

193 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

LINEAGE

193rd Weapon Systems Security Flight

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Redesignated 193 Security Forces Squadron

Redesignated 193 Special Operations Security Forces Squadron

STATIONS

Middletown, PA

ASSIGNMENTS

193 Special Operations Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

MAJ Jan C. Hoffmaster

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The small flight with the heavy responsibility of protecting our weapon systems or aircraft no matter where on earth they may be is the Weapon Systems Security Flight. The unit is equipped and prepared to go into any type of environment that our mission may take us, and the members of the flight also train other in units the art of self-protection. One of the smallest in number in the 193rd Special Operations Group, the security police flight has 40 enlisted members and one officer who operate out of the lower level, west wing of the Headquarters building #26.

Weapons Systems Security Flight while at Fort Indiantown Gap, 14 to 20 August, security police members experienced aggressor and defense tactics, live fire, night reconnaissance patrols, and explosive devices training. 1982

The largest Security Police deployment in its history occurred as 41 members of the 193rd Weapons Systems Security Flight participated in the first ever "Crown Defender" exercise. Conducted in California's Mojave Desert, this exercise involved over 600 regular Air Force members and two Air Guard units. Flying crews from the 193rd in their C-130s flew the Weapons Fit. from Harrisburg to Bicycle Lake just outside of Ft. Irwin, Calif. The C-130 was actually set down on the lake bed. From there the police were trucked to their Exercise site 20 miles into the Mojave Desert. The first and primary job for the 193rd was to secure the airfield which encompassed 36 sq. miles. For the first time in a Security Police exercise, all participants used the Multi-Integrated Laser Engagement Systems (MILES). MILES laser beam transmitters were attached to the defenders' M-16 rifles and special receivers were worn on the uniforms. When blank rounds were fired from the MILES-equipped M-16s, a laser beam follows the track of the would-be bullet. If the beam comes close to the sensor, a beeping sound is emitted. If the beam hits a sensor, a steady tone is emitted. Officials said that besides making "kills" on either side easier to count, MILES teaches the wearer a great deal about being careful in combat. Other weapons used in the exercise included 81mm mortars, 90mm recoilless rifles and 50 caliber machine guns. All phases of defense combat were experienced by the 193rders including ground force offensives, gas attacks, aircraft attacks — with five kills for the police, and of course the horrible desert conditions. According to Police NCOIC SMSgt Wallace Wiestling, "living conditions were something else. Tents had to be pitched below ground level for camouflage and to keep the wind from blowing them over. C-rations were for all meals and baths were taken in helmets." During the final day of the Exercise an all-out attack by 91 aggressors were staged against 11 193rd defenders. When the smoke had cleared, the aggressors were dead and the 193rd had three left. "One thing for sure," stated Sergeant Wiestling, we really surprised the Air Force with our defense capabilities and a lot of our ability in defense tactics were acquired from the intense training program we had at the Gap last August." 1983

Rounding out unit deployments in 1983 was the support given in October to Exercise Bold Eagle at Eglin AFB, Florida, by 34 members of the 193rd Weapon Systems Security Flight. Ours was the only Air National Guard security flight participating with some 19,000 soldiers, sailors, and airmen in Bold Eagle from September into November. A U.S. Readiness Command, Joint Readiness Exercise, this was the sixth in a continuing series of Joint Readiness Exercises conducted to ensure the combat readiness of U.S. based general-purpose forces. Captain Jan Hoffmaster, Commander of the 193rd WSSF was in charge of 12 people including regular Air Force Policemen. For eleven

days the security specialists guarded the airfield, and at no time did the enemy penetrate their line of defense. According to SMSgt Wallace Wiestling, NCOIC, "This was the most austere field conditions we ever experienced."

Several units were gearing up for spring and early summer exercises. One was Volant Scorpion, an exercise in which 35 members of the Weapon Systems Security Flight flew to Little Rock Air Force Base to hone their skills in airbase ground defense. A strenuous physical fitness program required that our members run over two miles every day of the 31 March to 14 April exercise. Obstacle course and bayonet training plus living in field conditions highlighted the deployment.

