

116 SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

116 Weapons System Security Flight
Redesignated 116 Security Police Squadron
Redesignated 116 Security Forces Squadron

STATIONS

Robins AFB, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

116 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Cpt James Swanner
Cpt Carl A. Walker
Cpt Wakefield
Maj William C. Burn

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 116th Weapons System Security Flight performed a variety of roles during its history; from Presidential support for the Secret Service at Dobbins AFB to working side-by-side with active duty Security Police at different USAF bases. During 1979, the 116 WSSF deployed to MacDill AFB, Florida, where they worked and trained with active duty counterparts in all phases of security. They also deployed to Myrtle Beach, S.C., where they did a great deal of Air Base Ground Defense training and assisted the host Security Police in rounding up \$15,000 worth of marijuana found on the base. They also got a taste of working with military dogs and protecting dignitaries.

From 1980-1982 the 116 WSSF concentrated on Air Base Ground Defense (ABGD) training during annual field training and deployments. During this period they also received an Operational Readiness Inspection where they obtained a rating of "Excellent" and received two Management Effectiveness Inspections, again a graded of "Excellent" in both inspections.

In March 1983, the 116 WSSF was chosen to participate in the first CROWN DEFENDER exercise, an inclusive security exercise developed for active duty and ANG at the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, California. The 116 WSSF played the role of aggressors and terrorist informants. HQ TAC/SP noted that the 116 WSSF acting in their role "performed admirably, and made significant contributions to the success of the exercise."

In keeping with the ever-changing requirements of Air Force resource protection, the 116 WSSF was again re-designated in August 1987 as a security police flight. The new concept of Air Force security was designed around individual Air National Guard flights being brought together with active duty counterparts to form one fighting unit. The concept of force integration was taking shape throughout the military. The ANG was now being viewed as an integral part to our nation's defense, and the 116 SPF was a major component. With its ever increasing role in national defense strategy, the unit was finally upgraded to a standalone squadron, and is now designated as the 116th Security Forces Squadron

Thirty-four members of the 116 SFS were placed on active duty in Atlanta, Ga., during the 1988 Democratic National Convention. Part of an Army Task Force to reinforce civilian law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order and protecting the right of assembly for citizens during the convention.

In July of 1994 the entire unit was mobilized and immediately sent to Middle and South Georgia in response to protecting citizens during the flood relief, OPERATION CRESTED RIVER.

Upon the unit relocating to Robins there was a dramatic force restructure due to losses in personnel. The Squadron was able to become fully operational within three months. With intense, well-planned and executed in-house training, the 116 SFS was able to meet its Air Force mandated training objectives. In September, 1997, only five months following the unit's relocation, the squadron deployed to Indian Springs AFAF, Nevada for two weeks of desert warfare and force protection training known as SILVER FLAG ALPHA. The very successful

deployment increased the unit's capabilities and execution in Air Base Ground Defense, Military Operations in Urban Terrain, Anti-terrorism Training, and the technical aspects of Global Positioning, Scope Shield Radio Communications, and Hand Held Thermal Image Systems. The outstanding performance of the squadron led the Silver Flag training cadre to remark "this unit's progression is noteworthy."

Since arriving at Robins AFB, the 116 SFS has willingly integrated into the base team concept by working closely with the 78 SFS active duty forces on numerous base events, such as the March 1996 Air Show. This quid pro quo established a relationship between the Guard and Active Duty which sets the model for all other units to follow. Throughout the years this unit has performed many meaningful "real world" deployments as well as participating in numerous productive deployed training exercises:

2006 Families and friends of the members of the 116th Air Control Wing security forces troops gather at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport to welcome home their heroes September 3. Emmett Whitten's family could not have been happier when he arrived at Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on September 3. The technical sergeant was one of 18 security forces troops from the 116th Air Control Wing who were met by family, friends and community members when they returned home after spending seven months in Iraq. "It's great to be home," said Tech. Sgt. Whitten. "Seven months is a long time to be away from your family." Being gone for a long period of time means you might come home to some changes. "My middle son has grown 7 inches," said the Perry, Ga. native. "That was quite a shock." Tech. Sgt. Whitten knows how necessary his tasking in Iraq was. "We provided security for a regional air base," he explained. "Our job consisted of manning sentry towers and gates, providing mobile patrols and off-base combat patrols both on foot and in vehicles." Part of the reason the troops were able to maintain a high level of morale was the support from home. "The support back at our home unit really helped us," said Tech. Sgt. Whitten. "Heather McCullough (the 116th Security Forces commander's wife) went out of her way. She more made sure family members were informed." Tech. Sgt. Whitten found the deployment a great time to mentor his younger troops. "The best thing from my time in Iraq was sharing lessons about leadership and life with the younger troops," he said. As for any deployment it is always a success when everyone returns home safe. "Nobody got hurt," said Tech. Sgt. Whitten. "For most of the troops this was their first deployment. It was a very good deployment."

- 1984 Combat Readiness Training Center, Ga, 116 TFW Readiness Exercise
- 1985 West Germany, Real World Security
- 1986 MacDill Air Force Base, Real World Security
- 1987 Forsyth County (twice), Riot Control Training
- 1988 (Atlanta) Democratic National, Real World Security Convention
- 1989 Jamaica (twice), Security and Drug Task Force
- 1990 Denmark, Security of a Remote Radar Site
- 1991 DESERT SHIELD & DESERT STROM, Real World Security
- 1992 Combat Readiness Training Center, Ga, Operational Readiness Inspection
- 1993 North Georgia Snow Storm, Security, State Activation

1994 MacDill Air Force Base, Real World Security
1994 South Georgia Flooding, Security, State Activation
1995 MacDill Air Force Base, Real World Security
1996 Atlanta, Ga, Security of the Olympics
1997 SILVER FLAG ALFA, Nevada, Dessert Warfare Training
1998 CORONET YUKON, Alaska, 116 BW B-IB Security
1998 AMALGAM WARRIOR, Alaska, 116 BW B-IB Security
1999 GLOBAL PATRIOT, Utah, Real World Security

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Georgia Air National Guard. 1941-2000*. Fine Books Publishing Co. Charlotte NC. 2000.