

## 504<sup>th</sup> EXPEDITIONARY AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS GROUP



### **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

504<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Support Group established and activated, 5 Dec 1966

Organized, 8 Dec 1966

Inactivated, 15 Mar 1972

Redesignated 504<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, and converted to provisional status, 12 Feb 2009

Activated

### **STATIONS**

Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, 8 Dec 1966

Cam Ranh Bay AB, Vietnam, 30 Apr 1970

Phan Rang AB, Vietnam, 1 Oct 1971-15 Jan 1972

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Pacific Air Forces, 5 Dec 1966

Seventh Air Force, 8 Dec 1966-15 Mar 1972

Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 12 Feb 2009

### **WEAPONS SYSTEM**

O-1, 1967-1971

O-2, 1967-1972  
OV-10, 1968-1972

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Carl E. Taylor, 8 Dec 1966  
Col Clyde W. Strain, 6 Mar 1967  
Col James M. Fogle, 23 Nov 1967  
Col Robert L. Herman, 8 Mar 1968  
Col William I. Williams, 4 May 1968  
Col Andrew J. Chapman, 27 Mar 1969  
Col Guy E. Hairston Jr., 12 Feb 1970  
Col Andrew P. Iosue, 15 Oct 1970  
Col Fleetwood Pride Jr., 24 Feb 1971  
Col Patrick G. Long, 11 Jun 1971-15 Mar 1972  
Col James Thomas

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Vietnam  
Vietnam Air Offensive  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/Counteroffensive  
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969  
Vietnam Winter/Spring  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon  
Commando Hunt V  
Commando Hunt VI  
Commando Hunt VII

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

#### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citations  
1 Aug 1968-31 Aug 1969  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1970  
30 Jan-31 Dec 1971

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm  
8 Dec 1966-15 Mar 1972  
8 Feb-31 Mar 1971  
1 Apr 1971-9 Mar 1972

## EMBLEM



504<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Support Group

504<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group Azure, in base a mullet arraswise Argent, garnished Argent bearing a torteau below in saltire a telescope arrawise of the second and a lightning bolt Gules, overall in pale penetrating the torteau an antenna Argent, all within a narrow bordure Or. below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "504TH EXP AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS GP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The spyglass represents observation, the lightning bolt represents destructive power of the tactical air control parties in Southeast Asia, the star in the circle represents the air element and the antenna signifies the radio element (tactical air control parties). (Approved, 19 Jul 1967)

## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

Provided combat ready aircraft and crews in support of air and ground operations in Southeast Asia (SEA); conducted visual reconnaissance and convoy escort; trained Air Liaison Officers (ALO) and Forward Air Controllers (FAC), 1966-1972.

New Expeditionary Air Support Group Stands Up: The commander of 9th Air Force/Air Forces Central, Lt. Gen. Gary North, on March 30 placed a new guidon in the hands of Col. James Thomas as the first commander of the newly formed 504th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, based at Bagram AB, Afghanistan. The new group comprises more than 125 air liaison officers and tactical air control party and combat weather specialists who serve in three squadrons throughout Afghanistan. "I've spent the last year and a half spreading the gospel about air-to-ground integration and now I get to put all the doctrine I've learned to work," said Thomas, who last worked with the Army Battle Command Training Program at Ft. Leavenworth, Kan. The new group has taken the heritage of the 504th Tactical Air Support Group deactivated in 1972. During the ceremony at Bagram, North explained the need for the new group, "As our mission roles have increased, it became obvious to me and our leadership that we needed to align an ASOG to Afghanistan" to manage the three squadrons that North said are critical to ongoing air-ground operations.