1985

1986 The 193rd Weapon Systems Security Flight experienced a chilling January training assembly when approximately forty unit members deployed to Fort Indiantown Gap for active training. On Saturday morning, 11 January, Army Guard 28th Division helicopters transported the flight's members to the field. After a tactical insertion, the area was secured, and training in Arctic camouflage and survival techniques began. The flight members simulated field conditions by living in tents and eating C-rations.

2012 By Tech. Sgt. Erin Heiser, 193rd Special Operations Wing On any given day, whether in a remote, forward deployed environment or a tropical island, aircraft carrying high-ranking U.S. and foreign dignitaries arrive and depart with little fanfare. While on the ground, these aircraft, and the VIP passengers on board, require the presence of a highly specialized team of Airmen charged with protecting the aircraft, the crew, the passengers and the mission. Implemented in 1997, Phoenix Raven consists of teams of specially trained security forces personnel, "dedicated to providing security for Air Mobility Command aircraft transiting high terrorist and criminal threat areas," according to the fact sheet for the Raven program. "The Phoenix Raven program ensures an acceptable level of close-in security for aircraft transiting airfields where security is unknown or additional security is needed to counter local threats." It just so happens that the 193rd has a few Ravens of its own. Staff Sgt. Anthony Legotti, 193rd Security Forces Squadron, is a member of the highly specialized Phoenix Raven program. Since becoming Raven #1777 in 2009, Legotti has traveled the world several times over, providing security for a myriad of missions involving distinguished visitor transport and more. Most recently, he has been assigned to support Washington, D.C., Air National Guard missions with the 201st Airlift Squadron. And it was during one of these missions that two Airmen –one a pilot, the other a Raven – engaged in a conversation that eventually led to a rare and invaluable joint training opportunity. "...We were supporting the 201st on a VIP transport mission," said Legotti. "During one of our stops, Capt. Shattles asked about our weapons and noted that the aircrew doesn't receive formal training on the M-4 rifle. He highlighted the fact that if the Ravens were killed during an attack, the aircrew would not be able to pick up their weapons and defend themselves." That conversation was the beginning of a short and highly supported endeavor to bring the two units together for a rare and extremely valuable joint training session. The purpose of the training was two-fold: to demonstrate Raven response to potential threat scenarios, and to provide the 201st aircrew with M-4 weapon training. The scenario-based training provided 193rd leadership with an opportunity to observe the Ravens as they demonstrate three possible encounters within an austere

environment in a forward deployed location. Legotti led each scenario, in which a local national approached the aircraft asking for water. “In the first scenario, we successfully employed the use of verbal judo – a nonconfrontational technique used to smooth over potentially volatile situations,” Legotti said. “The second scenario depicted an aggressive physical assault, resulting in the use of an escalated level of force; while the third scenario demonstrated the use of deadly force.” For wing leadership, the demonstrations provided a closeup look at the tools and techniques used by our Ravens to diffuse potential security threats to high valued assets. For members of the 201st, it was a welcome opportunity to train for possible scenarios they hope they never have to encounter. “AFSOC has resources we don’t have,” said Capt. Dave Shattles of 201st Standards and Evaluation. “This type of collaboration is above and beyond our normal training activities and gives us an opportunity to learn skills and techniques that would not be available to us otherwise.” ASFOC, or Air Force Special Operations Command, has their own version of the Phoenix Raven program called the Deployed Aircraft Ground Response Element. A DAGRE is essentially the same as a Raven but is required to undergo additional training specific to the AFSOC mission. “This type of training has given us an overall better awareness of Raven capabilities,” said Shattles. “Learning about the types of skills they possess has opened up the way aircraft commanders utilize and deploy the Ravens while on the road, supporting missions.” For the 201st Airlift Squadron, that mission is to provide short-notice worldwide transportation for the executive branch, congressional members, Department of Defense officials and high-ranking U.S. and foreign dignitaries in support of the 89th Airlift Wing. The 193rd Ravens, in turn, are responsible for keeping such high-value assets safe. “This training has definitely increased the bond we share with the 201st,” said Legotti. “We fly on their planes. They don’t know how to use our weapons. That’s not the case any more for this crew ... and that’s a good thing.” The purpose of the training was two-fold, but the end result produced exponential benefits. “In DV transport, we offer an experience that is safe, reliable and comfortable,” said Shattles. “And together, with this Raven team and this rare training opportunity, we are able to continue providing just that.”

USAF Unit Histories
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