

## 9 MUNITIONS SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

The 9 Munitions Squadron administers the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center training program. This Air Force-level course was developed to provide the Air Force munitions community with advanced training in mass combat ammunition planning and production techniques. It uses a combination of in-depth classroom instruction combined with a four-day intensive practical exercise (IRON FLAG) using live munitions in a realistic, bare-base scenario. The squadron also provides day-to-day munitions support to the 9 Reconnaissance Wing and associated units.

### **LINEAGE**

9 Aviation Field Depot Squadron constituted, 7 Jul 1952

Activated, 14 Jul 1952

Inactivated, 8 Jul 1954

Redesignated 9 Aviation Depot Squadron, 14 Jan 1959

Activated, 1 Feb 1959

Redesignated 9 Munitions Maintenance Squadron, 1 Jul 1960

Discontinued and inactivated, 30 Jun 1964

Air Force Combat Ammunitions Center established, 14 Aug 1985

Activated, 1 Nov 1985

9 Munitions Maintenance Squadron and Air Force Combat Ammunitions Center consolidated and redesignated 9 Combat Munitions Squadron, 1 Jul 1993

Redesignated 9 Munitions Squadron, 1 Jul 1994

## **STATIONS**

Sandia Base, NM, 14 Jul 1952-15 Mar 1953  
Sculthorpe RAF Station, England, 22 Mar 1953-8 Jul 1954  
RAF Fairford, England, 1 Feb 1959-30 Jun 1964  
Sierra Army Depot, Herlong, CA, 1 Nov 1985  
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1992

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

1090 USAF Special Reporting Group, 14 Jul 1952-15 Mar 1953  
Third Air Force, 1 Apr 1953-8 Jul 1954  
3919 Combat Support Group, 1 Feb 1959-30 Jun 1964  
Strategic Air Command, 1 Nov 1985  
55 Wing, 1 Jun 1992  
9 Logistics Group, 1 Jul 1993

## **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Andrew L. Cox, #1953

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Feb 1960-30 Sep 1961  
1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994  
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1995  
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998  
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award  
1 Oct 1989-30 Sep 1991

## **EMBLEM**



Air Force Combat Ammunitions Center emblem approved, 29 May 1987

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

On 14 July 1952, the 9 Aviation Field Depot Squadron was formed. This unit trained on Special Weapons until 15 Mar 1953. The squadron evolved into the 9 Aviation Depot Squadron and then the 9 Munitions Maintenance Squadron and then inactivated in 1964

In 1984, a Tiger Team at the Pentagon level realized that there was a severe shortage of trained munitions personnel that were able to meet the requirements of operational readiness. From this realization came the decision to establish Air Force Combat Ammunition Center. Because of the need for extensive real estate, the initial site of AFCOMAC was located at Sierra Army Depot, located in Herlong, CA. In 1991, due to budget cuts, the Air Force made the decision to realign Air Force Combat Ammunition Center under the new Air Combat Command and reestablish it at Beale AFB, CA. More than 13,689 students have graduated from Air Force Combat Ammunition Center.

Air Force Combat Ammunition Center offers three courses:

**Combat Ammunition Planning and Production Course:** a three-week course (two weeks of academics and one week of exercise) with a class size of 70 people in the grade of senior airman thru captain. This course awards five credit hours towards CCAF and is a 7- and 9-level upgrade training requirement for all 2W0 personnel. Currently eight classes per fiscal year are taught.

**Senior Officer Orientation Course:** a companion class to Combat Ammunition Planning and Production and is conducted during the IRON FLAG practical exercise. This course combines hands-on training (in conjunction with the Combat Ammunition Planning and Production course) with seminar sessions to provide senior logistics and operations officers (major and above/civilian equivalents) with an appreciation and practical knowledge of mass munitions build-up operations. Currently eight classes per fiscal year are taught.

