

85 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



MISSION

85 Aerial Port Squadron mission is to operate an Aerial Port facility in the event of mobilization.
4 Officers and 103 Airmen assigned (1970)

LINEAGE

85 Air Terminal Squadron constituted and activated, 22 Mar 1960
Organized in the Reserve, 8 Jun 1960
Redesignated 85 Aerial Port Squadron, 1 Jul 1967

STATIONS

Laurence G. Hanscom Fld (later, Laurence G. Hanscom AFB; Hanscom AFB), MA, 8 Jun 1960

ASSIGNMENTS

2625 Air Reserve Center, 8 Jun 1960
2609 Air Reserve Center, 1 Sep 1960
2491 Air Force Reserve Sector, 1 Jul 1961
First Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1965
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
514 Military Airlift (later, 514 Airlift) Wing, 1 Aug 1973
439 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992
622 Regional Support Group, 1 Jan 1995

COMMANDERS

Maj Thomas H. Freeman
Maj Joseph J. Mayne, Jr., 15 Dec 1970

Lt Col Henry G. Birkdale
Maj John P. Mailo

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1973-31 Jan 1975

1 Aug 1977-31 Dec 1978

1 Aug 1988-31 Jul 1990

1 Aug 1990-31 Jul 1992

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

2 Jul-1 Sep 1966

EMBLEM

Approved, 10 Sep 1985

MOTTO

OPERATIONS



Maj Joseph J. Mayne, Jr.

When Ramstein AB, Germany went into overdrive to aid Pakistani earthquake victims in October, Patriot Wing 85th APS aerial porters were in place to support the humanitarian airlift. A 22-member team of aerial porters from Hanscom AFB, Mass. performed annual tour at Ramstein

AB from October 8 to 22. It was during these two weeks that Ramstein AB was designated a major staging base for the Pakistani earthquake support. Eight missions were handled, which included 241 tons of cargo and rolling stock, as well as 324 medical and support personnel who were being sent on military and commercial aircraft. The emergency response was a lifesaver for Pakistani people left homeless, hungry and in severe need of medical help as winter weather approached in the high mountainous area following a major earthquake. The Pakistani humanitarian airlift was one highlight of the 85th APS overseas annual tour. They also worked long days turning around aircraft in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom missions during an annual tour which the aerial porters described as a premier training experience.

“This tour put it all into perspective for me,” said Tech. Sgt. Dave Pais, air terminal operations center (ATOC) controller. “I got to see things that we don’t normally get to see as reservists. Ramstein is the hub of all the activity going downrange and I had the opportunity to see the amount of material and troops moving up and down range. “Even though I was only there for two weeks, I felt like I did my own small part to help my brother and sister troops in Iraq and Afghanistan perform their missions,” he said. The 85th APS aerial porters integrated with their aerial port counterparts from active duty, deployed reservists, and thirty members of the 74th APS from Lackland AFB, Texas. They worked together as part of the 723rd Air Mobility Squadron.

They performed the full range of aerial port functions, including ATOC, cargo processing, passenger services, ramp services, and computer support. Because the 85th APS does not have the opportunity to handle commercial cargo aircraft and aeromedical evacuation configured C-17’s at Hanscom AFB, the annual tour at Ramstein was considered a bonus training opportunity. Due to the recent closing of Rhein-Main AB, Germany, the workload at Ramstein increased exponentially as the air traffic was now being routed there. The active-duty members of the 723rd AMS immediately integrated all the 85th and 74th members into the duty sections and they had to “hit the ground running” in response to the sheer volume of work that Ramstein now handles.

Senior Master Sgt. James Keay, 85th APS first sergeant, worked with the 723rd AMS. “As I worked with my active duty first sergeant counterpart, I got exposure to personnel issues that we normally don’t deal with in the reserves. My counterpart included me in all of the decision-making processes during this time as we worked together to handle issues and do our jobs effectively,” Sergeant Keay said. As a team, the 85th APS handled 8,696 tons of cargo, 10,165 duty and space available passengers, and 716 missions. The annual tour was a unique opportunity to work directly with the active duty and the 85th APS performed well and received nothing but excellent feedback from the 723rd AMS senior staff. The aerial porters came home with confidence that they had demonstrated that the reservists and active-duty Airmen are one team.2006

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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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.