

130th MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Charleston, WV

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Randy D. Buckner
Maj Rosemary M. Smith
Maj Howard Franklin

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

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OPERATIONS

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (Jan. 9, 2010) -- The C-130 occasionally needs a bath. "Every 180 days," said Tech. Sgt. Adam Mace, an aircraft mechanic with the 130th Maintenance Squadron at Yeager Airport. "We do this right before every ISO inspection." ISO, or isochronal inspection, is a phase of aircraft maintenance based on calendar days. "Right before every ISO inspection, it [plane] comes in and gets washed, and then halfway through this phase, before the next ISO, it gets washed again. So it gets two washes a year," Mace said. Washing a C-130 is almost the same as washing a car, except the crew uses a heavy industrial soap that is mildly corrosive. "There's soot from the running of the engines. On the flap wells you'll have greases, oils, and hydraulic fluids," said Master Sgt. Kraig Thomas, the inspection element supervisor for the 130th Maintenance Squadron. Maintenance crews use a low pressure spray gun that foams the soap so it clings to the

surface of the aircraft and has a longer hang time. “We start at the bottom and wash our way to the top,” Mace said. “We get the landing gear, then we get the wing and the tail, and then we get on top of the wings.” The C-130 being washed belongs to the 125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard. “This plane...flies over salt water. Salt water’s real corrosive, so it’s important that we get it cleaned,” Mace said. The 18-year Air Force veteran said washing an aircraft is just like washing your personal vehicle. He said maintenance crews take a great deal of pride when the water is shut off and they can step back to view the freshly scrubbed airplane.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources