

THE HISTORY OF THE 625th

THE 625th MILITARY AIRLIFT SUPPORT SQUADRON (MASS) WAS ACTIVATED ON 8 JANUARY 1966 AT TORREJON AB, SPAIN. IT WAS AN OVERSEAS UNIT OF THE MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND THAT WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 322d AIRLIFT DIVISION (ALD) LOCATED AT RAMSTEIN AB, GERMANY.

ON 24 DECEMBER 1968, CONTROL OVER THE 625th MASS WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THE 322d ALD TO THE 435th MILITARY AIRLIFT SUPPORT WING, WHICH WAS LATER RENAMED THE 435th TACTICAL AIRLIFT WING AT RHEIN-MAIN AB, GERMANY.

TEN YEARS LATER, IN 1978, THE 625th MASS WAS REASSIGNED BACK TO THE 322d ALD.

ON 1 AUG 1983, THE 625th MASS WAS DEACTIVATED AND TWO NEW SQUADRONS WERE FORMED -- THE 625th CONSOLIDATED AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON (CAMS) AND THE 625th AERIAL PORT SQUADRON (APS). THESE TWO NEW SQUADRONS COMBINED WITH THE AIRLIFT COORDINATION CENTER AND THE FORWARD SUPPLY LOCATION TO FORM THE NEW 625th MILITARY AIRLIFT SUPPORT GROUP (MASG).

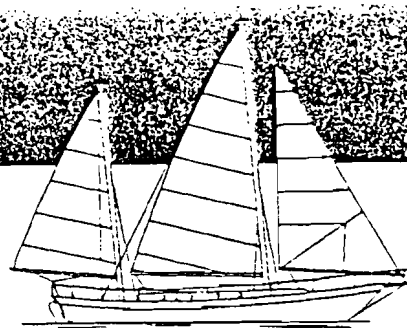
WITH THE DEACTIVATION OF THE 322d ALD ON 1 APRIL 1992, THE 625th MASG BEGAN REPORTING DIRECTLY TO HQ 21st AIR FORCE AT MCGUIRE AFB, NJ.

EFFECTIVE 1 JUNE 1992, WITH THE ACTIVATION OF AIR MOBILITY COMMAND AND THE REORGANIZATION OF THE OVERSEAS EN ROUTE SUPPORT STRUCTURE, THE 625th MASG AND ITS TWO SQUADRONS -- THE 625th CAMS AND 625th APS WERE DEACTIVATED. IN ITS PLACE, THE 625th AIRLIFT SUPPORT SQUADRON (ALSS) WAS ACTIVATED AT TORREJON AB, SPAIN. AT THAT TIME, THE 625th ALSS BEGAN REPORTING TO THE 608th AIRLIFT SUPPORT GROUP (ALSG) AT RAMSTEIN AB, GERMANY.

ON 1 APRIL 1994, THE 625th ALSS WAS DEACTIVATED AT TORREJON AB, SPAIN AND THE 625th AIR MOBILITY SUPPORT SQUADRON (AMSS) WAS ACTIVATED AT NAVAL STATION ROTA, SPAIN.

ON 1 JULY 94, THE 608th ALSG CHANGED THEIR NAME TO THE 621st AIR MOBILITY SUPPORT GROUP (AMSG) -- THE CURRENT HIGHER HEADQUARTERS FOR THE 625th AMSS.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1966, THE 625th HAS EARNED 7 AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARDS.



Air Force squadron establishes in Rota

The 625th Air Mobility Support Squadron officially moved to NAVSTA from Torrejon Air Force Base last Friday at a ceremony held at the Spanish Theater here.

"In the past Rota has been a detachment, part of Torrejon," said Col. John L. Tullis, commander of the squadron. The eight people in the det served as advisors to the Navy on transportation matters and working with the Navy contractors to operate the airport in Rota.

Due to the drawdown, the Air Force's mission has shifted from Northern Europe to Rota because of Rota's location, said Tullis. "Being halfway between Southwest Asia and the United States, means Rota is a great place to stop, and gas and go."

But the main reason the squadron came to Rota was to be closer to its major customer. According to Tullis, "Our primary purpose is to provide logistical support to the 6th Fleet and their entire operations."

Tullis said because of the increased responsibility of the Air Force here the number of people in the squadron will grow.

"Right now were about 45 to 50 percent manned of the number of people were ultimately going to have, which is 130 people. We should have those 130 people all on station by the end of October," said Tullis.

When the squadron becomes fully manned it will be considered operationally ready, and it will be fully capable to provide its mission support to Rota.

"As time goes on we will providing more and more services and more and more help," said Tullis, "via additional aircraft and missions coming through here."

With the additional aircraft, Quality of Life will also take a step up when it comes to going on Space "A" flights. Tullis said "The opportunity to travel Space "A" through Rota, to and from, east and west, will greatly increase with the additional missions we get through here."

Tullis said Rota will see about a 50 percent increase in of aircraft coming through here in both directions, from about three to six a day. "And that should allow a 50 percent increase in Space "A" travel capabilities."

More Space "A" destinations may also rise with the increased flights, according to Tullis.



Col. John L. Tullis, Commander, 625th Air Mobility Support Squadron, performs the standup ceremony at the Spanish Theater last Friday establishing the squadron in Rota. The squadron moved from Torrejon to provide mission support to the 6th Fleet. (Photo by PH2 Steve Kless)

Tullis said the Air Force is growing in Rota, but the armed forces in a whole are shrinking. Which will mean a "team effort" will have to be stressed today and in the future.

And a team effort is what we have in Rota, and the future looks good for Rota, whether your in the Navy, Air Force, Marines or Army.