

368th EXPEDITIONARY AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

68th Tactical Air Support Group established, 2 Dec 1969

Activated, 15 Jan 1970

Inactivated, 15 Jun 1974

Redesignated 368th Tactical Air Support Group, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, and converted to provisional status, 12 Feb 2009

Activated

Inactivated, 2011

STATIONS

Shaw AFB, SC, 15 Jan 1970-15 Jun 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 15 Jan 1970-15 Jun 1974

Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 12 Feb 2009

WEAPON SYSTEMS

O-2, 1970-1974

CH-53, 1970-1973

CH-3, 1970-1974

QU-22, 1972

OV-10, 1974

COMMANDERS

Col Clyde W. Strain, 15 Jan 1970
Col Robert S. McCormick, 4 Jun 1971
Col Blanton S. Keller, 28 Jun 1971
Col John D. Rosenbaum, 3 Jan 1973
Col Louis G. Pazel, 1 Sep 1973-14 Jun 1974

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
10-14 Feb 1973

EMBLEM

Azure, an antenna ascending palewise Sable fimbriated Argent emitting a cloud to base of the last and two lightning flashes in chief fesswise of the second fimbriated of the third, overall a lightning flash bendwise Gules between a silhouetted parachute in dexter base Argent and an abstract aircraft in sinister chief Or; all within a diminished bordure of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "DEPLOY DIRECT DETER" in Blue 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 abstract parachute symbolizes the unit's airborne capability; the antenna and radio waves symbolize communications equipment provided by the Group in any contingency; and the cloud represents the smoke rockets used to mark targets in support of U.S. ground forces. The abstraction of aircraft symbolizes Forward Air Controller Aircraft provided by the Group in direct air strikes against hostile targets in support of surface forces. (Approved, 26 Jun 1970)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained and equipped tactical air support squadrons and tactical air control parties to control aircraft and communications systems in support of surface forces including tactical air strikes, reconnaissance and airlift, 1970-1974.

The Air Force inactivated the 9th Air and Space Expeditionary Task Force-Iraq, along with the 321st Air Expeditionary Wing, 368th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group, and 467th Air Expeditionary Group Sunday afternoon local time. The ceremony took place in a hangar at an undisclosed installation here just five hours after the last US troops left Iraq. "It's been an honor to serve with so many men and women who poured their heart and soul into this mission," said Maj. Gen. Russell Handy who led the task force since August 2010. Handy also thanked airmen and their families for their "personal sacrifices." Nearly 4,500 US military members died during Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn and more than 32,000 were wounded. 2011

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 24 Dec 2011

Updated:

Sources

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