

1st AERIAL PORT GROUP



MISSION

The 1st Aerial Port Group mission was to provide command and staff supervision of aerial port squadrons engaged in providing loading and unloading at forward bases and aerial ejection of supplies and equipment from troop carrier aircraft; tactical air terminal teams at advance airfields or landing zones; and combat control teams to locate, identify and mark airborne assault zones (drop zones, landing zones and extraction zones) and to establish and operate ground to air and point to point communications and navigational aids as required in support of the troop carrier mission. Aerial port units were co-located with troop carrier wings.

LINEAGE

1st Aerial Port Group (Provisional) activated, 1 Jul 1964

Redesignated 1st Aerial Port Group

Inactivated

STATIONS

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jul 1964-1 Jul 1975

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col George C. Welch, 15 Jul 1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1969-30 Dec 1970

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activation of an Aerial Port Group headquarters was the result of problems encountered in airborne exercises such as SWIFT STRIKE III which pointed out the need for aerial port capability in Tactical Air Command to support operations of airborne ground forces.

Facilities to support the airlift mission at Langley became essential. To provide qualified supervisory personnel for the loading and unloading of aircraft and the aerial ejection of supplies and equipment from troop carrier aircraft, Headquarters, TAC activated the 1st Aerial Port Group on 1 July 1964 at Langley. This unit also handled the operation of tactical air terminals at advanced air fields and landing zones; provided combat control teams to locate, identify, and mark drop zones; and established communications and navigational aids as required for troop carrier operations.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

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