

442 SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

442 Air Police Squadron constituted, 8 Sep 1950

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1950

Ordered to Active Service, 10 Mar 1951

Inactivated, 12 Mar 1951

Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952

Ordered to Active Service, 1 Oct 1961

Relieved from Active Duty, 27 Aug 1962

Discontinued and inactivated, 17 Jan 1963.

442 Weapons System Security Flight constituted, 18 Jun 1976

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1976

442 Air Police Squadron and consolidated 442 Weapons System Security Flight, 12 Oct 1984.

Consolidated unit designated 442 Weapons System Security Flight.

Redesignated 442 Security Police Flight, 15 Aug 1988

Redesignated 442 Security Police Squadron, 1 Oct 1992

Redesignated 442 Security Forces Squadron, 1 Jul 1997

STATIONS

Naval Air Station (NAS) Olathe, KS, 1 Oct 1950-12 Mar 1951

NAS Olathe, KS, 15 Jun 1952

Grandview (later, Richards-Gebaur) AFB, MO, 3 Apr 1955-17 Jan 1963

Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, 1 Jul 1976
Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 Apr 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

442 Air Base Group, 1 Oct 1950-12 Mar 1951
442 Air Base Group, 15 Jun 1952-17 Jan 1963
442 Combat Support Squadron, 1 Jul 1976
442 Combat Support (later, 442 Support; 442 Mission Support) Group, 1 Feb 1984

COMMANDERS

Cpt Dan Diercks

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jun 1987-31 Jul 1988
1 Nov 1989-31 Oct 1991
1 Oct 1997-31 Aug 1999
1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2003
2 Sep 2003-30 Sep 2004
1 Mar 2005-28 Feb 2007

EMBLEM



442d Air Police Squadron emblem: On a light blue disc, bordered whites a brown rook ledge issuing from bases highlighted light brown; perched on the ledge, a black eagle, his head and tail feathers white, his beak, eye, and talons Air Force golden yellow, his head extending into the

border in dexter, his tail extending over the border in sinister (left), his talons gripping a night stick, black; all between in dexter an increscent moon above a star, in sinister a sun in splendor, in dexter chief a star, all Air Force golden yellow, outlines brown, and issuing from sinister (left) chief a white cloud formation; all other outlines and details black. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem in symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against a background of sky, displaying the sun" moons stare and a cloud formation (representing day, night, and all-weather operations), an eagle perched atop a rock ledge, clutches a "Night Stick," to symbolize the vigilance, strengths and proud dedication to duty which characterize the Air Police. (Approved, 27 Nov 1962)



442 Security Forces Squadron patch

MOTTO

ALWAYS, EVERYWHERE

OPERATIONS

442 Weapons System Security Flight (WSSF)The mission of 442 WSSF was to train Air Force Reserve personnel in the proper procedures regarding Aircraft Security and Limited Air Base Ground Defense.

2008-Airmen of the 442nd Security Forces Squadron and the 442nd Logistics Readiness Squadron recently returned home after a seven-month deployment to Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The contingent made up of 26 442nd SFS and five 442nd LRS Airmen, arrived at Kirkuk last August and September then returned to Whiteman Air Force Base in March, bringing back a wealth of experiences and insights. The troops said they were proud of their work, providing base security and transportation, as they endured temperatures ranging from the 130s to the 20s, including two snow storms. The weather, however, was just one of many memories that left deep impressions on the Airmen. A shot-up Army Humvee being brought back on base.

Mortar and rocket attacks. Meeting Iraqis who worked on base but wouldn't tell anyone off base where they worked for fear of retribution. Sheep herders, "just like on 'The Little Drummer Boy'," according to Tech. Sgt. Craig Gall, 442nd SFS. Oil wells burning all day and all night. Caskets

of Army Soldiers being loaded on aircraft for a final trip home. “The thing I’m proudest of is that we all came home safe,” said Staff Sgt. Brian Byler, 442nd SFS. “No one got on base who wasn’t supposed to,” Sergeant Gall said. “We put up a hard target and never got penetrated.” The security forces searched roughly 5,000 vehicles trying to enter the base, occasionally finding an assortment of contraband that included alcohol, pornographic material, maps, knives and video cameras.

“Any kind of storage or recording device can’t be brought on base,” Tech. Sgt. Jeff Bousman said. “They’d try to hide cell phones in dash boards sometimes and if we couldn’t get into compartments, we’d just bust them open.” “We had the master key,” Tech. Sgt. Joe Erler said. While the Airmen maintained order on base, off base was another story. “One time we were on the perimeter of the base in a Humvee,” Staff Sgt. Scott Isaacson said. “There’s a road that goes by the base – Clemson – and a car bomb went off. It was supposed to kill an Iraqi general. I saw it explode.

There was a big ball of fire. I was looking in that direction and saw the car hood flying off.” Burning oil wells, belching mountains of smoke, also made for quite a sight. “All day and all night, the oil wells would be burning and you’re breathing that stuff in. There were also open sewage pits, a huge lake of it that would make you throw up if you got within half a mile of it,” Master Sgt. Robert Reeves, SFS, said. “It was dirty over there.” Dealing with the stress of rocket and mortar attacks and other threats, the Airmen said focusing on their jobs helped them keep a healthy level of detachment. “It is what it is,” Sergeant Gall said. “You just press on and do your job. You control what you can control and don’t worry about what you can’t control. A self-preservation mechanism kicks in.

You just let things roll off your back. Keep your attitude and sense of humor, because a situation is what it is.” “When we first got there, a rocket attack was a big deal,” said Staff Sgt. Phillip Werner, SFS. “Then we slowly realized that they couldn’t aim and would often shoot over the base. So when an alarm would sound, you’d put your (protective gear) on and continue watching TV.”

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.