

966 AIR EXPEDITIONARY SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

966 Air Expeditionary Squadron activated, Nov 2010

STATIONS

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan

ASSIGNMENTS

466 Air Expeditionary Group

COMMANDERS

Lt Col William E. Wade, May 2009

Lt Col Kenneth B. Bowling, May 2010

Lt Col Jeffrey A. Collins, March 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc Sable, between two laurel branches arching from base Vert, fimbriated Or, two lightning flashes in chevron reversed, the one in dexter of the second, the one in sinister Azure, both fimbriated of the third, a sword throughout erect Gules, fimbriated of the third, the blade edged of the field, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "966TH AIR EXPEDITIONARY SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "SUMUS OMNES IN BELLO PRO PACE" in Yellow 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 sword symbolizes the warrior ethos of Airmen. The sword outline is symbolic of a violent weapon while the center memorializes the tragic wounds Airmen have suffered. The pair of lightning bolts represents the power of Airmen to deliver U.S. Air Force capabilities while participating in ground-centric missions of the U.S. Army.

MOTTO

SUMUS OMNES IN BELLO PRO PACE--We are all in War for Peace

OPERATIONS

The Air Force has inactivated the 766th Air Expeditionary Squadron in Afghanistan. This unit had operated from Sharana Forward Operating Base and was responsible for airmen serving in joint expeditionary taskings and on individual augmentee deployments at 58 FOBs and combat outposts throughout NATO's eastern region of Afghanistan. The 966th AES at Bagram Airfield will now administratively and operationally handle these airmen. With the change, which took effect on March 23, the 966th AES becomes Bagram's largest squadron. It now oversees more than 2,700 JET and IA airmen at more than 153 separate locations throughout eastern and northern Afghanistan.

The 966th Air Expeditionary Squadron of the United States Air Force will perform administrative and operational control of joint expeditionary tasks in Afghanistan. The 966 AES is assigned to the 466th Air Expeditionary Group.

The 966 AES is headquartered at Bagram Airfield (BAF). BAF is a militarized airport and housing complex located next to the ancient mile-high city of Bagram in the Parwan Province of Afghanistan. The base is run by an Army division headed by a two-star general. All the Joint Expeditionary Tasked (JET) and Individual Augmentee (IA) Airmen assigned to Northern and Eastern Afghanistan are ADCON to the 966 AES. This includes over 510 Airmen at BAF and 400 more at 70 combat outposts and bases.

The "Air" in Airpower represents Airman, not just aircraft. Airmen are an important part of the Air Force's contribution to the Joint mission in Afghanistan. The Air Force has delegated Tactical Control (TACON) over some of its Airmen in critical support billets to a Joint supervisor who may be from any branch of military service. But the Air Force retains ADCON over its Airmen. The Air Force lends its Airmen's skills, talents and temporary service to the Joint team, but Airmen still work for an Air Force Squadron: the 966AES is that squadron for those Airmen in Regional Command-East and Regional Command-North.

Air Force Unit Histories

Created: 26 Jan 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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.