

306th INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

306th Intelligence Squadron

STATIONS

Song Tansi, South Korea

Beale AFB, CA

Will Rogers ANGB, OK

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Robb Rigtrup

LTC Stephen McFadden

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



6306th Reconnaissance Technical Flight

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Officials at Beale AFB, Calif., activated the 306th Intelligence Squadron to train tactical systems operators for the MC-12W. The unit, which falls under the 361st Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group at Hurlburt Field, Fla., will instruct more than 150 airmen each year. "We will take the combat experience we have already and use new experience to build a strong pool of ISR airmen," said Lt. Col. Robb Rigtrup, the squadron's commander. The unit stood up during a ceremony on Oct. 5, 2012.

MC-12W Liberty crews returned to Beale AFB, Calif., from the type's final combat deployment on Oct. 13, before Air Combat Command stood-down the mission. Pilots from Beale's 427th Reconnaissance Squadron and sensor and tactical systems operators from the 306th Intelligence Squadron flew some 2,500 missions and 8,000 combat hours over the six-month deployment to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. "As we've gone to divestiture it's been a really significant, emotional event-understandably so-for a lot of airmen," 9th Operations Group Commander Lt. Col. Darren Halford. "You can't overstate the contributions of the airmen that made the MC-12 happen. We gave them very little guidance, it was all ingenuity, blood, sweat, and tears to figure out how to make that all work," he said in an interview at Beale. MC-12 airmen flew integrated missions with Army aviation and intelligence personnel over the last year until contractors took over the mission, 427th RS Commander Lt. Col. Joey Laws. "It's a pretty incredible relationship we've developed with the Army," said Laws. "There was a lot of trepidation in the beginning, switching over to Army rules-as it turns out, professional aviators are professional aviators," he added. 2015

The 306th Intelligence Squadron made a big move March 6, 2017, from sunny California to the Sooner State. The move, to Will Rogers Air National Guard Base, Oklahoma, aligns with Air Force Special Operations' effort to colocate the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance active-duty training mission with Air National Guard operational aircraft, said Col. Michael Stevenson, the 363rd ISR Wing commander.

"This is yet another example of the strong partnership AFSOC (Air Force Special Operations Command) has with ACC (Air Combat Command) and the 361 ISRG (Group)," said Col. Alexander Merz, the AFSOC ISR director. "The relocation of 306 IS (Intelligence Squadron) from Beale to Will Rogers positions active-duty training for SOF (Special Operations Forces) airborne ISR analysts with our 137 SOW (Special Operations Wing) Guard partners who fly SOF ISR platforms and also conduct Joint Terminal Attack Controller training for ACC."

"It is an ideal arrangement that will improve training and tactics development, and ultimately strengthen our ISR and strike enterprise in the years to come," Merz said.

Previously a unit under the Air National Guard, the 306th IS became part of the active Air Force again Oct. 5, 2012, at Beale Air Force Base, California. The squadron originated as the 6306th Reconnaissance Technical Flight in 1953 and operated for nearly 50 years as a photo reconnaissance unit, said Col. Matthew Atkins, the 361st ISR Group commander. The 306th IS personnel were the back-end cryptologic operators for the MC-12W Liberty aircraft program when it was stationed at Beale AFB, he said.

"They did the training and deployments in the thousands of sorties," said Atkins. "In 2012, the Air Force established its FTU (formal training unit) for (airborne cryptologists); essentially the schoolhouse that taught the basics." All airborne cryptologists destined for light ISR aircraft flowed through Beale AFB, and then they were sent out for SOF or MC-12W missions, Atkins said.

"The 306th deployed hundreds of Airmen to combat over Afghanistan and Iraq," Atkins said, recalling Staff Sgt. Richard Dickson of the 306th who made the ultimate sacrifice when his MC-12W call sign "INDY 08" went down in Afghanistan. In 2014, the Air Force ended the MC-12W program and all the planes transferred to AFSOC, Atkins said. "Thirteen of them ended up at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base in Oklahoma City under the newly-formed 137th SOW. It is an Air National Guard unit under AFSOC, and it flies the MC-12Ws."

The aircraft in Oklahoma are the same ones used previously at Beale, and this move will bring the Airmen and aircraft back together. The approval process for moving the 306th IS to Oklahoma began several years ago, and the Secretary of the Air Force approved the move in January 2016, Atkins said. "It has always been our intention to co-locate our Airmen with SOF light ISR platforms so they can teach and qualify airborne ISR operator students. Will Rogers ANGB provides an excellent training environment, and our partnership with the Guard is very strong," he said.

"We have been moving 306th (IS) airmen, and other instructors and evaluators, from across the 361st (ISRG) to stand up the schoolhouse at Oklahoma City," Atkins said. "Now, the 306th (IS) will be the squadron that handles all the training for SOF airborne cryptologists."

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.