

165th CONSOLIDATED AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

LINEAGE

165th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron federally recognized, 12 Jul 1958

STATIONS

Garden City, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Clyde B. Knipfer

Maj George A. Blood

Maj Charles E. Miller Jr.

LTC John T. Sparkman

LTC Cary W. Randall

LTC Edward I. Farrell

LTC Thomas R. Morgan, Jr.

LTC Edward I. Wexler

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

As the Southeast Asian buildup developed, 165th CAMS personnel accompanied their aircraft on numerous missions to Vietnam. In November 1965, the first of three "Christmas Star" missions airlifted gifts and mail to Vietnam service personnel.

In August 1970, tragedy struck the Group as seven personnel perished in the crash of a C-124 at Cold Bay, Alaska. MSgt Carl J. "Woody" Worrell of the 165th CAMS was aboard the ill-fated aircraft.

As the C-124s accumulated nearly 20,000 flying hours each, the CAM squadron of over 250 people were required to work long hours to keep the aircraft safe for flight. A particular problem was the C-124's 28 cylinder engines which had been out of production for years.

Maintenance participated in its first JCS exercise in tactical airlift Solid Shield 76, at Pope AFB, NC, from 9-25 May 1976. While at Solid Shield the 165th CAMS demonstrated its high degree of readiness and professionalism. In November 1977, the squadron received its fourth consecutive "outstanding" ORI rating, and in January 1978 deployed 24 maintenance personnel and three aircraft to Howard AFB, Panama, for our first exposure to the CINCMAC Volant Oak Operation. Other JCS exercises included Red Flag, Maple Flag, and Quick Thrust.

In February 1980, the CAMS earned its fifth "Outstanding" ORI during deployment to Pope AFB, NC. In June 1980, the squadron was back in Panama for another Volant Oak rotation. In August of that year, ten of our personnel and C-130E 62-1856 were selected to participate in the Military Airlift Command's Worldwide Tactical Airdrop competition, Volant Rodeo '80. The maintenance judging was amazingly stiff. The CAMS team compiled 1684 points out of 1700 points available and won the overall second place Maintenance Award.

Another busy year was 1981 as the CAMS headed back to Panama in August and prepared to receive eight new C-130Hs from Lockheed Corporation in September.

In March 1982, the Gallant Eagle exercise of the Rapid Deployment Force involved 35 CAMS personnel who spent two weeks in the desert of Southern California. April 1982 was also busy as our unit traveled to Cold Lake, Canada, for the US/Canadian exercise, Maple Flag 82. For those who couldn't go to Canada, the April Quick Thrust Exercise in Savannah occupied much time and attention. In May it was Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, for Ocean Venture. June 1982 saw a return to Pope AFB, NC and Volant Rodeo 82. The unit's competition maintenance team came in second among US units and third overall.

In March 1983, it was ORI/ MEI time again. The CAMS came through again with another "Outstanding" rating on the ORI. Deployments also filled the year in 1983. In June, ten CAMS personnel participated in Central Enterprise 83 at RAF, Mildenhall. Then in August we traveled to the distant Bright Star 83 exercise in Cairo, Egypt, with its tent city and all that sand. 1984 saw the squadron involved in Team Spirit, an exercise in far away Korea, and another Volant Oak mission as the Georgia militia returned in strength to Panama.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit History. GA ANG. *165 Tactical Airlift Group, Georgia Air National Guard, Savannah, GA, 1946-1984.*

Unit History. GA ANG. *Georgia Air National Guard History, 1941-2000.*