

48th Operational Support Aircraft



In the last week of August 2005 the 48th Operational Support Aircraft (OSA) received an alert that they may be needed to go to New Orleans, Louisiana to provide C-12 support for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort. On September 1, CW5 Jerry Duba and CW4 Michael Huss met with SFC Bob Sack and made final plans for the flight to Louisiana. The next day CW5 Duba and CW4 Huss flew to Alexandria, Louisiana. From September 2 through September 13 the two pilots supported the Katrina relief effort with the C-12 aircraft.

Detachment 48, OSA and a handful of other OSA aircraft headquartered out of the Alexandria, LA airport, as it had escaped damage. Most of the airports close to New Orleans suffered a lot of damage so services weren't available, either no fuel or they were full of helicopters. A typical day for the South Dakota National Guard pilots would start with a stop in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; from there they would take passengers to airstrips in the disaster areas in both Louisiana and Mississippi. The Navy Base at New Orleans was a frequent stop and a very busy place as the helicopters there were still doing rooftop rescue missions and all manner of cargo planes were bringing in supplies and workers.

Both pilots received Louisiana Service Medals for their participation in the Katrina relief effort from September 2 until September 13, 2005.

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