

155th LOGISTICS READINESS SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Lincoln, NE

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Wendy Johnson

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

155 Logistics Readiness Squadron Vehicle Operations Flight to complete another mission. Concrete barriers, left unattended on the west side of the Lincoln Airfield by Offutt Air Force Base personnel after the air show need to be harvested and transported back to the Lincoln Air Base during the January drill weekend. Three Airmen respond to the call. With over 60 years of cumulative service, Tech Sgt. Lannie Lukesh, Tech Sgt. Brian Barnes and Staff Sgt. Stanley Mar, all vehicle operators/ dispatchers, don their cold-weather gear and prepare to face the elements. Despite the adverse conditions caused by the frosty temperature and the near gale-force wind, the “dream team” member tap into their reserves of courage, wipe their drippy

noses, zip their parkas up tight and face the elements with a smile and an extremely good-natured attitude. All moderate literary sarcasm aside, the members of the Vehicle Operations Flight are the kind of unit that makes retention in the Nebraska Air National Guard a moot point. Their light-hearted nature and high level of camaraderie are examples that many Guard units try to replicate. The Vehicle Operations Flight has fun, but is also extremely proficient in its job. Few people within the Nebraska National Guard can describe exactly what the flight does and even fewer understand the broad spectrum of tasks that the flight has been charged with. “We provide transportation in support of the 155th ARW...by working on vehicle fleet management and vehicle servicing,” said Lukesh regarding the flight’s mission. Lukesh said that under that general definition, the Vehicle Operations Flight is responsible for coordinating, maintaining and acquiring transportation for Air Guard members, providing military vehicle licensing to members and training to accomplish missions in a real-world, war-time environment. Their specialty not only includes equipment with wheels, but also things that are often overlooked such as traffic barriers. These barriers assist 155th Security Forces personnel in times of elevated threat conditions and provide routing for vehicles when construction is being conducted on base, said Barnes. “We are the base’s contact for all vehicles,” said Mar. “If we are deployed, we have to provide and possibly procure vehicles to support the mission.” The 13-member flight has had a lot of real-world experience lately—foreign and domestic. All members of the flight were integral in the logistical transportation during September’s Guardians of Freedom Air Show. Mar, a traditional Airman, said he came in a week before the air show and stayed for a week after the air show to support the flight’s mission. “Master Sgt. Robert Doetker was responsible for most of that,” said Lukesh. “He coordinated and overlooked the acquisition and placement of all the golf carts, u-drive vehicles, buses and rental vehicles that were provided for Guard members, show performers and dignitaries.” Doetker is the flight’s only full-time member and oversees the day-to-day operations. On a larger scale, many members of the Vehicle Operations Flight have recently participated in world-wide deployments. Senior Airman Kevin Myles just returned from a two-month support mission at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, said Lukesh. Another group, including Lukesh, Tech. Sgt. Tony Hewitt, Tech. Sgt. Paul Savick and Staff Sgt. Mark Durant, all vehicle operator/dispatchers, went to Qatar in 2004-2005 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Lukesh said he also participated in the 155th Air Refueling Wing’s recent deployment to Turkey last spring. The future is promising for the people at the flight. There has been preliminary talk of a restructure of the unit to adapt to the current needs of the Air Force, said Lukesh. “The restructure will help us utilize our resources more efficiently,” said Lukesh, “basically... doing more with less.” The restructure is still in its infancy and Lukesh said reorganization details aren’t available yet. In addition to efficiency, the Vehicle Operations Flight is also focused on training new members. Barnes said there are a lot of younger Airmen in the flight and one of the most rewarding parts of his job is seeing them progress through task qualifications and skill levels. With a bright outlook and a capable staff, transportation on and around the Lincoln Air Base will continue successfully well into the future.

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.