

23rd SPECIAL TACTICS SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 23d STS is to: Deploy specially organized, trained, and equipped forces to survey and assess assault zones; Establish and control landing and drop zones in the most austere and inhospitable regions of the world; Set up and operate forward area refueling and rearming points; Establish and manage casualty collection, triage and evacuation sites; Participate in Air Force Special Operations Command foreign internal defense efforts; Provide special operations terminal attack control capability in hostile environments. Special tactics teams employ into hostile or denied areas via a variety of tactical insertion methods including: Static line or military free fall parachuting; SCUBA or amphibious means; Overland infiltration (mounted or unmounted); and fixed or rotary wing aircraft. Special Tactics personnel are skilled in demolitions, weapons, air traffic control, small unit tactics, trauma medical response, communications, and forward weather observation. Special Tactics teams routinely employ in support of contingencies and humanitarian aid missions worldwide.

LINEAGE

23rd Fighter Control Squadron (Special) constituted, 10 Jan 1943

Activated, 6 Feb 1943

Redesignated 23rd Fighter Control Squadron, 16 Sep 1943

Inactivated, 29 Oct 1945

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

1723rd Combat Control Squadron

Redesignated 1723rd Special tactics Squadron, 1 Apr 1990

23rd Fighter Control Squadron reconstituted and 1723rd Combat Control Squadron consolidated, 1 Mar 1992

23rd Special Tactics Squadron, 31 Mar 1992

STATIONS

Hurlburt Fld, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC John T Carney, Jr.

LTC Robert A. Coulter

Maj Craig F. Brotchie

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



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 globe stands for the worldwide commitment of Special Tactics Combat Controllers and Pararescuemen. The two shades of blue signify night and day deployment capability. The parachute and the dagger denote infiltration and commando operations respectively. The

arrows represent triple threat capabilities--land, sea, or air. The lightning bolt indicates quick action medical and communications capabilities. The lamp of knowledge reflects the civic action role of the unit, i.e. the unit functions as teachers and medical providers as well as warriors.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The squadron's mission during World War II was to plot enemy planes, contacting and directing American aircraft, and handling of administrative messages.

Combat controllers of the 23d Special Tactics Squadron were deployed to Tuzla, Bosnia, in early 1996 where they were working in all three of the sectors controlled by British, French and Americans forces in Bosnia. While there, they were tasked with keeping commanders of the three special operations command control elements in radio contact with the special forces liaison coordination elements in the field. They also provided the six non-NATO countries with services such as assault zone surveys, communications and air traffic control.

Combat controllers from the 23d STS also deployed to Somalia during relief efforts there. During Operation United Shield in Mogadishu, and for a period of 72 hours, they oversaw more than 150 aircraft sorties from the airport.

Personnel from the 23d STS were involved in the recovery of downed 2 US Air Force pilots during Operation Allied Force. The two pilots involved were flying an F-16 and an F-117.

Personnel from the 23d STS took part in the 2000 Canadian Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) from September 15-20, along with personnel from the 24th STS, based at Pope AFB, NC, and the 210th RQS, based at Kulis ANGB, AK. This was the first time in 15 years that Americans units had participated in the annual Canadian exercise.

23d Fighter Control Squadron

- Det – Changsha, China
- Det – Chanyi, China
- Det – Chengtu, China
- Det – Chihkiang, China
- Det – Chungking, China
- Det – Hengyang, China
- Det – Iliang, China
- Det – Kanchow, China
- Det – Kukong, China
- Det – Kunyang, China
- Det – Kweilin, China

Det – Lingling, China
Det – Luichow, China
Det – Mengtze, China
Det – Namyang, China
Det – Nanning, China
Det – Peishiyi, China
Det – Poashan, China
Det – Suichwan, China
Det – Szomao, China

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 19 Nov 2010
Updated: 12 Dec 2015

Sources

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