

3 SUPPLY SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

3 Supply Squadron

STATIONS

Yokota, Japan, 18 Aug 1948-1 Apr 1950

Yokota, Japan, 14 Aug 1950-1 Dec 1950

Kunsan AB, South Korea, 13 Aug 1951-1 Oct 1954

Kunsan AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1971-16 Sep 1974

Clark AB, Philippines, 16 Sep 1974

Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The unenviable task of accounting for all government property on Clark AB after the eruption of

Mt Pinatubo, fell to the 3d Supply Squadron. Essentially, their challenge fell into two general categories: accepting the turn-in of supplies from units across the base and recovery of supplies in the giant, collapsed supply warehouses.

Initially, supply people worked at the supply squadron complex. The main administrative building was badly damaged. So, they relocated their operation to the 3d Combat Repair Squadron building on the flightline, which was undamaged. The building had small loading docks and open floor space to accommodate equipment turn-ins. As the recovery and turn-in of equipment progressed, though, the volume of gear increased dramatically, and the operation was moved to the aerial port where they established a packing and crating operation as well. Items could be turned in, initially accounted for, documented for shipment, packed, and loaded at one building.

The 3d Supply squadron overcame severe limitations in the Clark AB drawdown. Challenges included the loss of computer operations, collapse of five major warehouses, loss of the main administrative building, mud-flows which threatened to isolate or partially destroy the Hill Storage Area and its bulk fuel tanks and a sharp reduction in military manning. Planning was the first step towards meeting the 120-day drawdown deadline. To ensure the expeditious shipment of high value equipment and recovered warehouse inventory, a decision was made to use a manual system for supply transactions and not to try to resume normal computer processing. This manual system would maintain an auditable transaction trail with documentation carefully controlled and filed. The normal supply squadron organization was abandoned and reorganized by closure function to emphasize that closure was now the primary mission.

The squadron relocated its administrative functions and converted remaining facilities for new uses. To offset the shortage of military personnel, qualified local national employees were rehired and a 26-person Rapid Area Distribution Support (RADS) team arrived to aid both supply and transportation. Recovery tapes processed just prior to the volcano evacuation were uploaded at Kadena AB to reestablish the database. This database was initially used to generate reports and later used by squadron personnel sent to Kadena to adjust financial and supply records.

With the squadron reorganized and accountability procedures were set, initial focus was on three primary areas: first, continued mission support, from MICAP parts to sandbags; second, recovery of supply warehouse stocks; and third, the identification, turn-in and shipment of high value organizational equipment. Recovery of fuel from the hill storage area was not initially planned due to concerns for personnel safety. The fuels drawdown was also a success. Cryogenics plants were dismantled and shipped for use within PACAF. In October, when the PACAF/LG staff recommended the recovery of JP-8 and MOGAS from the Hill Storage Area, over 2.2 million gallons of fuel worth over \$2 million were moved by contractor operated trucks to Naval Station Subic Bay.

The warehouse recovery effort was an unqualified success. The most optimistic early estimates were that 50 to 70 percent of the pre-emption inventory might be recovered. The squadron's warehouse team, aided greatly by the TDY RADS team, recovered an estimated 90 percent (\$191 million). Items left in place were expendable items and low value/bulky accountable equipment

that were included as part of the excess defense articles package given to the Philippine government.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

C. R. Anderegg. *Ash Warriors*. Office of PACAF History. Hickam AFB, HI. 2000.