

## 353<sup>rd</sup> SPECIAL OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

The 353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Maintenance Squadron provides the majority of off-aircraft and “back shop” maintenance for the assets of the 353<sup>rd</sup> SOG. The diversity of aircraft and missions in the 353<sup>rd</sup> creates unique challenges for the personnel of this squadron. The SOMXS also contains the majority of the supply function for the group.

### **LINEAGE**

553<sup>rd</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron constituted and activated, 9 Feb 1967  
Organized, 25 Feb 1967  
Inactivated, 15 Dec 1970  
Redesignated 353<sup>rd</sup> Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 31 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 353<sup>rd</sup> Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 21 Mar 1989  
Activated, 1 Oct 1989  
Redesignated 353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Maintenance Squadron, 1 Mar 1990  
Redesignated 353<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Squadron, 15 Jan 1994  
Redesignated 353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Maintenance Squadron, 1 Aug 2010

### **STATIONS**

Otis AFB, MA, 25 Feb-31 Oct 1967  
Korat RTAFB, Thailand, 31 Oct 1967-15 Dec 1970  
Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Oct 1989  
Kadena AB, Japan, 5 Feb 1992

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

553<sup>rd</sup> Reconnaissance Wing, 25 Feb 1967-15 Dec 1970

353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Wing (later, 353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Group), 1 Oct 1989

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer/Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter/Spring, 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Apr 1967-31 May 1968

1 Jul 1968-15 Apr 1969

2 Sep 2004-1 Sep 2006

1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

[1 Oct] 1989-5 Apr 1991

1 Jun 1993-31 May 1995

1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1997

16 Oct 1998-31 May 2000

13 Oct 2000-1 Sep 2002

2 Sep 2002-1 Sep 2004

1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2010

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1967-15 Dec 1970

## **EMBLEM**



553<sup>rd</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron



353<sup>rd</sup> Special Operations Maintenance Squadron emblem: On a disc Sable, an annulet Argent charged with a disc per pale Gules and Azure, between in dexter a top hat inverted of the first, voided of the field, detailed Or and in sinister a crystal ball of the last, detailed of the second, supported by two arcs reversed of the third, a pile reversed of the first, charged with a sword point to base blade Silver Gray, hilt of the fifth, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "MAINTENANCE MAGIC" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "353 SOMXS" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The two sides of the sword blade represent the intuition and cutting edge of the logistical and maintenance personnel of the Squadron. The crystal ball symbolizes the highest value of the Air Force Special Operations Command's vision of the future. The top hat exemplifies sophistication, the magician-like spirit of the maintainer performing his mission in the U.S. Air Force. (Approved, 30 Jun 1994; newest rendition approved, 8 Jun 2011)

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

## OPERATIONS

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 14 Aug 2012

Updated:

### Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.