganda, the purpose of the mission was to alleviate immediate suffering of the refugees in Goma, Zaire.

1995 History for the 165th Airlift Wing

1995 was an excellent year for the 165th and its members. We were officially designated the 165th Airlift Wing in November. This year marked the eighteenth anniversary of the wing's participation in CORONET OAK. CORONET OAK is the C-130 rotation in which air reserve forces provide airlift and support for the US Southern Command at Howard AFB, Panama. November 11th, 1995, the 165th Logistics Group established its part of the objective Wing with the creation of the Aircraft Generation Squadron commanded by Capt Brian J Corbett and the 165th Logistics Support Flight headed by Capt Mark A Trammell.

1996 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

The 165th Airlift Wing began 1996 with a new Wing Commander. At a Change of Command ceremony in March, we bade farewell to Col John Oldfield and welcomed Col William N (Wick) Searcy as our new commander. Col Oldfield transferred to State Headquarters in Atlanta to be the Vice Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard. Col Searcy returned from State Headquarters where he had been serving as State Director of Operations. We experienced several other changes in command. Lt Col Ed Wexler was appointed Logistics Group Commander and

Capt Don Pallone as the new Commander of the Maintenance Squadron. Maj Greg Padgett assumed command of the 165th Services Flight. We also said goodbye to Lt Col Frank Jenkins upon his retirement from the 165th Mission Support Flight. Lt Col Norman Burson (former Detachment Commander of the 283rd CCS and 224th JCSS) assumed the position of commander of the 165th MSF. Brig Gen Douglas M Padgett, Commander of the Georgia Air National Guard and former commander of the 165th, retired after almost thirty years of service. Brig Gen Walter C Corish assumed the position as the new GA ANG commander. In the airlift support and deployment arena, the 165th was active from the very beginning of 1996. We provided airlift support for deployed forces in Southwest Asia, SOUTHERN WATCH, in support of NATO forces from January to March. During this same time frame, we also provided support for CORONET OAK in Panama consisting of approximately sixty members, three aircraft, and four air crews. We also flew in a Joint Bolivian/Chile Airdrop Exercise. From April 1st through July 10th members from maintenance, staff, air crew, and two aircraft were deployed

to Ramstein AB, Germany in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR, the Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We also provided airlift support for a classified US Navy mission. We provided two aircraft and support for CORONET OAK at Howard AFB, Panama in August. The 165th provided airlift for the civic leaders of Waycross, GA to visit Peterson AFB, CO during 6-8 May. Members of the 165th deployed to Gulfport, MS during October for an Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE). This was our first ORE since our ORI in November 1995 and was a very successful one. We were deployed to Panama from December 1996 to January 1997. The 165th dining facility was officially reopened on May 4th with a ribbon cutting ceremony by, our Wing commander, Col William Searcy. The dining facility had been closed due to renovation to update us from a 60 's facility to a more modern version. On June 29th members of the 165th and GSUs began participating in the largest peace-time mission the Air National Guard had every been tasked - The 1996 Centennial Olympic Games. Task Force 165 was comprised of personnel from the 165th AW, 165thACPF, 117th ACS, 224th JCSS, 283rd CBCS, and CRTC. Our primary mission was to augment security for local law enforcement to include vehicle sanitation and billeting for over 500 Coast Guard forces at the CRTC. Between the later part of June to early August a total of 437 Air National Guard and 29 State Civilian personnel participated in this major event of a lifetime. A reception was held at the CRTC Quonset Hut on September 7th

1997 History of the 165th Airlift Wing

We participated in SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi from April to May consisting of one aircraft, one crew, and maintenance support. Governor Zell Miller proclaimed February 21st, 1996 as National Guard Day. Members of the 165th joined him and other Air and Army National Guardsmen from around the state at our State Capitol in Atlanta. This proclamation was followed by a legislative luncheon in the Empire Room, Sloppy Floyd Building. Our own Major (Ch) James Rosser, gave the invocation followed with an address by Maj Gen William P Bland. Our members were given the opportunity to discuss legislative issues with our state representatives. One aircraft with crew and three maintenance personnel deployed to RAF Fairford for a week they will likely never forget. Later in the summer the wing was tasked again to resupply US forces in Bosnia. Two aircraft and a significant number of personnel participated in Operation JOINT GUARD from Ramstein AB, Germany. The mission was similar to several previous ones with daily flights into Bosnia and other high threat areas. Also this summer another mission to Panama as part of CORONET OAK was successfully accomplished.

