

## 427<sup>th</sup> SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



### MISSION

427th Special Operations Squadron mission is to provide Short Takeoff/Landing (STOL) and tactically qualified crews to support training requirements for the US Army Special Operations Forces (SOF) community. Their customers include the US Army Special Operations Command (USASOC), The US Army Special Forces Command (USASFK), and the John F Kennedy Special Warfare Center (JFKSWCS).

The 427th SOS provides US Army SOF personnel the opportunity to train on various types of aircraft for infiltration and exfiltration that they may encounter in the lesser developed countries in which they provide training. The 427th SOS aircrews must be proficient in smaller types of aircraft in order to familiarize US Army personnel with their characteristics, peculiarities, and capabilities. The 427th SOS is a tenant unit on Pope AFB, NC, and a direct reporting unit Air Force Special Operations Command, Hulbert Field, Florida

### LINEAGE

427<sup>th</sup> Night Fighter Squadron constituted, 19 Jan 1944  
Activated, 1 Feb 1944  
Inactivated, 29 Oct 1945  
Redesignated 427<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Training Squadron, 1970  
Activated, 1 Jul 1970  
Inactivated, 15 Jul 1972  
427<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron activated

### STATIONS

Hammer Field, CA, 1 Feb 1944  
Bakersfield, CA, 1 May-12 Ju1 1944  
Pomigliano, Italy, 12 Aug-20 Sep 1944  
Pandaveswar, India, 31 Oct 1944 (detachments operated from Myitkyina, Burma, 13 Nov-Dec

1944)

Myitkyina, Burma, Dec 1944 (detachment operated from Kunming, China, 18 Dec 1944-28 Jun 1945)

Dinjan, India, 25 May 1945 (detachments operated from Chengkung, China, 29 Jun-16 Aug 1945; Nanning, China, 26 Jul-16 Aug 1945)

Liuchow, China, 13 Aug 1945

India, Sep-Oct 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 28-29 Oct 1945

England AFB, LA 1970-1972

Pope AFB, NC

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

IV Fighter Command, 1 Feb 1944

Tenth Air Force, 11 Jun 1944

Twelfth Air Force, Sep 1944

AAF, India-Burma Sector, 2 Oct 1944

Tenth Air Force, 13 Dec 1944

Fourteenth Air Force, 24 Aug-29 Oct 1945

4410<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Training Group 1970-1972

AF Special Operations Command

### **ATTACHMENTS**

481<sup>st</sup> Night Fighter Operational Training Group, 1 Feb 1944

62<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing, Sep 1944

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-70, 1944

P-61, 1944-1945

P-70B

P-61A

A-37 1970-1972

CN-235

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC James S. Michael, 1 Feb 1944-20 May 1945

Maj Thomas N. Wilson, 21 May-Jun 1945

Maj Edwin J. Witzemberger, Jun 1945-29 Oct 1945

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Rome-Arno

India-Burma  
China Defensive  
North Apennines  
Central Burma  
China Offensive

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

None

#### **EMBLEM**

On a grayed blue disc, border equally divided light green and red violet, within a black annulet, a white spider web surmounted by two, yellow orange, jagged lightning flashes, pilewise, points converging in dexter base at center of broken torteau. The blue background is significant of the United States Army Air Forces and also, since it is dark blue, suggestive of the night sky in which we fly. The spider's web is also doubly expressive: it is meant to symbolize the P-61 Black Widow aircraft and the fighter control net with which the night fighter works. The broken red ball is a Japanese insignia.....broken by the fire power of our aircraft (which is symbolically represented by the yellow streaks of lightning) just as it attempts to enter the spider's domain of the fighter control net. The aggressiveness of our fighters is implied by the streaks of lightening extending over and beyond the confining limits of the web or net and indicating that we are not only a defensive squadron but an offensive one as well. The night blue background fades into purple which is twilight and early morning, then into bright green representing day and indicating that we work and fight, not only at night, but around the clock. The black ring again emphasizes the fact that we are primarily a night fighter squadron. (Approved, 30 Apr 1945)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Combat in MTO, Sep 1944, and in CBI, 23 Nov 1944-14 Aug 1945.

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Air Force Order of Battle  
Created: 12 Jan 2014  
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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.