

733d Air Mobility Squadron

Heritage Pamphlet



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History Office*

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733d Air Mobility Squadron

The 733d Air Mobility Squadron (AMS) is strategically located at Kadena Air Base, Japan and plays an integral part in US Pacific strategy. The Squadron has a personnel strength of just over 240 American and Japanese, civilian and military personnel. The squadron's primary mission in Okinawa is to provide 24/7 en route capability to United States Transportation Command and Air Mobility Command strategic operations. The unit annually supports nearly 200 Joint Airborne Air Transportability Training missions to prepare the 18th Air Force to deliver combatant commanders a dedicated and scalable force throughout Pacific Command's area of responsibility. The Squadron also supports its Operating

The origins of the 733d Air Mobility Squadron began with the 603d Military Airlift Support Squadron (MASS), which was activated on 27 Dec 1965 at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa (later Japan). The Squadron was initially assigned to the 61st Military Airlift Wing on 8 Jan 1966. At the beginning of the Vietnam Conflict there was critical need to bolster the airlift support system. And 603 MASS answered the call



The 603 MASS at Kadena AB was one of the MAC units that standardized procedures for en route stops, updated cargo handling processes and maximized new materials-handling equipment (forklifts and cargo loaders), and instituted installation command posts with enhanced communications equipment for mission management at widely disbursed airbases. It can be said that the 603 MASS truly earned its name as the "Pacesetters" by providing enroute support during the three-year Rolling Thunder air campaign (1965-1968), Operation LINEBACKER I and II (1972-1973), and the massive airlift evacuation of Saigon after the fall of the government of South Vietnam. They also supported the 1975 operation to secure the release USS Mayaguez and her crew in Kampuchea (Cambodia).



733d Air Mobility Squadron Emblem

Approved: 26 Nov 1986; modified on 23 Sep 1999

Description: On a disc Azure, issuant from dexter base a demi-sphere Vert, gridlined of the first, surmounted by a Torii gate bend sinisterwise Gules, in sinister two contrails Or, one bendwise, the other smaller arched to sinister chief, both terminating into a flight symbol of the third, and in sinister chief a bezant all of the fourth; all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "EN ROUTE PACESETTERS" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "733D AIR MOBILITY SQUADRON" in Black letters.

Significance: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe indicates the Squadron's support to the Air Mobility Command's worldwide mission for airlift support. The Torii gate signifies the command's presence and commitment to the Orient. The bezant suggests the moon, and the flight symbols outside the earth's atmosphere symbolize present and future endeavors in support of airlift requirements.

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733d Air Mobility Squadron

733d Air Mobility Squadron Lineage and Honors (cont.)

Decorations. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 8 -23 Jan 1966; 8 Jan-30 Jun 1966; 1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967; 1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968; 1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1970; 1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1972; 1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973; 1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982; 1 Jul 1982- 30 Jun 1983; 1 Jul 1983-30 Jun 1985; 1 Jan 1991-30 Jun 1992; 1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996; 1 Jul 1997-30 Jun 1999; 1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001; 1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003; 1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2005; 1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2006; 1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2007; 1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2008; 1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009; 1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2010; 1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2011; 1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013; 1 Oct 2014-30 Sep 2016; 1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013; 1 Oct 2014-30 Sep 2016; 1 Oct 2016-30 Sep 2018; 1 Oct 2018-30 Sep 2020; 1 Oct 2020-30 Sep 2021.

Lineage, Assignments, Stations, and Honors through 14 Feb 2022.

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Following the inactivation of the 630 MASS in early 1986, the unit was consolidated and reactivated as the 603d Military Airlift Support Group (MASG).

Airmen from the 603d MASG secure Navy submersible rescue vehicle Deep Drone in 1989.



Desert Shield/Storm

The 603 MASG supported a total of 20 missions that were flown in January 1991 in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM with over 3000 troops and 370 tons of cargo moved. The Airlift Control Squadron deployed to Bangladesh in support of Operation SEA ANGEL in response to a devastating typhoon in May 1991. Then in June 1991 deployed in support of Operation FIREY VIGIL, the emergency evacuation of all non-essential military and Department of Defense civilian personnel and their dependents from Clark Air Base and U.S. Naval Base Subic Bay during the after the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Republic of the Philippines.



