

184th SERVICES FLIGHT

LINEAGE

184th Services Flight, 7 Apr 1989

STATIONS

McConnell AFB, KS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Thomas G. Hakeman, 7 Apr 1989

Maj Charles F. Sexson, 2 Dec 1989

Maj Arthur A. Mould, 4 Apr 1992

1LT Lt Steven E. Shook, 1 Dec 1995

Maj Roger A. Barr, 17 Nov 2003

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 184th Services Flight was to provide combat support and community service.

All members of the 184th SVF were mobility tasked and were trained for wartime combat support and contingency operations.

The 184th Services Flight (SVF) had undergone many changes through the years 1986 to 2005. The Services career field went from several different Air Force Specialty Codes, to one main AFSC that encompassed a diverse collection of skills and specialties required by all Services personnel. During those years, manning in Services also changed from more than 40 personnel to only 20 people.

Along with most of the 184th Fighter Wing, in 1989 SVF deployed to Volk Field, Wisconsin where they worked in the Dining Hall at the Combat Readiness Training Center.

In 1990, SVF was awarded the John L. Hennessey Trophy for the most outstanding food service program in the Air National Guard. The SVF excelled in all areas including customer service, meal quality, mission support, professional pride as well as astute management principles. As a result of winning the Hennessy Trophy, the 184 SVF received national recognition from leaders in the industry to include the Society for Food Service Management and the National Restaurant Association.

In 1993, SVF teamed up with the Civil Engineer Squadron (CES) and the Medical Squadron while supporting a humanitarian deployment to Costa Rica. Overcoming the lack of electricity, the SVF personnel provided meals to their hardworking compadres through the means of the Mobile Kitchen Trailer, (MKT).

In 1994 the Flight participated in mandatory Services Combat Training at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Maj Arthur Mould retired as the SVF Commander, and Lieutenant Steven Shook assumed command.

Through the years, SVF has provided support for many different deployments. They supported the 134th at Smoky Hill in 1997, went to Key West with a Maintenance and Operations deployment in December 1999. SVF members also went to Korea, Altus AFB, Oklahoma, and Incirlik AB, Turkey. 184th SVF personnel supported some of the first Air National Guard Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) taskings in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Through fortune or misfortune, the 184 SVF deployed to Aviano AB, Italy in March 1999 resulting in their support of Operation Allied Force which began just days prior to their arrival. The reality of a real world conflict hit home as they took over the In-flight Kitchen, assisted with the Dining Tent Operations, and helped with lodging and fitness. Living in tent city for the first time magnified pitfalls of a force bed down when you haven't planned well. Bathroom tents were 'miles' from lodging tents and there were no phones or internet capabilities. No ground transportation in tent city and not enough furnishings to go around. Walks over uneven gravel paths were long and hazardous. In an attempt to handle the massive surge of inbound personnel, lodging tents were put down on the soccer field, and U.S. Marines were billeted in the Golf Course club house. When the threat level rose to Charlie all personnel were restricted to tent city. U.S. snipers were stationed throughout the base and tent city ensuring protesters lining the street at the front gate could not break through the fence and cause harm to personnel.

The pace didn't slow with the beginning of 1999. In January the unit deployed B-1Bs to participate in Red Flag at Nellis AFB NV. In February Col McIlhenny assumed command of the Bomb Wing as Maj Gen Gardner became the Kansas Adjutant General. The 184th Security Forces Squadron deployed to the US Air Force Desert Warfare Training Center at Indian Springs NV for two weeks of base defense training. In March Col Ed Flora became the Vice Commander for the Wing. The Services Flight deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy in April. In May the 184th along with the Army National Guard units in the Sedgwick County area responded to the Haysville/Wichita communities to assist in recovery from a major tornado.

In August 2001, nine members of SVF deployed to Ahmed Al Jaber AB, Kuwait to support their Air Expeditionary Force commitment. These personnel integrated into all areas of Services operations such as recreation, fitness, food service and lodging. It was another eye opening experience living in tent city, dealing with Third Country Nationals, (TCN's), and the security issues involved with them. They endured horrible, dastardly, almost unbearable heat.

The terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 brought SVF's career field to full alert. During the next year several false alarms of being activated caused stress and worry as they waited to find out what was in store for them. SVF personnel were ready, willing and able to accept the challenges ahead.

In October 2002, fifteen Services personnel, augmented by five Medical Squadron airmen, supported an ORI for a Special Operations Group at RAF Fairford AB, UK. Together they supplied meals, MRE's, moral support, and all the comfort possible to nearly 800 U.S. Army and Air Force Special Operations troops. Steak dinners for 800 made for a great ending to a successful ORI and deployment for SVF.

Since 2002 SVF has represented the 184th and ANG all over the world to include; Maple Flag in Edmonton, Canada, the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Misawa AB, Japan, Nellis AFB, Nevada, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, Gulfport, Mississippi, Al Udeid AB, Qatar, and again at RAF Fairford AB, UK. The 184 SVF personnel cooked, lodged, recreated, bartended, and worked as fitness specialists for hundreds of US military personnel and coalition forces.

Major Steven Shook resigned as the SVF Commander in August 2002 to accept a missionary assignment that would take him to Papua, New Guinea for two years. In December 2002, Major Roger Barr was selected to assume the command of the Services Flight.

In June 2004, the entire flight completed Services Combat Training during the Silver Flag Exercise at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Heat, humidity, short tempers, unidentified bug bites, and a whole lot of learning were enjoyed by all. Personnel learned to build temporary tents, California shelters, how to start burners, and how to complete accounting paperwork while in full chemical gear. SVF personnel also organized a force bed down with the experts in CES. This experience provided SVF members with many stories to embellish and impress friends and family with for years to come.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.