

6 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

6 Aerial Port Operations Squadron constituted, 16 Feb 1954

Activated, 18 Jun 1954

Redesignated 6 Aerial Port Squadron, 8 Nov 1954

Inactivated, 15 Oct 1958

Activated, 30 Jun 1965

Organized, 8 Aug 1965

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1975

Activated, 1 Dec 1984

Inactivated, Jun 1992

STATIONS

Donaldson AFB, SC, 18 Jun 1954-30 Jan 1955

Burtonwood RAF Station later, RAF Burtonwood, England, 17 Feb 1955-15 Oct 1958

Don Muang Airport (later, Don Muang Royal Thai AFB), Thailand, 8 Aug 1965

U-Tapao Royal Thai Naval Base, Thailand, 1 Jul 1970

Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, 30 Jun 1971

U-Tapao Royal Thai Naval Base, Thailand, 31 Aug 1972-30 Sep 1975

Howard AFB, Panama, 1 Dec 1984

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighteenth Air Force, 18 Jun 1954

60 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 17 Feb 1955
465 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 1 May 1956
317 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium, 8 Jul 1957
322 Air Division (Combat Cargo), 25 Sep-15 Oct 1958
Pacific Air Forces, 30 Jun 1965
315 Air Division Combat Cargo, 8 Aug 1965
2 Aerial Port Group, 8 Mar 1966
315 Air Division Combat Cargo (later, 315 Air Division), 8 Nov 1966
Thirteenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1968
61 Military Airlift Support Wing, 31 Mar 1975
374 Tactical Airlift Wing, 23 Jun-30 Sep 1975
61 Military Airlift Group, 1 Dec 1984

ATTACHMENTS

63 Troop Carrier Wing, Heavy, 18 Jun 1954-17 Feb 1955
322 Air Division (Combat Cargo), 8 Jul 1957-25 Sep 1958

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground IV
Tet 69 Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
8 Aug 1965-30 Jun 1966
1 Jul 1973-31 Mar 1974

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

29 Jun 1966-30 Jun 1974

EMBLEM



On a shield, divided, per bend, diagonally by a nebuly line, white and Air Force blue, a globe in the upper left of the shield, with grid lines, and a heavy drop parachute in the lower right base, all colors counterchanged, all with a border of six divisions, white and red. The six divisions of the border are for the all-over mission and numerical designation of the unit. The heavy drop parachute symbolizes parachute delivery of equipment. The globe is for capabilities to operate anywhere. The blue and white are for the day and night ability to fulfill a mission "anytime." The nebuly line is symbolical of the over-all air mission. (Approved, 20 Dec 1954)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 6th was activated in the US in June 1954 and it moved to Burtonwood in February 1955. Upon arrival it assumed operational control of the Burtonwood Air Terminal, and shortly afterwards established detachments with similar functions at Bovington, Rhein-Main, Laon, Dreux and Evreux Fauville, France. With a threefold function, commanded by Major George W Johnson, operated designated air terminals, maintained technical proficiency in aerial drop techniques and utilized Combat Control Team capabilities for the maintenance of Drop Zone control. Frequent visitors to Burtonwood were units of the British Army's Parachute Regiment who worked alongside the unit in combined troop and equipment drops.

Christmas 1954, our last in the states was fast approaching and as the stack of overseas orders grew present for duty shrank and the holidays were upon us most came back just in time to pack, police up and get on the train for the New York Port.

The next morning all were on board ship, surrounding by the luxury of six canvas bunks and not yet fully understanding the joys of travelling in such accommodations through the North Atlantic winter. To airmen, such niceties of sea travel as salt water showers and the backing up of toilets in a rough sea were something to marvel at.

The one advantage to seasickness is the feel of firm ground after continuously rolling and the sun shone brightly on England as we debarked at Southampton, the only sun we were to see for weeks. All day on the train enjoying the novelty of houses and trees after watching nothing but water for days and then Burtonwood.

Plenty of time for a shakedown, fix up the area, get settled but start work in a week. Daily formations in the snow, learning how to unload a C-124 in cold hard driving rain at night running out of heat in the Quonsets and it didn't take long to feel at home. But no sooner started than detachment assignments came. Bovington Anyone, who for Rhein Main and soon after it was Evreux, Laon and the Dreux.

There was room for pride, tactical missions with army units in Germany were very successful. Tonnage continued to soar at the terminals. Some training and a lot of unit the elements of the British Territorials in defense exercises.

A magnificent summer and some hard work brought multicolored flowers to bloom making site 4 a standout garden spot of Burtonwood.

