Information Sheet

315TH AIR DIVISION (COMBAT CARGO)
463L CARGO HANDLING SYSTEM

The need for high speed handling of air cargo has long been recognized by the Department of the Air Force, and in March 1957, Air Force officials wrote a specific operational requirement for high speed cargo handling. This was the beginning of a multimillion dollar, worldwide military cargo handling system called 463L that the Air Force now has in use.

This new cargo handling system became operational in the 315th Air Division on Oct. 1, 1964. The first full scale test of 463L by the 315th was successfully conducted in the mobility exercise Sky Soldier VI from Oct. 27-31, 1964.

This modern equipment installed in its C-130 Hercules transports, boosted the Division's ability to quickly and effectively airlift necessary manpower and equipment into troubled areas.

The 463L materials handling system has drastically reduced valuable time in cargo handling in air freight terminal operations, thus cutting aircraft ground time in cargo loading and offloading from hours to minutes.

The system starts at the air freight terminal where up to 10,000 pounds of cargo is loaded on aluminum pallets 108 by 88 inches and secured by nylon nets.

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The pallets are then taken to the aircraft on motorized roller conveyors that can transport up to five pallets at a time. The truck-like conveyor can be adjusted in height to match the floor level of any aircraft and enables air freight personnel to easily transfer the pallets into the aircraft.

The cargo pallets are locked into place mechanically by the aircraft loadmaster and the loading is complete. Additional tie-down devices are not required and the aircraft is ready for departure.

Users of 315th airlift in the Far East and Southeast Asia, including Army, Navy and Air Force units, have all adopted the 463L system.

The 463L system enables the Division to give instantaneous airlift for any unit during times of crisis. The aerial port personnel can pre-plan aircraft loads of any Pacific Command unit that will enable immediate loading of equipment for airdrop or air land as the mission dictates.

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