

1st AIR POSTAL AND COURIER GROUP

MISSION

The 1st Air Postal and Courier Group consisted of flights in Greensboro, NC; Memphis, TN and Maxwell AFB, AL.

LINEAGE¹

1st Air Postal Group

Organized and activated, 18 Sep 1963

Redesignated 1 Air Postal and Courier Group

STATIONS

Dobbins AFB, Georgia, 18 Sep 1963-31 Jan 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force Reserve Region

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Robert T. Loftin, Jr.

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS²

The mission of the 1 Air Postal Group was established as the augmentation of existing regular military postal forces or the establishment of military postal facilities in areas lacking such facilities, all depending on the needs of the service.

The need for a reserve postal capacity was recognized in the crisis over Cuban missile sites in October and November 1962. At that time, a buildup of forces in Florida was imminent and mail service for these forces were seen to be a serious tax upon existing regular postal facilities. The 1 Air Postal Group was one of the units formed to meet the requirement for immediate expansion of the military postal facilities in any future conflict or buildup of our forces.

From the beginning, a campaign was mounted to complete the manning of the group A building in the Quonset area of Dobbins Air Force Base was secured in early November 1963 and beginning with the unit training assembly that month, the group had trained in the Quonset huts. The group was fortunate in having a pair of experienced postal personnel to aid them in their considerable task of preparing operational plans and defining responsibilities. Postal regulations were immediately posted and work started on completing a proper library of directives and military regulations.

At the beginning of 1964, manning of the organization was given top priority. The nucleus of personnel assigned used personal contact with friends and associates plus new leads to recruit selectively against existing vacancies. The establishment of efforts provided highly successful in securing the necessary additional personnel. This was a slow, careful process drawing the best men from available sources. Part of the January and February unit training assemblies were spent getting to Winston, Georgia to pick up used post office equipment secured for use for the unit. This equipment was old but well-constructed and in good repair.

During the February training assembly a post office mockup was assembled in the rear of the Quonset hut as a training aid for postal personnel. On 14 March 1964, the organization processed its first piece of actual mail.

The 1 Air Postal Group and one of its flights participated in a two week active duty tour in the Pacific. The group headquarters was at Hickam AFB, HI; Flight 1 at Dobbins; Flight 2 from Greensboro, NC went to Tachikawa AB, Japan. 9-23 Jul 1967

On 23 Mar 1970, after U.S. postal workers had struck for more pay and better working conditions, President Richard Nixon declared a national emergency because the work stoppage impeded critical government and commercial functions. He authorized the Secretary of Defense to use any military forces necessary to assist the Postmaster General to restore national postal

service. In addition TO recalling certain Air National Guard units, the Air Staff ordered the mobilization of two Air Force Reserve postal and courier groups with their eight flights, consisting of about 200 men in all: the 1st Air Postal and Courier Group and the 2d Air Postal and Courier Group headquartered at Hamilton AFB, CA.

Dr. Theodore C. Marrs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Air Force Reserve Affairs, soon determined that the Air Staff had exceeded its authority in calling up the Air Force Reserve units, and he arranged their release. As it was, the postal crisis soon abated, and the units would not have been required much longer in any event. Otherwise insignificant, the brief mobilization demonstrated the readiness and responsiveness of the reserve postal units in reacting quickly and efficiently to a mobilization order.