

## 25 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



### MISSION

25 Intelligence Squadron Conducts special intelligence operations for AFSOC and subordinate units. Integrates all-source intelligence, electronic combat, and securities for Special Operations Forces mission planning, rehearsal and execution. Trains and deploys aircrew members to provide tactical support onboard all AFSOC aircraft.

### LINEAGE

6 Photo Laboratory Section constituted, 15 Jan 1944  
Activated, 28 Jan 1944  
Redesignated 6 Photographical Technical Unit, 30 Nov 1944  
Redesignated 55<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, 4 Mar 1949  
Inactivated, 14 Oct 1949  
Activated, 1 Nov 1950  
Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952  
Redesignated 25 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, 16 Oct 1984  
Redesignated 25 Intelligence Squadron, and activated, 1 Oct 1993  
Redesignated 25 Information Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 2000  
Redesignated 25 Intelligence Squadron, 1 Apr 2007

### STATIONS

Campbell AAF, KY, 28 Jan 1944  
DeRidder AAB, LA, 19 Apr 1944  
Stuttgart AAB, AR, 5 Feb 1945  
Brooks Fld, TX, 7 Dec 1945  
MacDill Fld, FL, 22 Mar 1946  
Wright Fld (later, Wright-Patterson AFB), OH, 22 Sep 1947  
Topeka (later, Forbes) AFB, KS, 16 Nov 1948-14 Oct 1949

Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico, 1 Nov 1950-16 Jun 1952  
Eglin AF Aux Fld #9 (Hurlburt Fld), FL, 1 Oct 1993

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

74 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 28 Jan 1944  
Third Air Force, 8 Nov 1945  
311 Reconnaissance Wing (later, 311<sup>th</sup> Air Division), 15 Apr 1947  
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 4 Mar-14 Oct 1949  
55 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, Medium, 1 Nov 1950-16 Jun 1952  
67 Intelligence (later, 67 Information Operations) Group, 1 Oct 1993  
55 Operations Group, 5 Jul 2006  
Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency, 5 May 2008  
361 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 29 Oct 2008

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Robert D. Elliott  
Lt Col Steven A. Ranalli

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device  
17 Jan-1 May 2003

#### **Meritorious Unit Awards**

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1994

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995

1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1996

1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1997

1 Oct 1997-30 Sep 1998

1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2000

1 Jun 2001-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

EMBLEM



Approved, 20 Jan 1998; latest rendering, 15 Feb 2018

MOTTO

## **OPERATIONS**

The 25 Information Operations Squadron has an authorized strength of 100 airborne, ground, and support personnel assigned to the unit headquarters at Hurlburt Field.

The 25 IOS is a selectively manned and uniquely tasked unit, chartered to provide specialized intelligence and robust information operations capability across the spectrum of conflict. As the Air Combat Command's (ACC) only dedicated Special Mission Unit (SMU), 25 IOS personnel are qualified to operate as aircrew on board every combat aircraft within the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) inventory.

The 25 Information Operations Squadron originated as an amalgamation of multiple AIA activities and can trace its origin to events that occurred during Operation JUST CAUSE in 1989. It was ultimately established as a unit in response to AFSOC requirements emerging from Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM. The AIA-AFSOC relationship began shortly after Operation DESERT STORM ended, when the Air Force Intelligence Command (AFIC) established a Liaison Office at HQ AFSOC. Shortly after, the 693rd Intelligence Wing established Detachment 7 to provide Direct Support Operator (DSO--pronounced "dizzo") support to AFSOC operations.

The 25 IOS DSOs fly on all AFSOC platforms from three geographically-separate locations providing real-time threat warning and enhanced situational awareness to AFSOC aircrews. The majority of 25 IOS personnel are dedicated to executing this program, known as SILENT SHIELD. Analysts are fundamental to the mission planning process, providing key information on the area into which the DSO will fly. Other personnel concentrate on maintaining the unit's standing with AFSOC flying regulations for training and proficiency, standardization and evaluation, flight scheduling, mobility and similar areas. Flying as AFSOC aircrew members during training, exercises, and real-world contingencies, DSOs exploit information to keep AFSOC aircrews inside the enemy decision loop. Since their initial flights during Operation DESERT STORM, 25 IOS DSOs have logged combat hours with AFSOC in virtually every major military operation globally.

None of these activities can take place without truly world class support. Personnel assigned to the Logistics Support Flight perform the "behind the scenes" required to enable other 25 IOS personnel to provide the outstanding support AFSOC has become accustomed to by ensuring mission equipment is properly configured, loaded on AFSOC aircraft, maintained and repaired. The Logistics Support flight also directly supports all squadron communications equipment and accounts.

The squadron hosts a small Commander's Support Staff which ensures unit administrative requirements are met. Finally, the squadron has a dedicated Security Officer who ensures compliance with all ACC/AIA, and Intelligence Community security requirements. He also manages program security for the SILENT SHIELD mission and AFSOC-unique security requirements for the 25 IOS globally.

The 25 IOS personnel are also directly attached to Headquarters, Air Force Special Operations Command. These individuals function as a MAJCOM support section to provide DSO aircrew standardization and evaluation support, and oversight of AFSOC-unique programmatic aspects of the SILENT SHIELD mission. These include support to the mission equipment acquisition process, Major Force Program Eleven budgeting issues, quality improvement efforts, and future plans. These individuals also often provide specialized intelligence expertise to the headquarters intelligence directorate.

Staff Sergeant Shane Kimmett, a Direct Support Operator assigned to the 25 IOS at Hurlburt Field, FL, died on 7 August, along with nine other aircrew in the crash of an MC-130H. The aircraft crashed 20 miles south of San Juan while on a training flight from NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, to the west coast of Puerto Rico. 2002

Four Air Force special operators were killed Feb. 18 when their U-28 crashed in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said. "This is obviously a tragic incident," Little said about the accident, which occurred at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport in Djibouti City. Camp Lemonnier, located nearby, is the main base of operations for U.S. Africa Command in the Horn of Africa. The Airmen were conducting a surveillance and reconnaissance mission, Little said. "There is absolutely no indication of any kind of enemy involvement in the downing of the plane," he added. Little said the Air Force mission was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes operations in Afghanistan, the Philippines, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere. Little said a dignified transfer ceremony took place at the Dover Air Force Base military mortuary in Delaware early this morning "for our returning fallen heroes who were involved in this crash." A safety board investigation has been initiated to determine the cause of the incident. The accident occurred at about 8 p.m. local time, and U.S. military personnel were dispatched to the scene. "We need to understand precisely what happened in this tragic incident," Little said. The special operators, all from Hurlburt Field, Fla., were: Capt. Ryan P. Hall, 30, of Colorado Springs, Colo., assigned to the 319th Special Operations Squadron. Capt. Nicholas S. Whitlock, 29, of Newnan, Ga., and 1st Lt. Justin J. Wilkens, 26, of Bend, Ore., both assigned to the 34th Special Operations Squadron. Senior Airman Julian S. Scholten, 26, of Upper Marlboro, Md., assigned to the 25 Intelligence Squadron. 2012

Det 1, Cannon AFB, NM

Det 2, Mildenhall, England

Det 3, Kadena AB, Japan

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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#### Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.