

62d Aerial Port Squadron History

The 62d Aerial Port Squadron (APS), affectionately called the Eagle Port, has a long distinguished history.

The Eagle Port began as the 1705th Air Terminal Squadron (ATS). It was integral in the airlift of radar equipment and supplies for the construction of the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line in northern Alaska and Canada (1955–1956) and periodically resupplied the DEW stations during the International Geophysical Year (1957-1958). On 18 June 1960, the 62d Air Terminal Squadron (ATS) was established to replace the 1705 ATS at McChord Air Force Base, Washington. The 62 ATS was assigned under the 62d Troop Carrier Wing, transporting United Nations (UN) troops and supplies to the Congo in 1960. The Wing also supported scientific stations in the Arctic Ocean by air landing and airdropping supplies on the drifting ice through 1962.

In 1963 the 62d Troop Carrier Wing assumed responsibility for worldwide airlift of nuclear weapons and associated equipment. In July 1964 the 62 ATS was designated as the 62 APS and was assigned to the Deputy Commander for Operations. Since the re-designation in 1964, the Eagle Port has been involved in many unique missions through the Twentieth Century. Here are the highlights:

- 1964: Aerial Delivery (AD) mission.
- 1971: Airlift responsibilities for the Minuteman missiles from the depots to operating sites.
- 1972: Supported Presidential trips to China and the Soviet Union.
- Feb - Apr 1973: Transported former prisoners of war from North Vietnam to the Philippines and US.
- 1973: Transported UN troops from Indonesia to Israel and Egypt for peacekeeping efforts.
- 1975 – 1977: Supported a detachment of C-130Es in the Panama Canal Zone to support USAF needs in Central and South America.
- 1983: Airlifted troops and supplies during and after the invasion of Grenada and airlifted university students to safety.
- 1988: Inspected and loaded equipment used by nuclear arms inspectors to the Soviet Union under terms of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty.
- 1988: Transported firefighters and supplies to Wyoming to combat major forest fires in Yellowstone National Park.
- 1989: Participated in the airdrop of heavy equipment and personnel during military action in Panama.
- 1991: Supported Operation DESERT SHIELD, moving personnel and equipment to Southwest Asia. 62 APS Airmen also forward deployed to Zaragoza, Spain, directing cargo and personnel destined for Saudi Arabia
- 1991: Facilitated the evacuation of Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Station following the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in the Philippines.
- 1992: Loaded relief supplies for: Guam following Typhoon Omar; Hawaii following Hurricane Iniki; Florida following Hurricane Andrew; Somalia; the former Yugoslavia; and the former Soviet Union.
- 1994: Dispatched personnel to deliver equipment and supplies in support of Operation SUPPORT HOPE in Rwanda.
- 1995: Deployed to the US Virgin Islands following Hurricane Marilyn and to Bosnia in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR.
- 1997: delivered relief supplies to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, following torrential rains spawned by Typhoon Linda.

- 1998: Delivered relief supplies for: Guam following Super Typhoon Paka; Papua New Guinea following tidal waves; Changsha, China following severe flooding; and Nairobi, Kenya following the bombing of the US Embassy.

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Eagle Port has been heavily deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), Operation NOBEL EAGLE, and Operation INFINITE JUSTICE.

In true Eagle Port fashion, it continued to excel into the Twenty-First Century.

- 2004-2005: Dispatched to load emergency relief supplies to areas throughout Southeast Asia in response to the tsunami that struck on 26 December 2004.
- 2005: Aided in relief efforts of Hurricane Katrina, helping evacuate more than 1,100 people from New Orleans and delivering more than 550 tons of equipment, water, food, and medical supplies.
- 2011: Instrumental in providing aid for: Operation TOMODACHI, the Japanese tsunami relief efforts; and Operation PACIFIC PASSAGE, the repatriation of 2,600 family members stationed at military bases throughout Japan to safe-haven locations in the US
- 2012: Loaded and transported electrical utility vehicles and the Army's 227th Preventative Medicine Medical Detachment to the US East Coast, aiding in Hurricane Sandy relief efforts.

The 62d Aerial Port Squadron Airmen continue to remain on alert, waiting to answer our Nation's call and jump into action ... whenever and wherever needed!

"The Eagle Soars!"