

189th AERIAL PORT FLIGHT

LINEAGE

189th Mobile Aerial Port Flight

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STATIONS

Little Rock AFB, AR

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Eighteen members of the 189th Mobile Aerial Port Flight gained a wealth of knowledge through experience during the Mar 1988 Unit Training Assembly when they were involved in a joint exercise with the 142nd Brigade, Arkansas Army National Guard. The exercise was similar to one held the previous summer except that this time it was held in Fayetteville. Another difference was that this time the 189th MAPF actually did the "hands on" chaining of the motorized vehicles. The Army equipment ranged from two 2 1/2 ton trucks down to two jeeps with luggage trailers. There were 10 pieces of rolling stock involved in the exercise.

When the Crisis in the Persian Gulf became a reality, 30 traditional Guardsmen from the 189th

MAPF didn't have long to wait before they found out what their role might be. Called upon to volunteer until U.S. Air Force resources could be re-deployed to handle the training mission of 2nd Mobile Aerial Port Squadron on Little Rock AFB, the Guardsmen learned quickly what aerial delivery was all about. The air cargo specialists realized that loading and unloading aircraft was only part of their job at MAPF.

The Phase II portion of training involves airdrop of equipment and supplies, a function that the aerial delivery of a Mobile Aerial Port unit is charged with supporting. Senior Master Sgt Robert Jones, 189 MAPF loadmaster superintendent, manages that section and was tasked to ensure that the same professional quality support was provided. Sgt Jones quickly went to work to see that required supplies, equipment, manpower and work schedules were completed. In less than 24 hours, the job of supporting the entire LRAFB Airdrop Mission belonged to the 189 MAPF. During the next 45 days, over 200 pieces of equipment and supplies were rigged, loaded, airdropped and recovered by the volunteers of MAPF. "The six and seven-day-a-week operation was another example of the sacrifices and achievements that this unit has displayed since its birth in 1986," said Senior Master Sgt. Roger Fox, Aerial Port Flight superintendent "teamwork is a reality and we depend on each other to perform professionally at a moment's notice," Fox concluded. All those who were involved in support of 2 MAPS on Little Rock AFB were relieved of duty by 31 Dec.

11 Feb 1991 Fifty members of the 189th CES were called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm. Twelve Mobile Aerial Port Flight members, two members of the Resource Management Sqdn and one member of the Mission Support Sqdn were called up.

Members of the 189th Airlift Wing found themselves working around the clock to airlift supplies to hurricane-stricken Honduras during the winter of 1998. Two C-130s and crews from the 189th Airlift Wing departed Little Rock AFB 13 Nov 1998 for Alexandria Esler Regional Airport, LA. to pick up food and supplies and transport them to Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras, about 60 miles northwest of the capital city, Tegucigalpa. Aerial Port members had sprung into action. Members picked up a tractor trailer load of food and clothing from a storage warehouse in Southwest Little Rock and transported it to the base for palletizing. It was a long night for Aerial Port members Senior Master Sgt. John Knuteson, and Staff Sgts. John Mabe and Ronald James. It was almost midnight before they went home for a few hours sleep. The Arkansas collection was spearheaded by Christ the King Catholic Church, which collected more than 180,000 pounds of food and supplies for the people of Honduras. "If there are any heroes here, they are the people of Christ the King Catholic Church and all the people and organizations who have donated supplies and money," Knuteson said.

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Sources

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