

421st COMBAT TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

The 421st Combat Training Squadron (421 CTS) "Scorpions" are dedicated to educating, training and exercising expeditionary combat support personnel in deployed operations. The 421st CTS is responsible for developing and conducting Combat Airman Skills Training, Security Forces pre-deployment training, facilitating the Air Force exercise Eagle Flag which focuses on the integration of all expeditionary combat support skills. The 421st CTS is responsible for training all of Air Mobility Commands Anti-Terrorism Level II officers. Additionally, the squadron is responsible for the execution of several Security Forces-specific training programs through its Phoenix Raven, Phoenix Warrior Base Security Operations, Military Working Dog pre-deployment training and Tactical Security Element courses. Overall, the 421st CTS offers seven expeditionary combat support courses. On average, the 421st CTS trains over 5,000 Airmen every fiscal year.

The 421st CTS is composed of more than 121 subject-matter experts from 47 unique Air Force Specialty Codes. The unit has six officers, 115 enlisted members and employs support from nearly 40 contractors. The unit is also responsible for nearly 1,500 weapons ranging from pistols to anti-armor rockets as well as the Air Force's largest single collection of foreign weapon systems. The Scorpions also maintain and operate a fleet of over 200 vehicles ranging from tactical, transportation and material handling equipment.

LINEAGE

821st Combat Security Police Squadron, activated, and constituted, 5 Mar 1968

Organized, 8 Mar 1968

Inactivated, 31 May 1971

1314th Ground Combat Readiness Evaluation Squadron designated and activated, 1 Aug 1984

Redesignated 314th Ground Combat Readiness Evaluation Squadron, 1 Dec 1991

821st Combat Security Police Squadron and 314th Ground Combat Readiness Evaluation Squadron consolidated, 1 Jan 1995

Redesignated 421st Training Squadron, 1 Jan 1995

Redesignated 421st Combat Training Squadron, 1 Dec 2003

STATIONS

Fairchild AFB, WA, 8 Mar 1968

Forbes AFB, KS, 1 Jun 1968-31 Dec 1969

Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, 9 Jan 1970-31 May 1971

Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Aug 1984

Fort Dix AI, NJ, 1 Jan 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

Tactical Air Command, 5 Mar 1968

82nd Combat Security Police Wing, 8 Mar 1968

Seventh Air Force, 9 Jan 1970-31 May 1971

314th Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Aug 1984

314th Combat Support (later, 314th Support) Group, 1 Sep 1988

USAF Air Mobility School (later, Air Mobility Warfare Center), 1 Oct 1993

USAF Expeditionary Operations School, 1 Dec 2003

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Winter-Spring

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1985-31 May 1986
1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1993

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Nov 1969-31 May 1971

EMBLEM



821st Combat Security Police Squadron emblem approved, 18 Mar 1986



1314th Ground Combat Readiness Squadron emblem on a blue disc a gold brown scorpion tail, detailed in brown, yellow stinger, grasping two red lightning bolts in its left claw and yellow arrows with gold brown arrowheads and feathers in its right claw, emitting from stinger three

yellow lightning bolts all encompassed by a narrow white broken circle spearheaded with white light symbol; all within a narrow yellow border. Attached above the disc a blue scroll bordered yellow and attached below the disc a blue scroll bordered yellow inscribed VOLANT SCORPIO in yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 scorpion symbolizes the Military Airlift Command contingency support forces. The arrows represent the different career fields/Air Force specialties that comprise contingency support forces to include Security Police, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Prime Readiness in Base Services (Prime RIBS), Combat Photographers, and Combat Mobility Branch personnel. The red lightning bolts symbolize the striking power of combat readiness. the three yellow lightning bolts represent the worldwide force projection of the Military Airlift command's 21st, 22nd, and 23rd Air Forces. The white circle and flight symbol represent the global mission through airlift of Air Force contingency support forces .

