

553rd COMAT SUSTAINMENT SQUADRON

MISSION

The 553rd Combat Sustainment Squadron provides unmatched sustainment for more than 70 weapon systems worldwide. They support accessories-related commodity items operated by the Air Force, Navy and multiple foreign countries. The 553rd CBSS is an integral unit supporting the 848th Combat Sustainment Group and the 448th Combat Sustainment Wing.

The squadron excels at building positive relationships within and outside their functional guidelines. They support global teammates, organic sources of repair, and corporate contract support groups. The 553rd CBSS works one-on-one and in teams to support all weapon systems and customer base. The goal within the squadron is to be solution-makers regardless of challenges or finite resources.

What the unit is composed of: The 553rd CBSS is a 150-person strong team of logisticians, equipment specialists, engineers, material managers, production management specialists, administrative support and contracting personnel support.

What the unit manages: The 553rd CBSS provides global supply chain management support for 4,700 items including hydraulic flight control, gearboxes, actuators and winches, temperature and flow, turbine drives, oxygen units and fuel components.

The 553rd CBSS manages multiple federal stock classes. They repair, buy, replace and support their items throughout the sustainment life cycle.

The squadron works with all weapon systems to support their modification projects, aircraft availability programs and diverse missions.

The 553rd CBSS also works on reliability improvements, technology insertion to combat obsolescence issues and projects to reverse engineer items as required. The goal is to support all items with a 90 percent requisition objective regardless of demand pattern.

Annual operating budget: The annual operating budget for the 553rd CBSS includes a \$52.5 million buy and \$347.6 million repair budget to support assigned workloads.

They also support the Tinker Propulsion Business Area contract worth approximately \$19.8 million. The 553rd CBSS is the lead and owner of the Honeywell Corporate Repair Contract valued at \$650.9 million and the Parker Corporate Repair Contract valued at \$810 million.

Impact to the warfighter: The 553rd CBSS is involved across the board working with the warfighters to create win-win relationships, reduce costs and improve support in the near and long term. Recent examples include:

The Electro-Mechanical Flight recently took management responsibility of an unsupportable E3/E8 flap drive actuator. This actuator had a history as a program depot maintenance mission capable awaiting parts backorder with no serviceable assets, no file documents, no outstanding procurement and no repair source and capability.

The 553rd CBSS Electro-Mechanical Flight issued an action plan to maintain a continue spares support and in less than a two-week time period, a serviceable asset was found and direct shipment commenced to fill the MICAP.

Depot repair support via Ogden Air Logistics Center, Utah was determined as a qualified repair source wherein they already had repair capability for an identical item and will work the reparable on-hand assets via a temporary work order until a permanent source of repair is determined.

The Environmental Flight assisted the C-130 warfighters with better repair support for the air turbine drive unit. The 553rd CBSS Environmental Flight determined the root cause was insufficient and delinquent deliveries from the former repair contractor, as well as lack of current organic repair capability.

MISSION

LINEAGE

553rd Combat Sustainment Squadron

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Through the efforts of their engineers, equipment specialists, production management specialists, material managers, contracting and the Oklahoma City maintenance shops, the item is in an improved support position today.

The team worked with the organic repair shops to develop capability to support MICAPs and Joint Chiefs of Staff backorders, while expediting awards and deliveries for two new repair contracts to support the turbine.

The results of these actions are that MICAP hours were reduced from 3,824 in February '06 to 709 in January '07, while the number of total backorders fell approximately 40 percent during the same period.

- 553rd CBSS logistics officer, Carl Long, was tasked to implement deep look supportability analysis on parts availability for top B-1 MICAP items that impacted B-1 mission support.

As a result of his look, 553rd CBSS was able to identify projected parts shortages before they occur, which accelerate and expedite deliveries on key component parts to avert work stoppages.

Intense monthly supportability reviews led by Mr. Long have ultimately decreased MICAP hours for the No. one grounding M&S pump from 14,993 hours to 50 and the yellow fan blower from 6,185 hours to zero.

Unique aspects of the unit's mission, interesting tidbits, unusual events: The 553rd CBSS was tasked to review and provide recommendations on the Probability of Program Success guidebook to 448th CSW and the OC-ALC/Plans and Programs Directorate.

The 553rd CBSS recommendations will help support the PoPS implementation. One of their suggestions was the automation and standardization among platforms with regard to Performance Based Agreements. This benefit would prevent PoPS assessments from becoming resourced constraint.

The 553rd CBSS also suggested that while current PBA metrics are based on lagging indicators, PoPS will be more effective if predictive type data is derived from forecasting models and Lead Time Planning is done by the system program director and shared with the 448th CSW.

With this improved communication by all parties involved, the PoPS future risk assessment will be helpful in predicting their ability to provide future sustainment.

Upcoming challenges: Dual Source of Repair Initiative with the Support Center Pacific at Kadena AFB, Japan: 553rd CBSS's Flight Control Flight has been providing ongoing technical and supply chain management support for SCP allowing for expansion of current repair capability to support total Air Force requirements on critical F-15 hydraulic actuators.

This initial expansion of the services provided by SCP provided the government a savings of approx. \$500,000 in fiscal year '06.

Due to the success of the initial expansion, SCP contracted thru ARINC to have Avtron Inc. manufacture two Automated Test Stations. This would give the SCP new capability to repair and test numerous other F-15 hydraulic actuators.

This past year, verification was performed on these new stands and SCP has now been approved to begin production on other critical F-15 items. As this initiative grows, it will be possible to expand SCP's capabilities to other weapon systems.

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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.