

## 823 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

Airmen of the 823rd MXS maintain and repair engines and auxiliary power units for the HH-60 Pave Hawk.

### **LINEAGE**

823 Maintenance Squadron activated, 10 Apr 2012

### **STATIONS**

Nellis AFB, NV

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

23 Maintenance Group

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Kimberly Grover

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

On a disc per bend sinister nebuly Argent and Azure, a pave hawk Gris, detailed Sable, beaked and eyed Or, grasping in its dexter talon a lightning bolt of the last, and in his sinister talon a two-sided wrench of the third, all within a narrow border Green. Attached above the disc, a

Black scroll edged with a narrow Green border and inscribed "SI DESCENDIT NOS VENIT" in Green letters. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Green border and inscribed "823D MAINTENANCE SQUADRON" in Green letters. 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. White signifies the purity of the Squadron's cause to support the mission and the remembrance of fellow service members in arms who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The pave hawk and wrench denote the HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter and its professional maintainers. The lightning bolt signifies the Squadron's rapid response.

Emblem designed by Master Sergeant Mark Schultz

### **MOTTO**

SI DESCENDIT NOS VENIT--If You Go Down, We Will Arrive

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Officials at Nellis AFB, Nev., last week transitioned the base's 763rd Maintenance Squadron from Air Force Special Operations Command to Air Combat Command. As part of the change, the unit is now designated the 823rd Maintenance Squadron and falls under the 23rd Maintenance Group located at Moody AFB, Ga. The move is "going to be pretty much transparent to everyone that works here [at Nellis]. It's not going to encompass anything new, and we won't have to reorganize any flight, section, or anything like that," said CMSgt. McKinney Crawford, the squadron's maintenance superintendent. He added, "What the change does do for us is make sure we know what our identity is. And, that is very important." Specifically, said squadron officials, it integrates the unit more closely with its sister squadrons--the 723rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron at Moody and the 923rd MXS at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. All three squadrons maintain HH-60G Pave Hawk rescue helicopters. 2012

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. (AFNS) -- In mid-afternoon Sept. 8, 2017, the 66th Rescue Squadron and 823rd Maintenance Squadron assigned to Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada, received a call from U.S. Northern Command to ready teams to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency search and rescue efforts in the Florida Keys following the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.

Nellis AFB personnel loaded a C-5M Super Galaxy cargo aircraft assigned to the 60th Air Mobility Wing, Travis AFB, California, with three HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters, two personnel recovery task forces, 54 support personnel and approximately 60 short tons of supplies and departed the base Sept. 11. "One life is worth saving," said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Borresen, 23rd Maintenance Group quality assurance inspector. "If we have the funds available, the people available to do it, why not?" Borresen is familiar with the preparation needed to perform a rescue mission. He was also a crew member for Operation Tomodachi, a search and rescue mission to help the victims of the tsunami that struck Japan in 2013. He is confident Nellis AFB will be just as effective in the Florida Keys.

“Everybody we have going right now is the best of the best,” said Borresen, who is responsible for inspecting the maintenance on the aircraft. “We should not have a problem having these aircraft perform for us. We provide safe aircraft for operators who can, in turn, go out and save lives.” As it takes a village to raise a child, it takes several units to get the aircraft in the task force on their way to Florida. Training was put to the test as the 823rd MXS fought forces out of their control – as the clock ticked, nature roared from above. Dodging a Las Vegas lightning storm, the unit pulled helicopters into the hangar, prepped and restaged them on the flight line before loading them onto the C-5 Galaxy cargo aircraft, said Senior Airman Makayla Best, 823rd MXS assistant dedicated crew chief.

While the 823rd MXS prepared the aircraft, Senior Airman Kayleigh Jones, Detachment 1, 563rd Operations Support Squadron aircrew flight equipment technician, prepared equipment for the four-man HH-60 aircrews, to include pilots and special missions aviators, who would be performing day and night rescue missions. For Jones, this was more than just an Air Force mission.

“I have a lot of friends down in Florida, a lot of family down in Florida still, so I’m glad to be part of this team,” she said. “These things we do so that others may live.” Finally, recovery teams prepared to work with local authorities and other military branches to maximize rescue efforts

“Once we get wheels on the ground, it’s going to be our priority to coordinate with those guys as they will be our eyes and ears on the ground,” said Capt. Keoki Kimzin, 55th Rescue Squadron combat rescue pilot at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, and leading one of the four-man teams assisting with civilian evacuations and possible medical treatment. “They will allow us to integrate with them to do our job more efficiently as they are the experts in the area.” In less than 18 hours of the call, the C-5 was packed and ready to take flight.

“We always say, ‘Practice like you play,’” said Best. “It’s rough because it’s somebody’s worst day when they need us, but it’s what we’re here for – it’s what we live for.”

This is the second call Nellis AFB has received to support USNORTHCOM’s mission to assist lead federal relief agencies in helping those affected by recent hurricanes, in an effort to minimize suffering while continuing its mission of defending the homeland. Thirty-one Nellis AFB members assigned to the 99th Air Base Wing, 58th Rescue Squadron and the 23rd Wing were requested to assist with Hurricane Harvey response efforts in Texas. These members were tasked with providing humanitarian relief as well as command and control to military forces assisting FEMA, state and local authorities with the relief efforts. Nellis AFB stands ready to provide additional support, should it be requested. 2017

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.