603d MASG emblem 1987-1992



603d ASG emblem 1992-1994

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Following the major reorganizations of mobility assets the unit returned to its squadron status and was redesignated the 633d Air Mobility Support Squadron (AMSS) under the Fifteenth Air Force on 1 Jul 1994. Seven years later the 733d Air Mobility Squadron (AMS) was redesignated the on 15 Mar 2001 as one of six squadrons of the 715th Air Mobility Operations Group (AMOG) based at Hickam AFB, HI. In 2008, Air Mobility Command (AMC) established a new en route structure with the redesignation and activation of the 515th Air Mobility Operations Wing (AMOW) in 2008, and the 733d AMS became part of a new eastern Pacific command, the 515 Air Mobility Operations Group (AMOG) located at Yokota AB, Japan.



2011 Earthquake/Tsunami

The 733 AMS, along with its partner units at Kaden AB, made significant contributions during relief effort following a 9.0 earthquake that struck mainland Japan on 11 Mar 2011. A massive tsunami followed the quake, decimating the region of Tohoku and resulted in the Fukushima Nuclear Power Station disaster.



Members from the 733rd AMS load a JGSDF truck onto an Australian C-17 Globemaster III.

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733d Air Mobility Squadron Lineage and Honors

Lineage. Constituted as 603 Military Airlift Support Squadron and activated on 27 Dec 1965. Organized on 8 Jan 1966. Inactivated on 1 Jan 1986. Consolidated (3 Mar 1987) with the 603 Military Airlift Support Group, which was established on 8 Nov 1985 and activated on 1 Jan 1986. Redesignated: 603 Airlift Support Group, 1 Jun 1992; 633 Air Mobility Support Squadron on 1 Jul 1994; 733 Air Mobility Squadron on 15 Mar 2001.

Assignments. Military Air Transport Service (later Military Airlift Command), 27 Dec 1965; 61 Military Airlift Wing, 8 Jan 1966; 65 Military Airlift (later 65 Military Airlift Support) Group, 8 Jul 1966; 61 Military Airlift Support Wing, 1 Jan 1972; 834 Airlift Division, 1 Apr 1980-1 Jul 1986. 834 Airlift Division, 1 Jul 1986; Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1992; Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993; 615 Air Mobility (later 715 Air Mobility Operations) Group, 1 Jul 1994; 515 Air Mobility Operations Group, 5 Jun 2008-.

Stations. Kadena AB, Okinawa (later Japan), 8 Jan 1966-1 Jan 1986; 1 Jan 1986-.

Service Streamers. None.

Campaign Streamers. None.

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers. None.

733d Air Mobility Squadron

Higher Headquarters

515th Air Mobility Operations Group
Yokota Air Base, Japan



515th Air Mobility Operations Wing
Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii



USAF Expeditionary Center
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey



Air Mobility Command
Scott Air Force Base, Illinois



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For over a month of 24-hour operations during Operation TOMODACHI, Airmen from 733 AMS worked along side 18th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS) and prepared 972 short tons of humanitarian aid and disaster relief (HADR) from Kadena AB. The two squadrons became the supply line for multiple branches of the US Military and Japanese Self Defense Forces. 733 AMS Airmen also moved a total of 423 passenger during the operation that included soldiers of the Japanese ground Self Defense Force 15th Brigade.

733 Maintainers working on a C-5 passing through Kaden (July 2020)



The Squadron's heritage and daily operations demonstrate that Air Mobility Command's en route structure is flexible and shaped by the needs of our nation's security, establishing the appropriate level of authority, enhancing response time and agility to meet the changing theatre requirements and support to our customer, the combatant commanders. The 733 AMS provides agile en route capability to accelerate global air mobility for the warfighter throughout the eastern Pacific area of operations.

