

463rd AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

463rd Organizational Maintenance Squadron
Redesignated 463rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

STATIONS

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jul 1963-23 Nov 1965
Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Jun 1969-31 Dec 1971
Dyess AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1972
Little Rock AFB, AR

ASSIGNMENTS

463rd Maintenance Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc as a globe Azure, gridlined Grebe (Smoke Gray), an eagle displayed throughout Proper, perched upon a large wrench fesswise Argent shaded Sable, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "COMBAT READY COMBAT PROVEN" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "463D AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQ" in Yellow 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 eagle denotes the aircraft serviced. The wrench, clutched within the eagle's talons, represents the maintainers' craft in accomplishing their duties with craftsmanship and pride. The globe is a reminder that this unit's mission reaches into all corners of the world.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The "workshop" for the aircraft mechanics of the 463rd Organizational Maintenance Sq. is a hot slab of concrete where they toil under the boiling sun to keep C-130Bs of the 463rd Troop Carrier Wg. in shape to provide airlift support for U.S. forces in Southeast Asia.

The men working for Capt. Samuel Gugliotta, maintenance officer, earn their keep by putting in a whopping average of 3,500 man hours a week to provide around the clock care for the Hercules of the wing.

The top NCO of the work force, CMSgt Leslie H. White explains that the operation is handled by two sections, A and B, and a phase inspection team. The men assigned to the two sections keep a regular check on specific aircraft and when specified work is required they call on the experts of the 463rd Field Maintenance Squadron.

Sergeant White's men staff sections A and B in two flights, which are further broken down into crews assigned to specific planes.

SMSgt Eugene C. Ensing heads A section and SMSgt. Charles R. Pickel is his assistant For B section it is SMSgt Claude Ragland, assisted by MSgt Albert Ramos. SMSgt Alphonse J. Martin is the chief of the phase inspection crew.



THE WORK AREA of the 463rd Organizational Maintenance Sq.'s crews is the hot concrete ramp where they give personalized care to the C-130Bs of the 463rd Troop Carrier Wg. Four men are assigned to each aircraft to keep it in shape to fly rugged airlift missions for Pacific Air Forces.

For the most part, the men assigned to the sections are relative newcomers to the Hercules. They arrived at Mactan from Strategic Air Command bases and immediately plunged into a vigorous on-the-job training program that has proved remarkably successful.

It wasn't an easy transition for the ex-SAC members, who had previously worked on bombers and aerial tankers, but they didn't let that deter them. SSgt Bobby Lynch learned the Hercules and set some sort of record by becoming the first crew chief in recent memory to put his C-130B in the clear of write-ups.

The project under which they were transferred from SAC to the 463rd Wing was labeled "Fast Fly" and for the majority of them that's just what it was. One of them said he was notified to be at Travis AFB, Calif., for a flight to the Philippines within a week. He had to quickly resettle his family, but he made it.

When a C-130B returned to Mactan from a mission elsewhere in the Far East, the mechanics check it over, wash it, correct their write-ups on the plane and send it back to the line as soon as it is ready to fly again. This includes everything from the clock on the instrument panel to the engines.

When it is necessary to call on members of the Field Maintenance Squadron, the OMS men work with them.

Four people are assigned to each aircraft, a crew chief and three assistants. When a C-130B leaves here for an airlift mission in another country, three of the four men assigned to the ground crew go with it

After a Hercules has flown 125 hours, it is turned over to Sergeant Martin's phase inspection team for a thorough going over. The planes receive the same special treatment from the team as they get from the individual crews.

The work is never ending for the OMS men. Their area on the flight line is a constant beehive of activity with the heaviest schedule during the day light hours.

Despite the oven-like heat of the aircraft interior and the blistering hot skin of the planes, complaints from the men who work on them are few. As one of them put it they're too busy doing a job to gripe.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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