1998 History of the 16th Airlift Wing

The year 1998 was perhaps the busiest for the Wing due to the heavy commitment to Operation JOINT FORGE, deployment to Germany for support of U.S. Forces in Bosnia. The wing was lead unit for this deployment of eight C-130s. Being lead unit required wing personnel to develop all the pre-departure planning, coordination with the host active duty base and conduct deployment processing for all participating units. Over twenty ANG units contributed personnel and aircraft during this 90- day mission. Many ANG personnel traveled by Guard KC-135 aircraft, staging out of Savannah. The effort was an overwhelming success with a 97% mission accomplishment rate. A total of 18 aircraft participated, moving 3,732 tons of cargo and 1,168 sorties. Other deployments included one aircraft and 18 personnel to Operation SOUTHERN WATCH to Saudi Arabia and an ORE to Alpena Michigan involving 7 aircraft and

almost 500 wing personnel. This exercise was called THUNDER BAY. The 1998 worldwide airlift competition AIRLIFT RODEO saw competitors from Operations, Maintenance, Aerial Port and Security Forces. The Security Forces Squadron deployed 14 personnel to BRIGHT STAR in Egypt. Ending the deployment year was the December Coronet Oak deployment to Panama. This deployment came at the same time as Howard AB was being prepared for closure. The wing received its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for superior mission accomplishment. The wing Fire Department and Medical Squadron were first responders to an Amtrak Train derailment in Garden City. Lt Col Ed Wexler was promoted to Colonel. Major Richard Poppell took over as commander of the Mission Support Flight and LtCol Norman L Burson, previous Commander was reassigned to State Headquarters as Executive Support Staff Officer.

1999 February saw the end of another era as the VOLANT OAK mission at Howard AB ended. The 165 AW was fortunate to be on the last ANG rotation to the Panama base that was preparing to close as part of the canal hand-over. Forty-five members of the Georgia ANG took part in the closing ceremonies of the base, a ceremony which marked not only the closing of the base, but the end of a viable Guard mission to the area. Since its inception in 1977, Volant Oak, and its predecessor missions, involved 29 units, over 37,000 people, 2,000 aircraft, and 100,000 flying hours. The mission resumed later that year with the Wing flying two aircraft out of Puerto Rico.

We began the year 2000 planning our participation in the Air Expeditionary Force (AEF), the Air Forces' new deployment concept. January kicked off with a two week deployment to Curacao for another round of drug interdiction work with aircraft 79-0477 and a team of 40 operations, maintenance, and supply types.

In January 2000, the 165th began with two deployments to Curacao for drug interdiction work. General Charles T. Robertson, Commander of Air Mobility Command, visited the wing later in January. In March, Brigadier General Walter C. Corish, Jr., Commander of Georgia Air National Guard, retired. Colonel William N. Searcy, a former commander of the 165th AW, succeeded Brigadier General Corish. The wing participated in Air Expeditionary Force rotation 6, deploying to Ramstein AB, Germany, for Operation Joint Forge.

Members of the 165th Airlift Wing returned from their two-week deployment to San Juan, Puerto Rico, in support of Operation Coronet Oak. Coronet Oak is a continuing mission in which Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command C-130 aircraft, aircrews and support personnel deploy to Muniz Air National Guard Base, Puerto Rico from the United States. From Muniz, Air Guard, Reserve and active duty Air Force assets provide airlift support for U.S. Southern Command throughout Central and South America. Maj. Gen. William Searcy, commander Air National Guard, hosted more than 20 civic leaders and civilian news media representatives visiting the 165th during its deployment. Air and Army Guard officials involved in Operation Coronet Oak briefed the group, which included State Rep. Ann Purcell. Civic leaders and the media had the opportunity to speak with unit members about their work. Operation Coronet Oak has been a continuing operation since 1962. Elements of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve took over the Coronet Oak mission in October 1977 from

the active Air Force. 2002

2003 The Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Airlift Wing received orders activating a large portion of the unit for deployment. The 165th Airlift Wing is based at Savannah International Airport. Approximately 25% of the Wing began the process of deploying to the Persian Gulf region in support of continuing operations. While the actual number of those deployed and the date of their departure is classified, the activation order confirms their departure is imminent. The formal activation for the 165th AW is the first in its history since the Korean War, more than 50 years ago. While the 165th AW has flown numerous missions in support of real-world conflicts over the past half century, including Vietnam, Desert Storm and Bosnia, a Presidential Order did not formally activate the unit for those operations. Members of the unit now activated will focus on preparing their equipment, their families and themselves for active duty away from Savannah, GA. The Air National Guard's Family Readiness personnel will be working with each member and their family to ease the undetermined time of separation. The Georgia Air National Guard would like to especially thank the civilian employers of its traditional Guard members for their unqualified support.

