

720th SPECIAL TACTICS GROUP



MISSION

The 720 STG organizes, trains and equips Special Tactics forces worldwide to provide airmanship expertise and establish and control the air-to-ground interface in an objective area.

It also provides long-range operational and logistics planning, and deploys command and control elements during special tactics force employment or deployment. Lastly, it functions as the command's proponent for military parachuting, diving and other special tactics-related matters.

Squadrons within the 720 STG are composed of Air Force Combat Controllers, Pararescuemen and Combat Weathermen. Combat Controllers and Pararescuemen are specifically organized, trained and equipped to control aviation assets and provide search and rescue, trauma care and evacuation staging of the wounded. Combat Weathermen support the Army Special Forces Groups, the 75 Ranger Regiment, and the 160 Special Operations Aviation Regiment by generating accurate, mission tailored forecasts for ingress, employment, and egress of air, land and sea forces, and conduct special weather reconnaissance.

The group has five units in the continental United States:

- 21 and 24 Special Tactics Squadrons, Pope Air Force Base, N.C.
- 22 Special Tactics Squadron, McChord Air Force Base, Wash.
- 23 Special Tactics Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
- 10 Combat Weather Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla. The 10 CWS has five subordinate active duty detachments, and three Air National Guard combat weather flights.

The 720 STG is also the functional manager for AFSOC's two overseas Special Tactics squadrons: the 320 under command of the 353 Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, Japan, and the 321 under the command of the 352 Special Operations Group at RAF Mildenhall, England.

The 123 Special Tactics Squadron, an Air National Guard unit based at Standiford Field, Ky.,

augments the 720 STG in supporting national security objectives, humanitarian efforts and training.

The 720 STG trains and manages Air Force Special Tactics teams. Qualified in air traffic control, combat medicine, explosives, scuba diving, parachuting and other specialized skills, these teams act as force multipliers for special operations all over the world.

LINEAGE

1720 Special Tactics Group established and activated, 1 Oct 1987
Redesignated 720 Special Tactics Group, 31 Mar 1992

STATIONS

Eglin Air Force Auxiliary Airfield #9 (Hurlburt Fld), FL, 1 Oct 1987

ASSIGNMENTS

Twenty-Third Air Force (later, Air Force Special Operations Command), 1 Oct 1987

COMMANDERS

Col James L. Oeser, #1997
Col Kenneth F. Rodriguez, #2005
Col Marc Stratton, #2007
Col Brad P. Thompson, #2008
Col Kurt Buller

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
1 Sep 2001-31 Aug 2003

Gallant Unit Citation
1 Jan 2006-31 Dec 2007

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Jan 2008-30 Sep 2009

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Aug 1991-31 Jul 1993

1 Aug 1993-31 Jul 1995

1 Aug 1995-31 Jul 1997

1 Aug 1997-31 Jul 1999

1 Sep 1999-31 Aug 2001

EMBLEM

Blue and 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 swords symbolize the elite forces merged to form the Group. They are crossed above the globe, in a protective gesture signifying strength and unity. The globe stands for the worldwide mission of the Group. The division of the globe stands for day and night readiness. The three stars and the three parts of the shield reflect the insertion methods of the forces---land, sea and air. (Approved, 9 Jun 1988)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

Sources

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

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