



Three-Ring Showcase

They flew in from Clark AB, the Philippines; Elmendorf AFB, Alaska; Rhein-Main AB, Germany, and other bases throughout the Military Airlift Command to prove who was the best in MAC in 1979.

For four days in June, 31 aircraft and members of 34 MAC airlift units gathered at Pope AFB, N.C., to fly container delivery systems, heavy equipment, and personnel to drop zones at neighboring Fort Bragg. Combat control and security police teams locked horns in obstacle courses, long-distance runs, marksmanship matches, and written tests.

One by one, C-130 *Hercules* deployed scores of 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers over the Antles drop zone at Fort Bragg and then continued on for short-field assault landings and takeoffs at the Sicily drop zone.

C-141 *Starlifter* crews demonstrated fast, safe, engine-running onloads and offloads. Meanwhile, C-123 *Providers* and C-7 *Caribous* went through their paces. And with

security police and combat control team tests taking place at the same time, the tactical rodeo was a three-ring showcase of MAC's finest tactical airlift talent.

During all the activities a team of judges decided contest winners and ensured safety. "This is almost like having a baby!" exclaimed one nervous C-141 maintenance crewman as officials went over his *Starlifter* with seemingly microscopic vision.

Even the smallest detail in a contest could swing the outcome of a whole competition in favor of one wing. To prove the point, Little Rock AFB, Ark., saw its C-130 crew score 790 out of 800 on aircraft maintenance. The 463rd Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW), Dyess AFB, Texas, managed 785 in the judging. Both wings then scored three perfect launches and recoveries on airdrop missions for 400 points each time.

When the C-130 maintenance competition ended, Little Rock's 314th TAW ranked first with 1,990 out of 2,000 possible points. Dyess

finished second with 1,985.

For all the thrills of victory, runner-up wings knew there were no losers in the airdrop competition.

The tactical rodeo's goal from the start was for people to "compare notes with friends from other bases and help standardize procedures among all wings," said Gen. William G. Moore Jr., then MAC commander in chief. "We've achieved the objective remarkably well.

"I think the Military Airlift Command and the nation are winners because we've achieved and learned a great deal here," he continued. "I would be most happy, should I have to go to war again, to fly with the team that made the lowest score. They're outstanding, very professional people. There aren't any losers."

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Combat control and security police teams lock horns at Military Airlift Command's tactical rodeo. A team of judges decided winners in all contests.





TOP: A combat controller nears the end of the six-mile run.
ABOVE: MSgt. Dick Jones of Fourth Air Force (Reserve) at McClellan AFB, Calif., evaluates maintenance on a C-141.
RIGHT: Rodeo participants stand at parade rest during opening ceremonies.
BELOW: The reviewing party passes by.



HERE'S JAKE

"JAKE" SCHUFFERT



"The main thing I like about golf is it gives me a good chance to get some exercise!!"



"Hey, Al, come up here right away. I think the solution to our flight fuel problem has just flown in the door!!"



"We're glad to see you guys in the military get more money. After all, a raise for you means a raise for us!!"



"That promotion to super-sergeant sure has gone to your head hasn't it, Bigelow?!!"