

83 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

83 Air Terminal Squadron constituted and activated, 22 Mar 1960

Organized in the Reserve, 8 Jun 1960

Redesignated 83 Aerial Port Squadron, 1 Jul 1967

STATIONS

Vancouver, WA, 8 Jun 1960

Portland Intl Aprt (later, ANGB), OR, 1 Apr 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

2644 Air Reserve Center, 8 Jun 1960

2477 Air Force Reserve Sector, 1 Jul 1961

Sixth Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Jul 1965

Western Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969

446 Military Airlift (later, 446 Airlift) Wing (Associate), 1 Aug 1973

939 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

COMMANDERS

Maj Constance L. Jenkins

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1967-1 Jul 1968

1 Sep 1982-31 Aug 1984

1 Aug 1990-31 May 1992

1 Aug 1992-31 Jul 1994

1 Sep 1993-31 Aug 1995

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

2 Jul-1 Sep 1966

EMBLEM



Approved, 20 Mar 1964

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Headquarters Military Airlift Command released the 82d, 86th, and 83th Aerial Port Squadrons from extended active duty on December 12, 1968.

More than 500 people attended a formal ceremony in Portland, Ore., May 6 during which three of the 939th Air Refueling Wing's subordinate units were inactivated. The 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission mandated the drawdown. During the ceremony, wing Reservists, distinguished guests from Oregon and Washington, veterans, and family members witnessed the encasing of the 939th Operations Group, 939th Maintenance Group and 83rd Aerial Port Squadron's flags and guidons. The act symbolized the closure of the units and the end of 45 years of service in the Pacific Northwest. "It's a tough thing to do — to close a wing — and we're doing it in several places," said Lt. Gen. John Bradley, commander of Air Force Reserve Command and the presiding officer for the ceremony. "We've been here as the 939th for more than 45 years and had Reservists operating out of Portland for 50 years. It's a very hard thing for us to have to move out."

The general explained the cost savings realized through base realignment and closure actions does stand to benefit the service in the long term. However, the downside, he said, comes in the form of Reservists being moved out of a number of communities across America, thus diminishing the ties Citizen Airmen have with those they serve and protect. "You've got a great history here that spans many years and many kinds of air—"It's a hard thing to let go. This is a unit of dedicated professional and highly trained Airmen. You've flown thousands of sorties and offloaded millions of gallons of jet fuel to refuel airplanes that are defending America and helping those forces in combat." General Bradley issued a personal thanks to the 939th members for "every single day spent away from jobs and families." He concluded his remarks by saying, "I understand the pain of leaving a great unit. ... leaving a great community. We've done it in a lot of places recently, and I can't think of anything I like doing less. I want you to know your leadership appreciates you and what you do. My prayers are with you." In a final show of recognition, General Bradley presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award streamer to Col. William N. Flanigan, commander of the 939th ARW, who, in turn, placed it on the wing's flag.

"This ceremony marks the closure of a chapter in the long and storied history of the Reserve here at Portland," Colonel Flanigan said. The Air Force Reserve assigned the mission of global air refueling to the 939th in April 2003. At the same time, it designated the 304th Rescue Squadron (also at Portland) a geographically separated unit responsible for combat search and rescue. The 304th RQS is scheduled to continue operating after the closure of the wing. The remaining units of the 939th will close in June 2008. 2007

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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