

38 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 38 Aerial Port Squadron deploys trained personnel and serviceable equipment to provide augmentation or stand-alone aerial port operations at ports of embarkation/debarkation or unit-move locations.

Responsibilities include cargo processing, aircraft loading/unloading, joint inspection, mobility functions, load-team supervision, engine running on-loads/off-loads and home-station and deployed air terminal operations center, airlift control element, transportation control unit and air departure arrival control group operations.

The five major sections of the 38 APS include: ATOC/ Load planning, Ramp Services, Cargo Processing, Special Handling and Passenger Services. ATOC is the centerpiece of the aerial port squadron. ATOC receives all information from the Command Post and then passes that information on to each section that applies. Load planning ensures that the aircraft is loaded in the proper sequence with appropriate restraints. Cargo Processing receives cargo and in-checks the cargo and puts that information into GATES and places cargo into the proper bay location. This section also takes capped out pallets and stores them in grid locations until load planning is ready for the cargo. Special Handling serves as the pivotal point for hazardous materials moving through the military air shipment channel. The 38 APS team consists of twelve members who are qualified to perform hazardous materials inspections and perform joint inspections on equipment. Ramp Services main mission is to teach airmen how to load airplanes. The Ramp section puts pallets or rolling stock on special pieces of equipment, takes them out to the aircraft, loads it on the plane, and ties down all items being transported so when the plane is in the air the items will remain secure. Passenger Services ensures all passengers and cargo are secured on the aircraft and that there is no delay in aircraft departure. Unit Size: 6 Officers, 165

Enlisted

LINEAGE

3 Air Cargo Control Squadron (Special) constituted, 6 Nov 1944
Activated, 24 Nov 1944
Inactivated, 20 May 1946
Disbanded 8 Oct 1948
Reconstituted, and redesignated 38 Aerial Port Squadron, 23 Jul 1982
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1982

STATIONS

Biak Island, New Guinea, 24 Nov 1944
Clark Field, Luzon, Philippines, 23 Apr 1945
Okinawa, Ryukyus, 21 Jul-10 Sep 1945
Hino, Japan, 15 Sep 1945
Tachikawa Army Air Base, Japan, 16 Nov 1945-20 May 1946
Charleston AFB, SC, 1 Oct 1982

ASSIGNMENTS

54 Troop Carrier Wing, 24 Nov 1944
21 Air Service Group, 18 Dec 1944
54 Troop Carrier Wing, 1 Dec 1945
317 Troop Carrier Group, 5 Jan-20 May 1946
316 Military Airlift Wing (Associate), 1 Oct 1982

COMMANDERS

Lt Col James N. Benton, 1 Oct 1982
Lt Col John Tree
Lt Col Charles Drouillard, 24 Apr 2008
Lt Col James McLin, 16 May 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation
23 Apr - 4 Jul 1945

EMBLEM

On a light blue disc a yellow crate, supported by a yellow and white parachute with eight blue suspension lines, above a horizontal bar issuing from base divided vertically brown and green surmounted by a blue truck; all within a narrow blue border. Attached above the disc a blank yellow scroll bordered blue and attached below the disc a yellow scroll bordered blue inscribed "READY FOR ALL THINGS" in blue letters. **SYMBOLISM:** 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. Green and brown represent the capability of the Squadron to perform anywhere in the world. The parachute signifies the aerial transport of material and refers to the unit's origin as an aerial delivery flight. The vehicle designates the ground movement of material. The three panels of the parachute and the eight lines attached to it refer to the numerical designation of the Squadron. The three lines attached on one crate, which hovers above a vehicle with five vertical struts symbolize the Squadron's previous numerical designation, 315th Aerial Port Flight. (Approved, 22 Aug 1984)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Organized in the Pacific in 1944, squadron took an active role in handling cargo for American and Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific Area. Moving to Japan after V-J Day, the 3d participated in cargo-handling operations associated with the occupation of Japan and the demobilization of Armed Forces in the Pacific.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 4 Sep 2010
Updated: 12 Aug 2023

Sources

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