2003 Three C-130 cargo planes brought home 250 air guardsmen in early August from a six-month deployment to the Middle East in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Savannah's 165th were called to active duty in March and while some remain deployed, others have returned to Savannah but could be deployed again within a few months, said Col. Ed Wexler, a unit commander. Savannah airlifters may see additional duty as the unit plans to create a regular two-month deployment rotations for those on active duty, Wexler said. The Guardsmen flew missions all over the Middle East, including combat missions into Iraq. Lt. Col. Jesse Simmons, a C-130 pilot, will never forget flying into Tillil, Iraq shortly after the war started. "You fly low and extremely fast," he said. "It's something you train for your whole career and may only do once."

Twenty-five members of the 165th Airlift Wing and one C-130 returned to the Savannah Air National Guard Base November 10 signaling an end to the constant rotations the 165th AW has performed since the early days of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since that time they have performed over 7,100 flying hours while completing over 3,700 combat sorties with a 98 percent completion rate for both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Over seventy percent of the unit's personnel have taken part in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The 165th AW will be moving to a Air Expeditionary Force cycle where their commitment's overseas would be about four months long. The next AEF cycle for the 165th AW is expected for March 2006. 2005

2006 Members of the 165th Airlift Wing, Georgia Air National Guard returned in early March to an undisclosed location for continued service in Operation Enduring Freedom. A C-130H aircraft

with up to 30 personnel departed March 5, 2006, followed by a second aircraft March 7. This is expected to be the last deployment for the 165th AW for the next 19 months Activated in late April of 2003, the group has served in the Afghanistan area during the unit's several deployments. For some members of the unit, this will be their third or fourth deployment in Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. 2006

The Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Airlift Wing began recapitalizing its C-130H fleet with newer airframes that incorporate more modern avionics, according to a unit release. "With the replacements we are gaining enhanced navigational capability, electronic flight instrumentation, whereas before all of our gages were analog, and improved autopilot system," said 165th AW pilot and inspector general Lt. Col. Jonathan Drew. "These upgrades will significantly contribute to how the 165th AW executes our state and federal missions and allow us to be better prepared for worldwide contingencies," added 165th AW Commander Col. Rainer Gomez. The newer C-130H2.5/H.3s are on average 15 years newer than the wing's current fleet. The first of the eight newer airframes-previously assigned to the 302nd AW at Peterson AFB, Colo.-arrived at Savannah Hilton Head Arpt., Ga., Oct. 15. The fleet swap-out should be complete by the end of 2016. 2015

SAVANNAH AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Ga. -- Air National Guard Airmen with the 165th Air Terminal Operations Center at Savannah Air National Guard Base operated around the clock recently to send disaster relief to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The group of more than 16 Airmen began handling air cargo out of Savannah shortly after the devastation from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. "Every one of these guys is a traditional guardsman, and I just called them, and they said, 'Yeah, I'll help out,'" said Chief Master Sgt. Wayne Weaver, air cargo superintendent. "They weren't tasked, they just volunteered."

The air terminal operations center is coordinating with incoming and outgoing Air National Guard units from across the nation. More help is on the way to handle the massive flow of water, meals ready to eat, equipment and other requested material. Air cargo specialists from the 167th Airlift Wing in West Virginia were also activated and will also join the efforts. Forklifts took 38 pallets, totaling 38,000 pounds of MREs off of a flatbed trailer, carried them into the staging hangar, and continued the process as more cargo arrived.

"It's quite the experience," said Staff Sgt. Austin Duvverly, an air transportation specialist who was hustling to direct forklifts to square metal skids and secure cargo. "It's a good feeling to know that I can help send some support down there, especially when they have no power," said Duvverly. 2017

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 12 Oct 2010
Updated: 28 Aug 2021

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