

Airlift Mission Loadmasters And Cargo

Jerry Thigpen's study on the history of the Combat Talon is the first effort to tell the story of this wonderfully capable machine. This weapons system has performed virtually every imaginable tactical event in the spectrum of conflict and by any measure is the most versatile C-130 derivative ever produced. First modified and sent to Southeast Asia (SEA) in 1966 to replace theater unconventional warfare (UW) assets that were limited in both lift capability and speed the Talon I quickly adapted to theater UW tasking including infiltration and resupply and psychological warfare operations into North Vietnam. After spending four years in SEA and maturing into a highly respected UW weapons system the Joint Chief of Staff (JCS) chose the Combat Talon to lead the night low-level raid on the North Vietnamese prison camp at Son Tay. Despite the outcome of the operation the Talon I cemented its reputation as the weapons system of choice for long-range clandestine operations. In the period following the Vietnam War United States Air Force (USAF) special operations gradually lost its political and financial support which was graphically demonstrated in the failed Desert One mission into Iran. Thanks to congressional supporters like Earl Hutto of Florida and Dan Daniel of Virginia funds for aircraft upgrades and military construction projects materialized to meet the ever-increasing threat to our nation. Under the leadership of such committed hard-driven officers as Brenci Uttaro Ferkes Meller and Thigpen the crew force became the most disciplined in our Air Force. It was capable of penetrating hostile airspace at night in a low-level mountainous environment covertly to execute any number of unconventional warfare missions.

From 1972 to 1982, approximately 1,500-2,100 US Air Force Reserve personnel trained and worked on C-123 aircraft that had formerly been used to spray herbicides in Vietnam as part of Operation Ranch Hand. After becoming aware that some of the aircraft on which they had worked had previously served this purpose, some of these AF Reservists applied to the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for compensatory coverage under the Agent Orange Act of 1991. The Act provides health care and disability coverage for health conditions that have been deemed presumptively service-related for herbicide exposure during the Vietnam War. The VA denied the applications on the basis that these veterans were ineligible because as non-Vietnam-era veterans or as Vietnam-era veterans without "boots on the ground" service in Vietnam, they were not covered. However, with the knowledge that some air and wipe samples taken between 1979 and 2009 from some of the C-123s used in Operation Ranch Hand showed the presence of agent orange residues, representatives of the C-123 Veterans Association began a concerted effort to reverse VA's position and obtain coverage. At the request of the VA, Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft evaluates whether or not service in these C-123s could have plausibly resulted in exposures detrimental to the health of these Air Force Reservists. The Institute of Medicine assembled an expert committee to address this question qualitatively, but in a scientific and evidence-based fashion. This report evaluates the reliability of the available information for establishing exposure and addresses and places in context whether any documented residues represent potentially harmful exposure by characterizing the amounts available and the degree to which absorption might be expected. Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure rejects the idea that the dioxin residues detected on interior surfaces of the C-123s were immobile and effectively inaccessible to the Reservists as a source of exposure. Accordingly, this report states with confidence that the Air Force Reservists were exposed when working in the Operation Ranch Hand C-123s and so experienced some increase in their risk of a variety of adverse responses.

Airlift Tanker

The MAC Flyer

Regulation 350-2

An American C-130 Pilot's Memoir of Combat Airlift Operations in Southeast Asia, 1967-1968

Position-classification Standards for General Schedule (GS) Positions

So Many, So Much, So Far, So Fast

The history of the use of airlift and tanker forces in the U.S. military from the early biplane to today's advanced aircraft is brilliantly described in this book.

This book recounts four tours of Air Force duty in Vietnam, 1965–1968, and reports firsthand how tactics and the war effort changed each time. The routine and risk of daily airlift operations and the differing air bases are discussed—and colored with personal memories. Cargo included everything from elephants to dancing girls, and accidents and errors were all part of the mission. The author describes the work as a “history-based, humorous, satirical, and bitter recount of a major national wasted effort,” with commentary on American attitudes, the costs and the lingering social impact of the war. Photographs. Index.

Military Careers

Autobiography of an Elite U.s. Air Force Loadmaster

Citizen Airman

Anything, Anywhere, Anytime

United States Transportation Command and Strategic Deployment for Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm

The MAC Forum

Did you ever wonder why Air Force Special Operations Command came into being? The many roles and missions of tactical airlift blossomed and grew during the Vietnam conflict to such an extent that the Air Force later established an Air Force Special Operations Command to retain and use those skills. They were combined with skills developed by Air Rescue and Recovery Service outside of the normal range of rescue. The remarkable capabilities of the Lockheed Hercules aircraft made much of it possible. Of course, the normal mission of moving cargo and people was retained. But added to that were flare dispensing, assault landings and takeoffs, electronic surveillance, forward air control, propaganda dispersion, personnel extraction and recovery, long-range air rescue, air refueling, gunships, helicopter landing pad establishment, and airdrops of both cargo and people at low, normal, and high altitudes. While many activities were accomplished before or after battles, there were occasions when the desperation of the need dictated landing or departure during a battle. This book attempts to capture the essence of these many

missions.

