

## 15 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE<sup>1</sup>

520 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 13 Oct 1942

Activated, 18 Oct 1942

Redesignated 15 Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy), 29 Nov 1942

Disbanded, 2 Nov 1943

15 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 28 Mar 1944

Activated, 1 Apr 1944

Inactivated, 15 Apr 1946

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1947

Inactivated on 27 Jun 1949

15 Air Commando Squadron constituted and activated, 13 Feb 1968

Organized, 15 Mar 1968

Redesignated 15 Special Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 1968

Inactivated, 31 Oct 1970

15 Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy), Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 15 Special Operations Squadron reconstituted and consolidated, 19 Sep 1985

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<sup>1</sup> Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Activated, 1 Oct 1992

### **STATIONS**

Jacksonville Muni Aprt, 18 Oct 1942 (air echelon operated from Langley Field, VA, 3 Jun–3 Jul 1943 and from Drew Field, FL, Jul 1943)  
Batista Field, Cuba, 25 Jul 1943  
Jacksonville AAFld, FL, 1 Oct 1943  
Wendover Field, UT, 17 Oct–2 Nov 1943  
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 1 Apr 1944  
Fairmont AAFld, NE, 15 Aug 1944–7 Mar 1945 (air echelon operated from Boringuen Field, Puerto Rico, c. 9–25 Jan 1945)  
Northwest Field, Guam, 14 Apr 1945–15 Apr 1946  
Hill Field, (later, AFB), UT, 1 Aug 1947–27 Jun 1949  
Nha Trang AB, South Vietnam, 15 Mar 1968–31 Oct 1970  
Hurlburt Field, FL, 1 Oct 1992

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

378 Bombardment Group, 18 Oct 1942  
26 Antisubmarine Wing, 14 Dec 1942  
Second Air Force, 17 Oct–2 Nov 1943  
16 Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944–15 Apr 1946  
445 Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1947–27 Jun 1949  
Pacific Air Forces, 13 Feb 1968  
14 Air Commando (later, 14 Special Operations) Wing, 15 Mar 1968–31 Oct 1970  
1 Special Operations (later, 16 Operations) Group, 1 Oct 1992

### **ATTACHMENTS**

25 Antisubmarine Wing, 20 Nov 1942-Jul 1943

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

O-47, 1942  
B-25, 1942–1943  
B-34, 1942–1943  
B-24, 1943  
B-24D  
B-17, 1944–1945  
B-17F  
B-29, 1944–1946  
C-130E  
MC-130H, 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Albert J. Wheeler, 18 Oct 1942

Maj Frederick M. O'Neill, 9 Feb 1943-unkn (at least through Sep 1943)  
None (unmanned), 1 Apr-10 Jul 1944  
Maj William A. Garland, 11 Jul 1944  
LTC Richard W. Kline, 1 Mar 1945- c. 27 Feb 1946  
None (unmanned), 28 Feb-15 Apr 1946  
Unkn, 1 Aug 1947-27 Jun 1949  
LTC Dow A. Rogers Jr., 15 Mar 1968  
LTC Thomas F. Hines, 29 Apr 1968  
LTC Russell A. Bunn, 4 Sep 1968  
LTC John R. Dummer, 27 Mar 1969  
LTC John F. Newell Jr., 5 Aug 1969  
LTC Leo W. Tubay, 23 Feb-31 Oct 1970  
LTC William E. Saier, 1 Oct 1992  
LTC Charles R. Lovett, 30 Jun 1994  
LTC Clarence E. Glausier III, 24 May 1996  
LTC Steven K. Weart, 17 Jul 1998  
LTC David H. Sammons Jr., 1 Jun 2000  
LTC Frank E. Fields, 4 Jun 2002

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Eastern Mandates  
Western Pacific  
Air Offensive, Japan

Vietnam  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
TET 69/Counteroffensive  
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969  
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970  
Sanctuary Counteroffensive  
Southwest Monsoon

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Japan, 29 Jul–6 Aug 1945

Presidential Unit Citation  
Southeast Asia, 21 Jun 1968–30 Jun 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device  
15 Mar–20 Jun 1968  
1 Jul–31 Oct 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Oct 1992–15 Apr 1994  
1 Jun 1995–31 May 1997  
1 Jul 1999–30 Jun 2001  
1 Jul 2001–30 Jun 2003  
1 Sep 2004–31 Aug 2006

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm  
15 Mar 1968–31 Oct 1970

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

#### **EMBLEM**

15 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy emblem, on a medium blue sphere, marked with white lines of latitude and longitude, within border yellow orange, a red sword winged and hilted white, striking surface of sphere with point, in bomb burst impact mark at dexter base, proper, and casting drop shadow on surface of sphere between five, like bomb bursts arranged two to dexter and three to sinister, all surmounting a large, dark blue aerial bomb, trimmed white, nose to dexter base. (Approved 13 Apr 1945)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.



15 Special Operations Squadron emblem: azure gridlined as a globe Argent a dagger point to base Argent, hilt Or winged Silver Gray throughout above and between five flames of fire pilewise proper, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe reflects the worldwide scope of special operations. The winged dagger is symbolic of the squadron's ability to deliver precision operations anywhere and anytime. The flames allude to bomb blasts and recall the squadron's predecessor unit (15 Bombardment Squadron). They also signify the five theater commands to which the squadron provides support and point out the specialized nature of most special operations missions. (Approved, 27 Nov 1992)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols, Oct 1942–Sep 1943. Combat in Western Pacific, 16 Jun–14 Aug 1945. Combat and combat rescue in Southeast Asia, 15 Mar 1968–31 Oct 1970.

15 ASRON's B-23s was credited with a sub kill on 30 June 1942, and a crew member was decorated for heroism this action.

BARBADOS (AFNS) --Aircrew members with the 15 Special Operations Squadron deployed from Hurlburt Field, Florida, evacuated 19 medical students from the island of Dominica Sept. 23, 2017, after it was devastated by Hurricane Maria. The Air Commandos flew through the night after being tasked short notice, then volunteered again to rush to the aid of the students, one of which was under medical observation for sudden health issues. "That's why we train, and that's what we are here for," said Lt. Col. William Compton, mission commander for the deployment. The aircrew was on the ground in Barbados, unloading crew and gear for less than 20 minutes before taking off for the possible life-saving mission.

“I was so thankful,” said Yaadveer Chahal, a resident of Berkley, California who was bed ridden prior to the evacuation. “We were extremely scared and not prepared for the worst. We were all crying and weren’t even sure if anyone knew where we were. If it wasn’t for the prior military and current service members who showed up and worked around the clock, we would have been lost.” The Ross University School of Medicine students described being able to see looters from the airport as they awaited the aid after being without basic amenities for days. “Thank you so much,” said. “We are so relieved and thankful for this.”

Gabrielle Robinson, a medical student was relieved and thankful following the evacuation. All of the students spoke with exhaustion, describing the conditions of the island as unlivable and a total loss. Their first thoughts after landing were for a shower, food and a fresh change of clothes.

“I’m beyond thankful to be part of this,” Master Sgt. Michael Wilson, 15 SOS loadmaster. “This being my fourth humanitarian deployment, I’ve seen how urgent help can be critical after seeing the devastation of the hurricane season. This is the perfect time to put in to practice what we train for.”<sup>20173</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.