Advanced Maintenance/Munitions Officers School: uses Air Force Combat Ammunition Center as the ideal means to teach its three-day munitions block of this four month class. This course combines hand-on training (in conjunction with the Combat Ammunition Planning and Production course) with seminar sessions and coursework to provide maintenance/logistics captains with the expertise in the application of expeditionary logistics as it applies to the Ammo career field. Two classes per fiscal year are taught.

BEALE AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AFNS) -- Warheads on foreheads is a common expression heard across the Air Force, but without all of the skill and expertise of ammo Airmen throughout the career field, dropping munitions on our enemies wouldn't be possible. Maintaining proficiency in their craft is important, which is why all ammo troops in the process of obtaining their seven- and nine-level skill upgrades visit the Air Force Combat Ammunition Center administered by the 9 Munitions Squadron.

"In our Combat Ammunition Planning and Production course we bring in upwards of 560 students a year to teach and give them the training they need for their seven- and nine-level skill upgrades," said Tech. Sgt. William Andrus, 9 MUNS AFCOMAC combat advisor. "We also offer Senior Officers Orientation where officers come in and get a two-day snapshot of the student's course."

AFCOMAC has existed for 32 years and has been at Beale Air Force Base for the last 26 years. The courses offered are designed to provide students hands-on training, which simulates munitions production. "During the three week CAPP course, they learn about how to plan and prepare to deploy to a bare-base scenario," said Tech. Sgt. Ashley Long, AFCOMAC combat advisor. "The first couple weeks are spent focusing on the plan and in the last week they go through an exercise where they build up mass conventional munitions." Andrus believes the type of environment offered during the course prepares ammo troops for expeditionary contingency efforts.

"We take more than 70 students from all around the Air Force and put them in a room, give them a scenario for a war and make them create a plan and execute the plan," Andrus said. "This course ensures we can execute the plans we create to meet the operations tempo the war demands." According to Long, the students build more than 1,000 bombs in the course, which allows them to experience building munitions they otherwise never would. "Most ammo troops stationed at a base could be only supporting one airframe, but when they come here they are going over multiple air frames and building bombs for almost all of the aircraft we have across the Air Force," Long said. "Not everyone gets a chance to build bombs, but when we deploy we are expected to do so. They are learning things that every ammo troop needs to be qualified to do."

In order to successfully conduct eight courses a year, the AFCOMAC cadre rely heavily on the Airmen who are permanently here under the 9 MUNS. They ensure each and every course runs smoothly by disassembling the students completed work and maintaining a rigorous inspection program for all components. "Once the AFCOMAC students build the bombs they go through inspection and then they come to us," said Staff Sgt. Alexis Presley, 9 MUNS munitions inspector. "We tear all of the bombs down, disarm the fuse, take off the fins and repack the bombs."

This breaking down and inspection process occurs over and over again until the students complete the building portion of the courses. "Every single bomb they build we break it down.

When they build a thousand we tear down a thousand.” Presley said. “We also inspect every item to ensure it is good to return to the stockpile. Every bomb, fin and fuse has to be inspected. Tearing all of the munitions down has created an efficient workflow and allows the 9 MUNS Airmen to learn more about bomb building for a variety of aircraft.

“The 9 MUNS is unique because normally we are taught to build bombs and here we are taught to tear them down,” said Tech. Sgt. Ricardo Quilantang, 9 MUNS noncommissioned officer in charge of munitions control. “It gives you a different perspective.” In addition to the support they provide for AFCOMAC the unit is also responsible for the daily operations any other ammo unit would be. According to Presley they work with security forces, explosive ordnance disposal, aircrew egress and other organizations. The efforts of the instructors and the infrastructure maintained by the 9 MUNS Airmen provide a foundation for the ammo career field and the Air Force’s warfighting capabilities. “We are training our people to be the best ammo troops out there and getting them ready for anything thrown at them,” Long said. “The way war will be fought in the future is unknown, so we want to make sure when orders come down our ammo troops are going to be ready for it.



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#### Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Sculthorpe RAF Station, England 1953 Pictorial*. Montgomery Publishing Co. London, England. 1953.