

190th SERVICES FLIGHT

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Topeka, KS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Cpt Deborah Rose

Cpt Randall P. Bailes

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

During the first two weeks of May, 11 members of the 190th Services Flight participated in Joint Tax Force (JTF) 105 Operation "Fuertes Caminos 92" at Camp Las Delicias, Honduras, Central America. JTF 105 was tasked with completing the final eight kilometers of a highway connecting the farmlands in the north central region of Honduras with the more developed southern portion (The "highway" was not a "highway" as we know one, but more closely resembled a rural two-lane gravel road.) JTF 105 was composed of engineering personnel from the active duty Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserve active duty Air Force, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve, as well as Honduran Army infantrymen and engineers. The 190th Services Flight's participation involved preparing two hot meals per day from a "Harvest Eagle" tent kitchen-dining facility, plus issuing Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) for the noon meal for a base

population of approximately 700. In addition to preparing and distributing meals, the Services Flight prepared and transported cold drinks and fresh fruit to the road construction site daily. Who said MREs aren't good? Our noon meal consisted of MREs since most of the base camp personnel were outside the compound during the day working on the road. There always seemed to be leftovers from someone's MRE ration, and each day services personnel would gather the leftover MRE components and distribute them in a village on the return trip from the construction site. Because we were exposed to extreme poverty and hunger, these village visits proved to be highly emotional experiences. As we drove into the villages, people of all ages would swarm the truck. Upon coming to a stop, one of us would stand on the hood of the truck and hand out MREs, apples, oranges, and candy. Master Sgt. Roy Corber recalls, "I can still see one old man who must have been in his 70's. He was standing way behind everyone else and not getting anything. After we had told those closest to the truck that we were out of food and they started backing away, I got down from the top of the cab, walked over to him, and made sure he got his own MRE and fruit. With a smile and a handshake, he thanked me." As we visited the small villages we came upon one that was over 400 years old, built around a church, like many of our towns are built around a town square. Most of the homes had no glass windows, just open spaces. Some had wooden shutters to close in case it rained. Very few homes had electricity or water service. We came upon a man making clay bricks used for building homes. He explained that the bricks last approximately six years, and then many have to be replaced. The native people cooked their food on what we referred to as "Honduran microwaves". These were wood burning stoves made of clay that stood on tree limbs. The food they cooked looked good, however, we had been advised not to eat food from the natives because parasites and food-borne diseases were common. When the road was close to the river, we noticed women and young girls doing their laundry on rocks. We were all impressed with the friendliness and cleanliness of the people. They take a great deal of pride in the way they look. We heard about the Honduran "K-Mart." And just where was this great place? It was located right next to the main gate of the camp. We were in the middle of nowhere and we had our own "K-Mart!" Made of cardboard, tree limbs, and plywood, the local people learned quickly that GIs will buy almost anything just to bring something back home. This deployment will be remembered by all who participated as both a learning and a growing experience. We became a closer working unit and truly got to know and respect each other from a whole new perspective. We had our eyes opened to just how fortunate we really are in this country and that we should be thankful for many of the things we take for granted.

Air Force Order of Battle

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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.