

# 2589 SUPPORT SQUADRON

## **MISSION**

Activities fundamental to the operation of an Air Force Base were carried on by the Support Squadron. The squadron divided its operations into seven fields: Base Operations, Communications, Air Police, Ground Photographic Operation, Dining Hall, Personnel Services, and Unit Administration. Squadron was authorized 8 officers, 120 airmen and 159 civilians.

## **LINEAGE**

2589 Support Squadron  
Organized, 8 Apr 1958

## **STATIONS**

Dobbins AFB, GA, 8 Apr 1958-26 Dec 1961

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

2589 Air Base Group

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj James H. Davis  
Maj Henry D. Gordon, 15 Apr 1960

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Activities fundamental to the operation of an Air Force base were carried on by the Support Squadron. The squadron divided its operations into six fields: Base Operations, Communications, Air Police, Ground Photo Operation, Dining Hall, and Personnel Services. Base Operations saw a continued increase in air traffic following the trend set in the previous six months. Total takeoffs and landings numbered 50,704. This compared with 47,086 from January through June, and 32,023 for the same period a year before. Most of the increase was attributable to operations at Naval Air Station Atlanta, which began using the Dobbins runway in February.

During most of the period the dispatch section operated with a minimum of personnel. Efficient operations called for at least two qualified dispatchers to handle the traffic, but the number of assigned personnel usually permitted having only one. This was complicated by lack of a personal equipment technician until November, meaning dispatchers also had to maintain, inspect and issue parachutes and other equipment.

There were 116 emergencies and two major accidents. The first accident occurred on October 21, when B-47 from Dyess AFB, Texas, crashed about 1000 feet off the end of Runway 10 when the brake chute failed to open. The plane caught fire and was completely demolished, but not before the four persons aboard had escaped safely. The plane was being flown to Lockheed for modification. The other accident, on November 16, involved a T-33 from Mitchel AFB, New York, that had stopped at Dobbins to refuel en route to Maxwell AFB, Alabama. The plane crashed about five minutes after takeoff, killing the pilot and destroying the aircraft.

Six hundred and forty-one Distinguished Visitors landed at the base. Of these, 130 were general officers.

Base Communications continued to provide service for the 2589th Air Base Group and tenant units. Communications facilities included a teletype center, crypto center, telephone system, base radio station on the Fourteenth Air Force tactical net and the base MARS station.

The crypto center was declared insecure in July, due to structural deficiencies in the physical location. It was moved to Hangar 2, an altogether more solidly built structure, which has since proved satisfactory.

The base telephone system continued to expand, thanks to growth of the 32nd Air Division and Naval Air Station Atlanta. The office handled 284 telephone work orders, many of these installations of new telephone sets. Work was begun on two additional positions on the base switchboard. When complete, sometime in January, the board will have five positions.

Air Police activities including base security, confinement traffic control, base defense, color guard and investigation were carried on by a force at about 80% of authorized strength. The lack of a full complement did not pose a difficult problem, however since men were drawn from other units for emergency operations such as guard duty at accident scenes

Ground Photographic Operations centered around the photo lab in the Headquarters Building At the start of this period operations were hampered by an acute shortage of personnel<sup>1</sup> one photographer and one camera repairman handling all the calls for photographic needs During the period, however, two cameramen arrived and the repairman left, leaving the section still improperly manned but better able to fulfill its role. The personnel problems of this section are typical of the erratic manning that prevail s throughout the Group. Nevertheless, there were 2,154 pictures taken by t e section during these six months.

The Dining Hall continued to feed all 2589th personnel, and, on training weekends, reservists of the 445th Troop Carrier Wing and the 116 Air National Guards The hall had been feeding men from Naval Air Station Atlanta, but this ceased in July when the Navy began operating its own dining hall

Personnel Services continued to provide Casualty Reporting, Personal Affairs Special Services<sup>9</sup> Education Services the Base Library and the Family Services Center.

The section also ran base athletic programs and sponsored varsity baseball and softball and intramural football. Most successful of the athletic ventures was the ConAC Softball Championship won by the Dobbins softball team in September

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.