

Operational Support Airlift Agency

What is it? The Operational Support Airlift Agency (OSAA) is a Department of the Army (DA) Field Operating Agency under the National Guard Bureau, providing management, oversight and execution of a geographically dispersed fleet consisting of four different airframes including turbojet and turboprop fixed-wing aircraft (114 total). The OSAA fleet represents the single largest fixed-wing organization in the Army today. Headquartered at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, OSAA is a multi-component, brigade-level command that provides leadership, command and control, direction, and guidance with a combination of personnel including ARNG Title 10 and Title 32 AGR Soldiers, Active Component warrant officers, traditional Guardsmen, and DA civilians. The Agency provides safety, training, standardization, readiness, maintenance, and resourcing oversight for 80 separate fixed-wing units and approximately 700 personnel assigned or attached to the Agency and its Regional Flight Centers, located in virtually every State and Territory. OSAA aircraft, Soldiers, and civilians execute worldwide missions in support of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), homeland defense, and other overseas contingency operational requirements.

What has the Army done?

In FY10, combat support from OSAA included transporting time sensitive and mission-critical supplies and personnel to, from, and within Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait, Pakistan, Qatar, and the horn of Africa. During the year OSAA provided a company of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance aircraft and personnel to the first Task Force ODIN (Observe, Detect, Identify, and Neutralize) in Afghanistan.

While supporting homeland defense security operations, fixed-wing aircraft transported emergency supplies and 725 personnel throughout the Gulf Coast during the aftermath of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and along the East Coast following Hurricane Earl. OSAA has provided critical combat support at home by transporting both blood donations and Wounded Warriors across the United States. Fixed-wing aircraft also transported much-needed supplies and personnel to Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response and gave support to SOUTHCOM in Colombia. Both at home and abroad in FY10, these aircraft flew 53,029 hours, completed 11,312 missions, transported over 6.4 million pounds of cargo, and carried more than 79,900 passengers.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future? OSAA is the proponent for all ARNG fixed-wing operations and standardization. Future fixed-wing strategic initiatives include the transformation of operational Tables of Distribution and Allowance (TDA) organizations to Tables of Organization and Equipment (TOE) units starting in FY12. OSAA has developed a C-23 Divestiture Plan that will reduce and eventually phase out the C-23 aircraft from the ARNG fixed-wing inventory in FY15 as directed by HQDA. OSAA is awaiting HQDA's approval to execute the Divestiture Plan. OSAA continues to train and develop Task Force (TF) Observe, Detect, Identify, Neutralize (ODIN) units for deployments while preparing for the fielding of four TF ODIN MTOE units. To assist with standardization of training, the Fixed-Wing Army National Guard Aviation Training Site (FWAATS) in Clarksburg, West Virginia (the only Total Army School System accredited fixed-wing training site), is working closely with the Army Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) on the execution and evaluation of fixed-wing aircrew training.

Why is this important to the Army? As the ARNG proponent for all fixed-wing operations, training, and standardization issues, OSAA works closely with HQDA, the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Program Executive Office (PEO) Aviation, FWAATS, and ARNG Aviation and Safety Division to provide the operational perspective of fixed-wing modernization and transformation, and improve training and unit readiness for all ARNG fixed-wing units. OSAA is a truly unique organization that performs a critical role with fixed-wing aircraft on a daily basis.