



**TOP AIRLIFT MISSION** — Two C-130 Hercules of the 815th Troop Carrier Squadron fly in a tight formation (above) over the clouds on an airlift mission in the Western Pacific. The hands of this Flying Jenny (815th TCS) loadmaster (below) provide guidance and direction for an Army driver as he rolls down the loading ramp. The Flying Jennies operate throughout the Far East and Southeast Asia in support of Army, Navy and Marine Corps units as directed by the 315th Air Division. (USAF PHOTO)

# Flying Jennies' Proud Of Airlift Contribution

"We don't claim to be Number One."

"We only ask that other troop carrier squadrons compare their records to that of the 815th," said Lt. Col. Pierce M. Myers, commander of the Tachikawa-based 815th TCS.

"We believe it to be self-evident that actions speak louder than words — and the 815th is where the action is," he added.

**TACHIKAWA AB** — Since the start of the year the "Flying Jenny" Squadron has produced a record of sustained performance unexcelled by any other C-130A troop carrier squadron in the Pacific Air Forces. The 815th was the first C-130A squadron within this command to succeed in meeting increased unit aircraft utilization rate when it accomplished scheduled flying time in January 1966, and has continued to overflow its scheduled flying time.

In May, the 815th set a new high for C-130A squadron within

the division when it exceeded scheduled time by two hundred and two hours. This feat was accomplished at a time when the 815th was short of qualified personnel, and in some crew positions had only as many combat qualified crew members as there were aircraft assigned.

The squadron operations officer, Lt. Col. Verus A. Yon, commented, "Sometimes we had to schedule a crew member on a trip with the very minimum crew-rest because he was the only individual in that crew position capable of completing the mission without exceeding total flying time limitations. Scheduling was so tight a diversion enroute could have grounded a crew for exceeding the 30-day flying time limitation established by PACAF."

In August, the unit broke its own record when it overflowed a scheduled flying time of 1200 hours by more than 320 hours

and established what is believed to be an Air Force record for total monthly flying time for an "A-model" squadron—1520 hours. In setting this mark, the 815th flew more than 228,000 miles (9 trips around the globe) and carried 5,824,000 pounds of cargo and nearly three thousand passengers.

Each mission presents new situations to challenge the skill and professionalism of squadron aircrews. One day a crew may be operating to and from a remote, unprepared airfield in SEA in conditions of hostile ground fire, searingly high temperatures, uncontrolled air traffic, dust and minimum acceptable operating conditions. The following day the same crew might be making an approach to Wakkanai Air Station at the tip of Japan's northernmost island.

This field, located only forty miles from Soviet territory, presents entirely different challenges

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and problems to the crew: a short ice-covered runway, severe crosswinds, blowing snow and poor visibility.

Operating their C-130s at maximum capability under minimum and widely varied conditions requires highly qualified aircrews and close crew coordination. Each mission calls for careful planning to insure that all aspects of the flight are within the aircraft and aircrew capability and follows safe procedures. Yet each mission has to gain maximum airframe utilization and provide maximum training for the aircrew. Using tight schedules and careful planning the 815th has chalked up its enviable flying record without a major accident or incident attributable to aircrew or supervisor performance.

Squadron aircrews daily handle loads that would tax the patience of Job and challenge the magic of Houdini. Delivering cargo that ranges from artillery pieces to zoological equipment, the aircrews of the "Flying Jennie" squadron maintain a dual capability for aerial delivery and ground delivery as the combat situation dictates.

In the recent fire that destroyed much of Misawa City, Japan, 815th aircraft and aircrews were touching down at nearby Misawa Air Base with emergency equipment and supplies long before the fire was brought under control.

Only history will determine who is "number one". However, the "can-do" determination of 815th personnel will undoubtedly guarantee the 815th a place among the "very best".

The 315th Air Division is operating the greatest military airlift in history. The 815th is proud of the vital part it has played and will continue to play in this effort. (PACAF NS)