

History of the 633d Air Base Wing

The 633d Air Base Wing (ABW) has a storied, historic and distinguished history.

Originally designated the 633d Combat Support Group, it was established and activated March 14, 1966 and organized April 8, 1966.

It was originally assigned to the 13th Air Force as part of the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) at Pleiku Air Base, South Vietnam, and later at Andersen AFB, Guam.

During the Vietnam War, Airmen of the 633d ABW participated in numerous campaigns, air offensives and Operations Arc Light, Bullet Shot and Linebacker.

On Oct. 1, 1989, the Wing aligned under the 13th AF, activated on Andersen AFB, Guam, and became the host unit, providing services for various tenant units. This marked the transfer of Andersen AFB control from Strategic Air Command to PACAF.

In August 1990, 633d ABW personnel began shipping more than 37,000 tons of munitions to forces in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm – more than 30,000 tons went by sealift, and more than 2,200 troops and 2,200 tons of cargo processed aboard 200 aircraft.

Operation Fiery Vigil spun into action June 1991, when 633d ABW personnel cared for more than 20,000 American evacuees and 1,100 pets following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo, Philippines.

On Oct. 1, 1994, the 633d ABW was inactivated and the 36th ABW was activated in keeping with the policy of the Air Force Chief of Staff to maintain the most highly decorated and longest-serving Air Force units on active-duty. The 36th ABW was inactivated at Bitburg AB, Germany, that same day.

On Jan. 7, 2010, the 9th AF reactivated the 633d ABW and declared it to be the host unit for Langley AFB, Va.