

204th SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON



LINEAGE

204th Security Police Squadron
204th Security Forces Flight
204th Security Forces Squadron

STATIONS

Biggs AAF, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, a mullet beveled throughout Argent surmounted by a stylized falcon body and talons Gray, wing tips, beak, eye and claws Or, stooping while clutching in dexter claw a globe Celeste gridlined White and in sinister claw an arrow bendwise sinister point to dexter Gules, all within a diminished border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "204TH SECURITY FORCES SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "PELIGROS" in Yellow letters.

EMBLEM 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 star represents the freedom that all military personnel are sworn to uphold. The falcon denotes the swiftness and tenacity displayed by the Squadron. The arrow symbolizes the unit's power and forceful capabilities. The globe alludes to the unit's worldwide deployments and missions. The Spanish word, "PELIGROS," translates to "Dangers" in English.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Members of the Texas Air National Guard's 204th Security Forces Squadron now operate the "Desert Defender" training course at Fort Bliss, Tex., for security forces airmen preparing to deploy. Over the past few years the schoolhouse has grown from just "a few run-down buildings" to its current status as an Air Force-certified, regional schoolhouse with new buildings, classrooms, and the latest military equipment. "It's testament to the Total Force and what we bring to the table," said Lt. Col. Carl Alvarez, squadron commander and training center boss. The nearly 50-day course instructs active duty, Air Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command security forces in the arts of force protection outside the wire. It includes training in areas like mounted operations on armored vehicles, dismounted patrols, counter-insurgency operations, and sniper/counter-sniper operations. 2010

2010 On the desert ranges of Fort Bliss, Texas, there is a lot of open space for Soldiers to train and prepare for combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Army operations are well-known here, but active-duty, guard and Reserve security forces Airmen are on the range too. Texas Air National Guard members trained the latest class of security forces Airmen here last week on the equipment, tactics and techniques that take force protection outside the wire. The Air Guard's 204th Security Forces Squadron operates "Desert Defender," the Air Force Regional Training Center here, which prepares active-duty, guard and Reserve security forces Airmen for area security operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The nearly 50-day course includes much of the same training Soldiers undertake before deployment, such as mounted operations on armored vehicles and dismounted operations in foot patrols. "We also teach them counter-insurgency operations, which is critical in this timeframe," said Lt. Col. Carl Alvarez, the squadron and training center commander. Air Force officials say the inclusion of the deployment training here stems partly from a rewrite of Air Force installation security instructions and its newer integrated defense postures, which take security forces Airmen outside the wire to defend installations. Just a few years ago, a cadre of Air Guard members started the schoolhouse from a few run-down buildings on Biggs Army Airfield and built it up through "a lot of hard work," Colonel Alvarez said. Today, it is a U.S. Air Force certified regional training center with new buildings and classrooms, as well as the latest military equipment. "I think we have come a long way since the two-and-a-half years Desert Defender stood up," Colonel Alvarez said. "Certainly we have in the last 18 months, when it was certified as a regional training center." Now, the Air Guard training center is the sole schoolhouse for training active-duty, guard and Reserve security forces Airmen for these operations. "It's testament to the total force and what we bring to the table," the colonel said. Nearly 40 instructors as well as additional support staff members run "Desert Defender," which is a geographically separated unit of the 149th Fighter Wing, based at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio. The mission provides combat readiness training to deploying security forces

Airmen, which includes sniper/counter-sniper training, area security operations training and base security operations training for Air Force security forces. They also operate the same equipment they will use in the warfight. "They have some of the best equipment that I have ever seen," said Capt. Chris Jackson, an active duty security forces operations officer from Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. During the training, Captain Jackson led more than 24 Airmen in a field exercise with armored fighting vehicles, including the military's newest mine-resistant, ambush-protected all-terrain vehicle and up-armored Humvees. When they armed their weapons and headed down a dirt road toward McGregor Convoy Live Fire Range #38, it was time to put their classroom training into action with bullets on target. "The objective of today's lesson is to ensure the defenders engage targets properly with everything from M2 .50-caliber machine guns to M4 rifles," Colonel Alvarez said, which "includes understanding fields of fire, how to properly engage targets to the rear, to the right, and to the left while ensuring a safe convoy." The Airmen also trained at the post's Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, where they learned the tactics for close quarters battles inside and outside city buildings. Dismounted operations ensure that, should they go on a foot patrol, they move properly and know the techniques and tactics needed under fire, Colonel Alvarez said. They also undergo rollover training and water survival courses to increase their survivability in those situations. The Airmen also gain expertise in a 40-hour Army combat lifesaver course. Colonel Alvarez said the classroom and field training follows a purposeful sequence to a final, all-inclusive, multi-day field training exercise at the end of the course. "The training has been amazing," Captain Jackson said. "They provide the leeway for the students to taper their training and apply it in a practical manner that's suitable to us, by our squads." Captain Jackson said the security forces group he will deploy with consists of three squadrons. While the other two squadrons train at other training centers in base security operations, he said his squadron is training here, because it will execute the outside-the-wire mission at their area of responsibility. It will be Captain Jackson's first combat deployment. "I feel really lucky to get this mission," he said. Tech. Sgt. David Butler, an instructor, said deploying security forces squadrons are a mix of those who deployed several times and those who are on their first deployment. He said working as a team is the greatest lesson they learn. "When you get 13 to 14 different bases together and try to send them downrange as a unit ... it's not like they ever worked together," he said. "We hold their feet to the fire ... they come out of here with a pretty good knowledge of what kind of team they are taking downrange."

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