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

During Late September to mid-October, the 314th took part in the Grenada operation, "Urgent Fury," airlifting military personnel, civilians and equipment to and from the island. After the main forces retook the island, 13 members from Little Rock Air Force Base's 1314th Ground Combat Readiness Evaluation Squadron flew in to form the core of 180 combat troops guarding American air assets on the island from guerrilla assault. Several Soviet-made weapons were captured by Little Rock Air Force Base security forces during this deployment.

April 1985, the 1314th Ground Combat Readiness Evaluation Squadron, took home the "Best in MAC" award for their performance. Utilizing all-terrain vehicles, the 1314th GCRES, known as Volant Scorpion, trained and evaluated two MAC Air Base Ground Defense flights in runway control operations while playing the aggressor in war games. Colonel Kehler, before departing to another assignment, said of the 1314th GCRES, "They are the best small security police unit in the United States Air Force."

The 1314th GCRES joined several other units in "Volant Warrior I" exercises at Camp Robinson August 20-26. The exercise evaluated the units' ability to quickly deploy to forward areas. The JR TC program included a "first-rate" opposition team that attempted to prevent the 1314th from doing their job of DZ security. Little Rock Air Force Base's 1314th GCRES passed the test.

Members of the 15th Security Forces Squadron faced many challenges as they recently attended the Air Mobility Warfare Center's Phoenix Raven program. In their quest to attain a coveted security forces Raven patch, the five members from Hickam went through more than 120 hours of training and instruction during their nearly three weeks of training. There were more than 50 hours of classroom academics along with anti-terrorism, pressure point control techniques, collapsible baton, weapons and scenario training. In addition, the students have to pass a

rigorous physical training regimen. 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.

The course by the 421st Combat Training Squadron originally seen to better protect military aircraft in an expeditionary environment.

At Ravens school we get a certification that is recognized by the U.S. Air Marshall program," said Sergeant Dashnea. "After the events of September 11, 2001, they started implementing anti hijacking procedures into the course."

The definition of a Raven is "An Airman, Sailor, or Soldier who has readily accepted the responsibility to ensure the success of our force protection mission. They are all volunteers and are prepared to travel at a moment's notice anywhere around the world to protect Department of Defense assets for as long as it takes to complete the mission," according to Tech. Sgt. Kelly Tabor, Raven course instructor. "Ravens also must be of the highest caliber and always use judgment that will reflect well on missions abroad."

From start to finish in the training, camaraderie is emphasized among the students. They march together in formation between classes and they exercise together. They essentially work together in nearly every aspect of the course. "It's not a typical Air Force school where everybody passes, if you fail a test you get a second try, if you don't pass, you're done," said Sergeant Dashnea. "I can say I learned more in the two weeks than any other training in my AF career."

Although the program is tough there are many benefits that come with being one of the elite Ravens in Air Force security forces. "One of the great things about our job is the travel. I have been to every continent," said Sergeant Dashnea. "There is about a 50 percent failure rate at the school. When I went in 1997, we dropped three guys in the first five minutes because they were overweight, they didn't even give them a chance," he added.

The missions for the Hickam Ravens usually last from one to two weeks in support of Headquarters Pacific Command commander, Pacific Air Forces commander and other dignitaries. During this fiscal year the Hickam Ravens team will have traveled on more missions by end of May than they did for entire previous two years combined.

Currently Hickam's Ravens mainstay for missions is with the 65th Airlift Squadron's special mission flights. With the recent arrival of C-17s their tasking has increased and as the wing's fleet grows so will the Ravens mission. There will be a need for more Ravens here at Hickam. This past week five Hickam security forces airmen returned from the Ravens training course bringing the number of certified Ravens up to 18.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Nov 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit history. Little Rock AFB, AR. *Heartland, The History of Little Rock AFB*. Timothy Burford and Stephanie Burford. WireStorm Publishing. Las Vegas, NV. 2002.