By autumn most could act as guides about the country, particularly Manchester. What charm that city has and the squadron's private club in Warrington, the Seven Stars increased in fame. If the adjustments to weather was difficult the adjustment to English been was perhaps more so. But the pubs became a popular institution especially with winter and the near close down of the Hoagy wagon and allied functions. The barn was off limits so where else to go but to town.

On 15 October 1958 the Squadron was deactivated and personnel were reassigned to the 5th Aerial port Squadron, a small unit only remaining at Burtonwood to retire records and equipment.

Organized in Thailand on 8 Aug 1965. Absorbed the personnel of the 6315th Aerial Port Squadron. Provided air terminal services for all cargo and passengers moving in, out, and between bases in Thailand. Established detachments in Thailand, Taiwan, South Vietnam, and the Philippines.

Supported resupply operations of Cambodia, Jan-Apr 1975. Established Combat Control Team at Pochonbo Airport, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The Combat Control Team advised the U.S. airlift forces of airfield conditions and provided traffic control for resupply operations of the Cambodian capital.

The 6th Aerial Port Squadron had detachments in many locations in Thailand. These detachments coordinated the airlift of freight and personnel in and out of the air bases. They also included Combat Control Teams, composed of airborne qualified members. The Combat Controllers were able to parachute into any location and provide ground control for airdrops or landings.

DETACHMENTS.

Det 1 Udorn AflD [later, Udorn Royal Thai AFB], Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-30 Sep 1975

Det 2 Takhli AflD [later, Takhli Royal Thai AFB], Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-30 Apr 1971

Det 3 Evreux/Fauville AB, France, 15 Aug 1955-25 Oct 1957

Det 3 Karat AflD [later, Karat Royal Thai AFB], Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-30 Sep 1975

Det 4 Laon AB, France, 15 Aug 1955-1 Mar 1956

Det 4 Hahn AB, West Germany, 1 Oct 1956-1 Aug 1958

Det 4 Nakhon Phonom Aprt [later, Nakhon Phonom Royal Thai AFB], Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-30 Sep 1975.

Det 5 Dreux AB, France, 2-29 Oct 1955

Det 5 Bitburg AB, West Germany, 1 Oct 1956-1 Aug 1958

Det 5 Ubon AflD [later, Ubon Royal Thai AFB], Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-30 Sep 1975

Det 6 Sembach AB, West Germany, 15 Nov 1956-11 Jun 1958

Det 6 Chiang Mai Aprt, Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-1 Apr 1967

Det 6 Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, 1 Nov 1968-1 Jun 1971.

Det 6 U-Tapao Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, 1 Jul 1971-31 Aug 1972

Ching Chuan Kang AB, Taiwan, 31 Aug 1972-15 Nov 1973

Clark AB, Philippines, 15 Nov 1973-1 Sep 1975

Det 7 Spangdahlem AB, West Germany, 15 Nov 1956-11 Jun 1958

Det 7 Ban Khan Tha Kwain, Thailand, 8 Aug 1965-1 Apr 1967

Det 7 Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Nov 1968-15 Sep 1972

Det 8 Toul-Rosieres AB, France, 15 Feb 1957-25 Jun 1958

Det 8 Ban U-Tapao AB, Thailand, 18 Jul 1966-1 Jul 1970

Don Muang Royal Thai AFB, Thailand, 1 Jul 1970-30 Sep 1975

Det 9 Laon, France, 5 Mar 1957-25 Jun 1958
Det 9 Mukdahon, Thailand, 15 Jan 1966-1 Apr 1967
Det 10 Chambley AB, France, 20 Mar 1957-25 Jan 1958
Det 10 Phitsanulok, Thailand, 15 Jan 1966-1 Apr 1967
Det 11 Etain/Rouvres AB, France, 25 Mar 1957-25 Jun 1958
Det 11 Nam Phong AB, Thailand, 18 Jul -8 Nov 1966
Det 12 Chaumont AB, France, 20 May 1957-25 Jun 1958
Det 13 Phalsborough AB, France, 2 Nov 1957-1 Aug 1958
Det 14 Dreux AB, France, 2 Nov 1957-1 Aug 1958
Det 15 Landstuhl (later, Ramstein-Landstuhl) AB, West Germany, 2 Nov 1957-1 Aug 1958.
Det 20 (Later, Det 1) Bovingdon MTCA Station (later, MTCA Bovington), England, 21 Feb 1955-
1 Aug 1958.
Det 21 (Later, Det 2) Rhein-Main AB, West Germany, 21 Feb 1955- 11 Jun 1958
Det 27 Bae Lieu Afld, South Vietnam, 15 Jan 1966-30 Sep 1975

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created 4 Sep 2010

Updated 10 Jan 2024

Sources

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