

# **6485<sup>th</sup> OPERATIONS SQUADRON**

## **TACHIKAWA**

The 315th Air Division is a unit of the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF), Pacific Area Command. It enjoys the same status as a numbered Air Force, and reports directly to the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Air Units of the 315th Air Division are the 21st Troop Carrier Squadron and the 817th Troop Carrier Squadron, located at Naha Air Base, Okinawa, and the 815th Troop Carrier Squadron, the 9th Aeromedical Evacuation, the 6485th Operations Squadron, the 5th Communications Squadron and the 7th Aerial Port Squadron, all with headquarters at Tachikawa Air Base.

The troop carrier squadrons operate C-130 Hercules prop-jet aircraft on regularly scheduled and projected flights carrying cargo, mail and military passengers. They also perform aerial drop missions, dropping men, equipment and supplies by parachute in exercises designed to maintain the Division's combat capability for aerial delivery of men and supplies during wartime.

The 6485th Operations Squadron flies C-47 and C-54 transport aircraft used on the Division's regularly scheduled and emergency aeromedical evacuation flights within the Far East theater.

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Supplementing the C-130s in aeromedical activities prior to 1966, and the MAC transports thereafter, were the propeller-driven C-118s of the 6485th Operations Squadron based at Tachikawa. Although slower than the C-130s and less suitable for landings at forward sites, the 118s were permanently modified for use as aeromedical craft and operated between the major bases. The 6485th Squadron expanded from four to seven ships in 1966 and moved to Clark in early 1968. The C-118s began limited in-country work in January 1968. Aircraft and crews were assigned for three-day cycles at Cam Ranh Bay and flew to some fourteen Vietnamese airfields. The planes also carried patients on return flights to Clark. The unit, renamed the 20th Operations Squadron, again operating exclusively from Clark, converted in 1972 to the C-9 Nightingale jet (the military version of the commercial DC-9). The first operational C-9 mission landed at Tan Son Nhut and Da Nang on March 15, 1972

6485 OPS

CLARK

C-118

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources