

349 AIR MOBILITY OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

349 Airlift Control Flight constituted, 14 Jul 1987

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1988

Redesignated 349 Air Mobility Operations Flight, 1 Apr 2009

Redesignated 349 Air Mobility Operations Squadron, 1 Jun 2010

STATIONS

Travis AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1987

ASSIGNMENTS

349 Military Airlift (later, 349 Airlift) Wing, 1 Oct 1987

349 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Paul Hromanik, 22 Apr 2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1994
1 Jul 1994-15 Aug 1995
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2002
1 Aug 2002-15 Aug 2003
16 Aug 2003-17 Aug 2004
18 Aug 2005-17 Aug 2006
18 Aug 2006-17 Aug 2007
18 Aug 2007-17 Aug 2008

EMBLEM



349 Air Mobility Operations Flight emblem approved, 1 Feb 2010

349 Air Mobility Operations Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, within a gear Gules, a wyvern rampant Or, armed and eyed Argent, nose and pupil Sable, encircled by its tail a lightning bolt bend sinisterwise of the second, in dexter base two polestars one and one of the fourth; all within a Yellow border. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "CONSISTO CONSORTIO" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "349 AIR MOBILITY OPS SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. 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. The mythological wyvern, a form of dragon, historically associated with the parent wing, suggests the strength, speed and power of the unit in its support mission of long-range movement and/or air evacuation of personnel, equipment and supplies. Its extended right claw reflects readiness to deliver these services. The smoke and fire the wyvern breathes from its nostrils symbolizes the unit's personnel as the internal force of the wing. The red lightning bolt, historically associated with the active duty host unit, is tightly wrapped within the wyvern's tail to signify the global rapid deployment capability and

the close relationship between the two units. The segmented gear, in perpetual motion, denotes the never ending logistical support continually provided to AMC. Lastly, the two crystalline stars represent the command and control capability offered in support of airlift operations. 30 Sep 2010

MOTTO

CONSISTO CONSORTIO--Steadfast Partnership

OPERATIONS

In the almost three years (1,000 plus days) from October 2006 when the 349 Airlift Control Flight was directed to convert from the Contingency Response Element mission to a new Air Mobility Division mission, the newly designated 349 Air Mobility Operations Flight has accomplished some quite amazing things. At least one member of the unit, and usually several, has been deployed every day since October 2006. "Real world" deployments to the Area of Responsibility have included: Central Command, Africa Command and Northern Command. Several members of the 349 AMOF have continuously supported NORTHCOM since late 2008 and the unit still has Airmen at the Tyndall Air Operations Center through October 2009.

The unit has directly supported Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle; and Hurricanes Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike. It has also provided presidential support during the Summit of the Americas, provided the 15th Air Mobility Operations Squadron with long tour augmentation for day-to-day operations and exercises; augmented the active duty command post at Travis continuously for more than a year; managed Stage Crew Operations at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, RAF Mildenhall, England, and Yokota AB, Japan.

Currently, it has Airmen deployed to Ramstein assisting with the stand-up of the newest Air and Space Operations Center—AFRICOM. During the 2008 Hurricane season, almost 50 percent of the unit deployed in less than 24 hours to Tyndall AFB, Florida, to support NORTHCOM/1AF. Tasked to become the first Air Force-Northern Command, Regional Air Mobility Coordination Center (AFNORTH-RAMCC), the AMOF ensured around-the clock Department of Defense air mobility operations for Texas, Florida, Louisiana, and other areas managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The Federal Aviation Administration apportioned control of disaster area civilian airfield arrival and departure "slot" times to the AFNORTH-RAMCC team, marking it the first time in history the FAA relinquished control of civilian slot times to a military agency.

The 'outstanding' performance included the much heralded "Gen-Pop" air evacuations with more than 6,000 New Orleans residents relocated away from the path of Hurricane Gustav. One week later, the RAMCC spearheaded the coordination effort with multiple active duty, National Guard, and Air Force Reserve organizations to transport more than 400 critical-care patients away from the Texas Gulf Coast devastation of Hurricane Ike. These time-sensitive aeromedical evacuation operations demanded careful planning in an environment of constantly changing requirements caused by rapidly deteriorating weather conditions a challenge the RAMCC, populated largely by 349 AMOF Airmen, met with ease.

The 349 Air Mobility Operations Flight is one of only two AMOFs in the Air Force Reserve Command and the lead unit through the conversion process. The unit has more than doubled in size from 14 in 2006 to 31 assigned today and will be three times its original size before the end of the conversion. Although the AMOF is a small flight, it has all the duties and responsibilities of any Air Force squadron and manages to meet these responsibilities without the assistance of a support staff and with only three full-time members.

2007 Incredible advances have been made in technology, and still, Mother Nature remains a force that can't be controlled. So for now all we can do is prepare and train in order to be ready to repair the devastation natural disasters often create. The military is no exception. Joint Freedom is an exercise that helps prepare for just such a scenario and is designed to foster teamwork between reserve, active duty and joint components in order to ensure a coordinated, seamless response to natural disasters. According to Lt. Col. Michael Thomas, 349 Airlift Control Flight commander, the 349 ALCF is an organization few people know about – and even fewer understand its purpose. The 349 ALCF is a combat support unit, ready to mobilize anywhere in the world. It's their job to set up a self sustained and functional air command in a short amount of time. "We can land on a dirt strip and have an air command functional in 30 minutes," stated Master Sgt. Steven Mitchell, loadmaster and affiliation instructor for the 349 ALCF. This capability is utilized largely during natural disasters to get aid where it's needed as quickly as possible. The Joint Freedom training scenario is designed around a fictional tsunami in the Philippines. The exercise, to lend reality to the training, is held in two different locations during this week-long event. The installations, Castle Air Force Base, Calif., and Ft. Hunter Liggett, Calif., were chosen for their ability to allow dirt strip landings needed for this training. Through the course of this exercise training will focus heavily on the use of night-vision goggles in flight and landing as well as during the course of uploading and downloading equipment and supplies from the aircraft. Although they're capable of training around the clock, troops will be working in 12-hour shifts for the duration of the exercise. "It's a tremendous effort from all involved" said Colonel Thomas. "Without any one of the participating teams, we wouldn't be able to make this exercise as successful as we know it will be." by Staff Sgt. Charlene Hanley
349 Public Affairs There are three goals of this training: to keep current on job skills, to strengthen interaction between reserve and active duty wings here at Travis Air Force Base and to create the opportunity to work with different branches of service. This exercise affords the opportunity to foster cooperation between branches of service and create a fluid response to disasters that lends to better communication during actual events. Participating in this exercise are personnel from the 349 Airlift Control Flight, the 615th Contingency Response Wing, Travis AFB, the Portland Air National Guard, Channel Island National Guard, and Marines out of Miramar, Calif. Such success is anticipated for this exercise, Colonel Thomas is already looking to the future in planning the next exercise. His goal is to be continually growing in size and scope with each exercise, which he hopes to make a quarterly event. The next projected exercise is tentatively planned for May 2007 and will include two or three locations using a similar scenario but focusing on different areas of training. Capt. Bengt 'Lenny' Dahlstrom, 349 ALCF operations officer, put it simply, "The only way to know this job is to do it. You can only learn so much from a book."

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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.