The Lucky Loadmaster is an action packed book. It does not matter whether you are with the airmen in Vietnam, the first night of TET or just reading about the authors hair raising childhood adventures. Sometimes growing up and learning defensive moves in a small middle North Carolina town can be interesting. For the first time, a book written that is about the honest daily occurrences and multiple battles of a real airman in Vietnam. These were battles like others, in which people died and others became heroes. Battles in which crews looked death in the face multiple times each day, flying into places without the security of arms or cover ,the stress of actual war. Tom Stalveys wishes to enlist and study at the great Air Force electronics schools at the time, did not come to pass, instead he was assigned to the very lite and extremely dangerous rolls of an enlisted aircrew member. The courses these young men completed were at the considered complete college courses equal to obtaining a degree in a matter of months. The duty aboard the Lockheed C-130 Hercules as a Weight and balance Technician or Loadmaster was and still is essential. He was destined to end up in Vietnam. after two and a half years of training and protocol Only a slight recess was given these airmen as these young men were handed the keys to three fourths of a C-130 aircraft. Most of them averaged 22 years of age. Trained at doing their jobs by the book they soon learned that doing so in Vietnam could cost time and lives. Great at modifying plans on the run, many were awarded our nations highest war time decorations. Laugh out loud as you follow a young boy into what must have been The start of The Lucky Loadmasters ironic heavenly inspired protection and cry for the pain of his broken body!

The Mobility Forum

The Journal of the Air Mobility Command

Memoir of Four Tactical Airlift Tours, 1965-1968

Air Force Manual

The Praetorian STARShip : the untold story of the Combat Talon

The Story of the C-130 Hercules Troop Carrier/Tactical Airlift Mission

The story of the thousands of crew-members who flew, serviced and managed the jets in history's largest air operation, Desert Storm. This book gives expression to the love of flight, as well as the dedication to the endangered values of duty, honour and country.

In December, 1941 US Army pilots began hauling passengers and cargo around the Philippines after the Japanese attack on Clark Field, thus beginning one of the most important air force missions of World War II. As America geared up to fight the war, dozens of what came to be known as troop carrier squadrons were activated and equipped, usually with Douglas C-47 and C-53 version of the DC-8 transport. Beginning in New Guinea, US Army troop carrier crews became a crucial part of the effort to turn the tide of war. In Europe troop carrier squadrons supported Army airborne forces and provided logistical support for air force squadrons. During the Battle of the Bulge troop carrier crews kept the 101st Airborne Division supplied. After the war, troop carrier squadrons supplied the besieged city of Berlin. Troop carrier crews supported UN forces in Korea, then supported French efforts in Indochina where their successors would become crucial to US efforts in the 1960s and early 1970s. This is their story.

USAF formal schools catalog

Air Force Magazine

Vignettes from the Vietnam War

Memoires of a Trash Hauler

Buckeye Flyer

The Air ReservistAir ReservistPosition Classification StandardsFor Positions Under the General Schedule Classification SystemC-17 GlobemasterSupport of Operation Joint Endeavor : Report to Congressional CommitteesUSAF formal schools catalogThe Lucky

LoadmasterAutobiography of an Elite U.S. Air Force LoadmasterAuthorHouse

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Position Classification Standards

Support of Operation Joint Endeavor : Report to Congressional Committees

The Journal of the Military Airlift Command

Official Magazine of the Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve

History of U.S. Airlift and Tanker Forces

An Illustrated History of the Military Airlift Command, 1941-1991

On August 23, 1954 the most successful airplane in aviation history took to the skies on its maiden flight. A little over two years later the first operational airplanes were delivered to the 463rd Troop Carrier Wing at Ardmore AFB, Oklahoma. Over the next 21 years Tactical Air Command, United States Air Forces Europe and Pacific Air Forces troop carrier/tactical airlift crew amassed a heroic and impressive record from Africa to Vietnam. Trash Haulers is a revision of a 1988 TAB/Aero publication by Sam McGowan, who was part of that mission.

In February 1967, Air Force Lieutenant Vaughan arrived at Ching Chuan Kang Air Base in Taiwan to begin 14 months as a C-130 Hercules pilot, airlifting supplies and troops throughout southeast Asia. Feeling well suited, Vaughan had volunteered for the duty, but little had he realized the pressure associated with flying the heavy cargo plane under combat conditions and taking off and landing on the short runways that dotted the Vietnamese countryside. Among his most harrowing duties was the aerial resupply of the Marine base at Khe Sanh during the most intense action of the Tet Offensive. This is the story of an Air Force pilot's progression from inexperienced flyer to veteran crew member and how he came of age under combat conditions.

For Positions Under the General Schedule Classification System

Airstream

Autobiography of an Elite U.S. Air Force Loadmaster

Post-Vietnam Dioxin Exposure in Agent Orange-Contaminated C-123 Aircraft

The Air Reservist

Tail of the Storm

Without the support of airlift, the modern American military machine would be brought to a standstill. Since World War II—beginning with the Cold War and continuing up to the present day—the U.S. armed forces have come increasingly to rely upon airlift for mobility. The power to rapidly move and thereafter support a military operation—anywhere in the world, at any time—has become a foundational element of American defense policy. This work provides the reader with a comprehensive historical survey—including technical specifications, drawings, and photographs—of each type of fixed-wing aircraft used by U.S. military forces over a nearly 90-year period to carry out the airlift mission.

Military Career Paths

Newsletter

Department of Defense Dictionary of Military and Associated Terms

Flying Missions in the First Gulf War

The Lucky Loadmaster

Airman