

563 OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

3 Station Complement Squadron constituted, 5 Apr 1943

Activated, 10 Apr 1943

Disbanded, 15 Apr 1945

Reconstituted and redesignated 563 Operations Support Squadron, 29 Jul 2003

Activated, 1 Oct 2003

STATIONS

Jacksonville AAB, FL, 10 Apr-28 May 1943

Molesworth, England, 7 Jun 1943-15 Apr 1945

Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Oct 2003

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 10 Apr-23 May 1943

1 Bombardment (later, 1st Air) Division, 7 Jun 1943-15 Apr 1945

563 Rescue Group, 1 Oct 2003

COMMANDERS

Maj Roland M. Cowan

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
EAME Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Germany, 11 Jan 1944

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Jun 2008-31 May 2010

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Oct 2003-31 Oct 2004
1 Nov 2004-31 Jul 2006

EMBLEM

On a disc per bend Azure and Or, in chief three mullets Gules, in fess a winged dagger Argent and Sable, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Silver Gray scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "IN OMNIA PARATUS" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Silver Gray scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "563 OSS" in Black 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 stars are representative of the valor our rescue forces exhibit. The silver winged dagger symbolizes faith in God and country, the black grip for determination, the blade for rescue heritage with Air Force Special Operations. (Approved, 25 Mar 2005)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Every organization on the station owes a great deal to the 3rd Station Complement Squadron for its unceasing efforts to make the base a comfortable place to live, and to better the working facilities. The primary duty, performed by the Utilities Section, has been maintenance of the base. The electricians, carpenters, painters, engineers and general handy-men have combined their efforts to construct new buildings, remodel old ones, build roads, repair runways, keep a steady flow of water and electricity, and do the thousand and-one things that need attention on a large base.

The extra little services which mean so much to the men-barber shops, tailor shops, gymnasium, showers, etc.-are operated entirely or in part by 3rd Station men. Without supervision or advice of an engineering officer, ten men under the direction of TSgt. George

Thompson have taken the responsibility for the maintenance of as many as eight various types of planes at one time. The Communications Section has done an outstanding job of installing and maintaining the complicated telephone and teletype systems without which it would be almost impossible to operate. One of the most important sections is the Control Tower, with its clerks and radio operators and men who maintain the flare path, caravan, beacon and searchlights.

With Major Roland M. Cowan, squadron commander, as base administrative inspector, it can justly be said that the 3rd Station has had a hand in the high standard of administration in all of the squadrons. The squadron itself has consistently received an excellent rating from higher headquarters in administration, area maintenance and conduct of personnel during the time it has been in existence.

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.