

3 AERIAL PORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

3 Aerial Port Operations Squadron organized, 16 Mar 1953
Activated, 20 Jun 1953
Redesignated 3 Aerial Port Squadron
Redesignated 3 Mobile Aerial Port Squadron
Redesignated 3 Aerial Port Squadron, 1992

STATIONS

Donaldson AFB, SC
Altus AFB, OK
Lawson AFB, GA
Pope AFB, NC, 26 Sep 1954-15 Jan 1963
Pope AFB, NC, 1 Jul 1964

ASSIGNMENTS

1 Aerial Port Group
624 Airlift Support Group
43 Operations Group

COMMANDERS

Capt H. W. Bohannon, #1954
Maj Joseph J. Brown
Maj John L. Nightingale, #1965

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Sep 2011-31 Aug 2012

EMBLEM



"JUMPING" Jiminy Cricket became a member of the 3d Aerial Port Squadron at Pope AFB, NC in September 1959 when Brig Gen Clyde Box presented an emblem to Maj Joseph J. Brown,

commander of the squadron. Jiminy was drawn by Airman 2d Class Robert W. Dunlap, who won a contest among the members of the squadron. The emblem is a Disney copyright reproduction, but a copyright release was obtained for the unit's use of the emblem design for a mere \$1.00. Jiminy Cricket uses his umbrella as a parachute to symbolize the role of the combat control section that used to belong to the squadron. In his other hand, he holds a loadmaster's load adjuster to symbolize the mission of the loadmasters. The smile on Jiminy is a reflection of the ongoing high morale of the squadron. Jiminy Cricket's cheerful demeanor reflects the positive spirit and "can-do" attitude of the squadron personnel

MOTTO

AD ASTRA PER ARDUA--To the stars through difficulties

OPERATIONS

In 1952, in order to meet future contingency requirements, TAC organized Aerial Port Operations Squadrons. These newly formed units were to combine all tactical logistical supply under one agency. They were designed as highly mobile, self-sustaining outfits capable of instantaneous worldwide deployment.



Controlling air drop from the ground. circa 1954.



"Shooting a small bull" circa 1954.



"Saddling up!" 1954.



circa 1954.

On 12 August 1954, the squadron moved from Lawson AFB, Georgia to Pope AFB, North Carolina. In 1964, the squadron was assigned to the 1st Aerial Port Group, under the Tactical Air Command, until 1974 when it became part of the Military Airlift Command.

MOBILE AERIAL PORT SQUADRONS (MAPS) primary wartime and contingency mission to rapidly mobilize personnel and equipment for short-notice, worldwide deployment to forward airheads in support of theater-airlift operations. These units are among the first to arrive and the last to depart the airhead. They are equipped and trained to operate autonomously providing airlift aircraft on-load and off-load support in the most difficult of environments. In peacetime, these squadrons train for their wartime mission and provide airdrop continuation training support to their collocated tactical airlift wing. These squadrons range from 80 to approximately 230 personnel.

In 1992, due to the restructuring of the Air Force, the 3d Mobile Aerial Port Squadron was redesignated the 3d Aerial Port Squadron under the 624th Airlift Support Group, 317th Airlift Wing, Air Mobility Command.

On 8 July 1994, the 624th Airlift Support Group became the 624th Air Mobility Support Group and was placed under the Twenty-First Air Force, Air Mobility Command. On 1 April 1997, the 624th Air Mobility Support Group was inactivated. The 3d APS was then placed under direct command of the 43d Operations Group and reassigned under the 43d Airlift Wing.

The 3d Aerial Port Squadron participated in many Urgent Fury, Golden Pheasant, Just Cause, Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Restore Democracy, Uphold Democracy and Joint Guard.

3d Aerial Port Squadron won the Air Mobility Rodeo 98 World Championship in 1998- -Best Aerial Port Team and Best C-130 Engine-Running on load/Off load Team.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *464th Troop Carrier Wing, Lawson AFB, GA. 1954.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.