

172 AERIAL PORT FLIGHT

MISSION

LINEAGE

172 Aerial Port Squadron

STATIONS

Charles L. Sullivan ANGB, Jackson, MS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj William D. Smith

Maj William J. Crisler, Dec 1995 - Dec 1997

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Composite Aerial Port/AGE Facility was completed and was expected to be available for occupancy by the May 1990 unit training assembly. SMSgt J.B. Sullivan of the 172 Aerial Port Flight said that his group is eagerly awaiting the move into the new facility, as they had been in their temporary shelter, designed for 28 persons, since the early 1970s and that they now

have 70 people in their unit; "We are ready for the much-needed space. Each guard supervisor will have at least a desk and a phone and this will greatly enhance the proficiency by which we operate." He also noted that the new building will have top notch classroom facilities capable of handling up to 135 people at one time; the classrooms can also be individually sectioned into four separate classrooms to accommodate a variety of training needs. The tall tower-like portion of the building is a parachute-drying tower used for drying parachutes after they have been used in a cargo drop. Large amounts of equipment and material will be more efficiently palletized and stored ready for movement to an aircraft in its proper loading sequence. One very interesting piece of equipment located in the facility is an elevator scale pit, which allows a pallet of material to be lowered into the ground so that personnel may work at a comfortable, safe height, eliminating this lifting of heavy objects overhead. The Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) section will also share space in the new building. SMSgt Clayton McNair of the AGE Section said that his unit personnel were also looking forward to having increased working space and a facility which will allow all work to be accomplished inside, out of the weather; they will now, he said have access to both hot and cold water in the equipment washroom, nothing that, previously, all equipment had to be washed outside with cold water: he also said that the electrically-operated overhead monorail will aid in the lifting of engines and other heavy, large components; the work bay doors will also operate electrically, which will eliminate the need for manually opening and closing the doors. The Fuel Cell/Corrosion Facility building, located adjacent to the Composite Aerial Port/AGE facility, is approximately 80 percent completed and should be completed by mid-summer; other future construction includes the addition/alteration to the base supply warehouse, scheduled for construction in 1990, with bid opening in May 1990; planned for 1992 construction is the base civil engineering facility and the Composite Medical Training and Administration/Security Police Facility.

Three members of the 172 Aerial Port Flight were recognized by the 1181 Army Transportation Terminal Unit in Meridian for their outstanding training support during a cargo specialist class conducted 5-6 May 1990, at Thompson Field. SMSgt James B Sullivan, Sgt Bobby Schumpert, and SSgt Andrew Boatwright were presented certificates of achievement by Lt Col Dick Burney, deputy commander for resources with the 172 Military Airlift Group, on behalf of Col Richard G. Simmons, commander of the 1181.

Members of the 172 Aerial Port Flight (APF) recently returned from Osan AB. Korea from their annual summer deployment. The host unit was the 611 Aerial Port Squadron; members of the 172 APF worked in all areas of operations, including ramp services, cargo processing, special handling, passenger service, air terminal operations control, and motor pool. The team assisted with movement of over 2,300 passengers and 686 tons of cargo. Lt Col Robert Kimmel of the 611 Aerial Port Squadron stated the 172 APF was one of the most highly motivated and skilled groups he had ever worked with.

Capt Gerald C McNeer, commander of the 172 Aerial Port Flight, reviewed in September 1991 the accomplishments of his unit in its support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He said: "Part of the Aerial Port Flight (APF) mission is to provide support for the group's flying mission

requirements: thus when the 183rd Military Airlift Squadron was activated in August 1990, 'Aerial Porters' saw a possible activation and a definite increase in support activity coming. The mobilization never came about, due in large part to the unparalleled spirit of volunteerism exhibited by members of the 172 APF. Having only five technicians, traditional guardsmen were essential to meeting mission requirements. Home station support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm amounted to 1,300 days. In addition to the home station support, 31 of the 65 assigned members of APF volunteered for deployment to support the operation. A total of 31 individuals deployed to six different locations to provide Aerial Port manpower and expertise." Captain McNeer said that a total of 500,000 pounds of cargo was moved in and out of Thompson Field and "a staggering figure of 70 million pounds of cargo was handled by personnel deployed in the field." He added that these figures did not include the cookies and other humanitarian supplies transported in Operation Cookie Lift.

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