

116 OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 116th Operations Support Squadron is responsible for the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System sortie and exercise scheduling, flight analyses, mission intelligence, tactics, and aircrew training preparation. These duties include long-range mission scheduling, building and executing exercises and deployments, aircraft software or modification training, and providing the necessary tactics and intelligence analyses to ensure wing mission success.

LINEAGE

116 Operations Support Flight
Redesignated 116 Operations Support Squadron

STATIONS

Robins AFB, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

116 Operations Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert Campbell
LTC David A. Hutchinson
LTC Scott Turner
LTC Thomas Moore
LTC William Welsh

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, four mullets enarched in dexter descending Or, three lightning flashes, two Silver Gray and the center one Gris fimbriated of the field, surmounted by an American eagle Sable, beak and talons of the second, head and tail feathers Argent, stooping to base, all within a narrow border White. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "EX TENEBRIS LUX" in White letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "116TH OSS" in White letters.

SIGNIFICANCE: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The noble eagle, soaring master of the skies, unequal in its conquest of the air, represents the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System's (Joint STARS) missions and the mission of the OSS with its unparalleled vision and strength. Long-term vision and support planning are the primary roles of the OSS. The constellation of four stars represents the four combatant services and the jointness of the mission of the Joint STARS aircraft and the OSS in the modern battle space. The three lightning flashes represent day and night communication and radar capabilities of the Joint STARS aircraft and aircrews through the air, over the land, and on the sea. The motto, "EX TENEBRIS LUX," means "From Darkness, Light," which represents both the mission of the Joint STARS aircraft in defining surveillance light from the darkness of the night sky, and also the purpose of the OSS in defining order and structure during its mission of providing operational support.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 116th Operations Support Flight, provides direct support to the 128th Bomb Squadron. Functional areas within the squadron include; Intelligence, Training, Weapons & Tactics, Strike Operations, Squadron Operations Center' and Combat Crew Communications. Each functional area keeps abreast of the changes in worldwide technology. As our technology changes, so does that of our potential adversaries. Therefore one mission of the Squadron is to seek out these changes and incorporate them in our daily flight operations.

The 116th was the first bomber unit to link all of its classified computers to one server. The result is that any flight planning can be accomplished from any computer. Also all flight-planning programs are linked together. Any changes made in Falcon View, a chart-producing program, automatically changes the Combat Flight Planning Software (CFPS), a flight plan producing program. Any changes in obstructions, noise sensitive areas, or other flight restrictions are electronically added to the master files.

The unit also developed a "data link" program allowing a standard desktop computer to interface with the labor intensive Mission Data Preparation System, (MDPS), a Bomber specific computer. The result of this effort saved the Air Force both time and an estimated \$23 million over three years. The developers of this program were recognized by the Air Force in the Air Force suggestion program.

Currently the unit is developing a moving map display for use in the B-1B. This will result in unprecedented situation awareness in the cockpit. Using off-the-shelf technology, the crew will have a real time presentation of their position in relation to threats, terrain, targets and friendly forces. Information received in flight can be pro-programmed into the computer resulting in constant updates required for the successful completion of a combat mission.

The Squadron Operations Center, (SOC) is a model of efficiency. All daily information required for flight by the crews is received by the SOC and passed on to the crews via the Supervisor of Flying (SOF). All flight publications and flight manuals required for flights are pre-positioned in the aircraft. This results in a streamline operation unparalleled in bomber operations

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Georgia Air National Guard. 1941-2000*. Fine Books Publishing Co. Charlotte NC. 2000.