

609 AIR OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

609 Air Operations Group constituted and activated, 1 Jan 1994
Redesignated 609 Air and Space Operations Center, 1 Mar 2008
Redesignated 609 Air Operations Center, 1 Dec 2014

STATIONS

Shaw AFB, SC, 1 Jan 1994
Al Udeid AB, Qatar, 1 Mar 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force (later, Ninth Air Force [Air Forces Central]), 1 Jan 1994

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1996-31 Mar 1998

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2000-31; May 2002

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008

EMBLEM



Azure, issuant from base an earth-colored globe, edged and gridlined of the field, surmounted in chief by a stylized bald eagle stooping affronté Proper, grasping in dexter claw a lightning bolt bendwise Or, and in sinister claw an olive branch stalked Proper, leaved Vert. Above the eagle's head a mullet involved in eight mullets Argent, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "609TH AIR OPERATIONS GROUP" 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 stylized bald eagle over a globe represents the supremacy of American air power over the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility. The lightning bolt signifies strength. The olive branch pertains to honor and the unit's commitment to the region in times of war and peace. (Approved, 23 Jan 2004, modified, 29 Jan 2009)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In a ceremony March 3, 2008, at Shaw AFB, USCENTAF took on a new name, USAFCENT, as well as an enhanced way of employing forces in war. The ceremony also included the inactivation of the 609th Air Intelligence Group, Air Intelligence Squadron, Combat Operations Squadron, Combat Plans Squadron, Air Support Squadron and the Information Operations Flight; the redesignation and assumption of command of the 609th Air Operations Group to the 609th Air Operations Center, which forms the core of the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and the Detachment 1, 609th Air Operations Center; and the activation and assumption of command of Detachment 5, U.S. Air Forces Central. Reflecting its mission statement "to project decisive air and space power for United States Central Command and America," as of December 2011, USAFCENT had beddown locations in the AOR as follows: Kirkuk AB, Balad AB, Baghdad International Airport, and Ali AB in Iraq. Bagram and Kandahar Airfields in Afghanistan and other bases in Southwest Asia remain active. The USAFCENT organization provides a unique dual mission for its Airmen -- training of its combat units while working closely with its counterparts in Southwest Asia to ensure the stability of the region. Whether serving in a combat or humanitarian role, USAFCENT is an integral part of the nation's airpower in joint and combined military and humanitarian operations.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 23 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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

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