

144 SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

144 Security Police Squadron
144 Security Forces Squadron

STATIONS

Fresno ANGB, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

144 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Cpt James E. Shaw, #1982

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

A hot desert wind rips across the valley floor as Airmen of the 144th Security Forces Squadron peer through night vision goggles into the quiet night. Practicing strict noise discipline, they wait for a probe and attack from opposing forces. Music foreign to the Airmen is blasted from a distant loud speaker and soon followed by random gunfire and mortar attacks. The Airmen bolt

into action, reporting their observations to the Base Defense Operation Center as they make final preparations to fulfill their mission: defend the base.

This annual field training exercise took place at Camp Corum, a specialized training site at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., which closely mirrors conditions in Iraq and Afghanistan. Forty-eight members of the squadron convoyed to the training site deep in the Mojave Desert for the five-day exercise focused on night operations. “We have a lot of training requirements levied upon us. One of the most important is the Air Base Ground Defense training,” said 2LT Michael Laplaca, squadron commander. “To do that properly, we really need to go to an environment where we can run-and-gun, utilize blanks, ground burst simulators, CS gas and other things of that nature.

[This] is a perfect environment for our training.” Security Forces followed the crawl, walk and run technique by practicing their tactical operations during the daylight hours prior to performing them at night. Operations included combat patrols outside of the wire, static defense inside the base, communications, cultural observations and tactical maneuvers. “The security forces career field is unique. A lot of people see us at the front gate and think that is all we do, but when we go down range we are truly the infantry of the Air Force,” said Master Sgt. Jimmy Schiotis, squadron training manager. “This training, a culmination of all of our Air Base Ground Defense training, has given us a unique perspective on what happens down range, whether it is convoy security, tactical security patrols, tactical security escorts or Raven [special security forces] missions.

A member of the 144th Security Forces could easily find themselves in any one of these down range scenarios, and this training prepares our personnel for success and builds team cohesiveness.” The field training exercise gave many of the new Security Forces Squadron personnel a chance to gain valuable insight from the senior members of the team and offered an opportunity to train in an environment that challenged them with every step. “I am learning a lot,” Airman 1st Class Christine Maybe said. “As an A1C, a squad leader and a fire team leader, I am being challenged by being put in a leadership position over staff sergeants, technical sergeants and even lieutenants. We are a nine-man team that goes out on combat missions, contacts the enemy, gets intelligence, rescues hostages and gets the bad guys. We put in a lot of hard work, it’s very demanding, but to come out a success is the biggest reward. “

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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