

189th AIRLIFT SQUADRON



LINEAGE

189th TRTF activated, 1 Sep 1984

189th Training Flight, 15 Mar 1992

STATIONS

Gowen Field, Boise, ID

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

LTC Christopher D. Rood July 2004 - Jan 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 189th Tactical Reconnaissance Training Flight was formed in 1983 and provides operational training in the RF-4C to pilots and WSOs who have recently graduated from flying and navigator schools. Aircrews come to Boise from every ANG reconnaissance unit in the country to learn the skills necessary to fly and operate the RF-4C systems.

1 Sep 1984: Activated at Gowen Field, Boise, as RF-4C replacement training unit. The 189th TRTF shared RF-4Cs with the RWS and the 190th TRS.

Mar 1991: Gained responsibility for training active-duty RF-4C aircrews.

Dec 1991: After absorbing the RWS instructors and receiving six RF-4Cs, the 189th trained RF-4C and F-4G crews.

The 189th Airlift Squadron (189 AS) is an inactive unit of the Idaho Air National Guard. It was last assigned to the 124th Wing located at Gowen Field Air National Guard Base, Boise, Idaho.

The 189th AS was activated on 1 September 1996 at Gowen Field ANGB as part of the 124th Wing. It was a tactical airlift squadron, equipped with Lockheed C-130E Hercules transports.

Prior to its activation as a squadron in 1995, the unit was initially formed on 1 April 1984 as the 189th Tactical Reconnaissance Training Flight. Its mission was a Formal Training Unit (FTU) for aircrews being assigned to the 124th Tactical Reconnaissance (later Fighter) group flying RF-4C Phantom II reconnaissance and later F-4G Phantom II electronic warfare aircraft. On 16 March 1992 it was re-designated as the 189th Fighter Flight. The flight used 190th TFS/FS aircraft for its training mission.

With the retirement of the F-4Gs in 1995, the status of the unit was changed from a flight to a squadron, and it received C-130E aircraft for operational missions. The 189th supported countless deployments all over the world in support of the U.S. Southern Command, Operation Allied Force, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They also responded to winter weather disasters New Mexico and provided humanitarian support for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The 189th Airlift Squadron was inactivated as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act on 18 October 2009. Many of the members who were part of the squadron were

absorbed within the wing.

10/18/2009 - **10/18/2009 - GOWEN FIELD, Boise, Idaho** -- Feelings were mixed and attendees looked to the future as the inactivation ceremony of the 189th Airlift Squadron and 124th Aerial Port squadron marked a new beginning for many Oct. 18. "It wasn't the deployments that I remember but the Christmas parties, off sites, good times and the best part is the people. Here's the good news, the people are still here," Lt. Col. Bill Michell the last 189th Airlift Squadron Commander. After the orders were posted the unit flags were encased symbolizing the end of the units' 13 year historic mission, but not the end of good friendships and great memories. "The fall seasons colors change, leaves fall and we see what's happening with these two fine units but we will see what happens as spring emerges. We have set ourselves up for growth," 124th Fighter Wing Commander Col. James Compton. Both units were tasked many times with requirements far outweighing their resources. Without fail they not only met the demands, but performed exceptionally. At times the operations affected as many as half of the squadrons' personnel. Both unit commanders attest to the willingness and skills of their people that embodied the "First class or not at all" as not just a motto but a way of life. "It isn't often you see a Chief Master Sergeant rolling down the flight line in an AT forklift but we did what it took to get things done," Capt. Craig Wood the last 124th Aerial Port Flight Commander. "From moving snow equipment, floods, whatever it was that we asked for the people were always there," Lt. Col. Bill Michell. The 189th Airlift Squadron was activated in September 1996. During their 13 years of operations the unit supported countless deployments all over the world in support of the U.S. Southern Command, Operation Allied Force, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They also responded to winter weather disasters New Mexico and provided humanitarian support for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Airlift Squadron's awards include the Governor's Outstanding Unit Citation 1997, 1999, and 2005 as well as the Adjutant General Award 1998. The 124th Aerial Port Flight was activated in May 1996 and was tasked to provide qualified personnel and serviceable equipment to move, on load and offload aircraft. The 13 years of Aerial Port operations required countless hours at night, on the weekends and holidays that totaled approximately 30,000 passengers, one million short tons of cargo processed and more than 850 aerial deliveries. The Aerial Port unit participated in numerous deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Also provided support for Presidential and Vice Presidential visits, natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Rita flood relief and employer support for the Guard and Reserve Boss Lifts. The Aerial Port awards include the Adjutant General's Outstanding Unit Citation for 2004 and 2005. The deactivation of these two organizations was a bittersweet event but the legacy has prepared the wing to grow into emerging new missions. Col. Compton said we would be unable to accomplish this without the beautiful facilities that have been developed our campus.

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.