

## 7 SPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

7 Photographic Squadron constituted, 19 Jan 1942

Activated, 28 Jan 1942

Redesignated 7 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 9 Jun 1942

Redesignated 7 Photographic Squadron [Light], 6 Feb 1943

Redesignated 7 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 11 Aug 1943

Disbanded, 1 May 1944

7 Liaison Squadron constituted, 3 Nov 1945

Activated, 10 Dec 1945

Inactivated, 28 Mar 1949

Redesignated 7 Liaison Flight, 7 Oct 1949

Activated, 27 Oct 1949

Inactivated and redesignated 7 Liaison Squadron, 8 Sep 1952

Activated, 20 Oct 1952

Inactivated, 18 Jun 1954

7 Special Operations Flight Constituted, 18 Mar 1969

Activated, 1 Jul 1969

Inactivated, 30 Apr 1974

7 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron reconstituted, 19 Sep 1985

7 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 7 Liaison Squadron and 7 Special Operations

Flight consolidated. Consolidated squadron redesignated 27 Special Operations Squadron, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 7 Space Operations Squadron, 1 Jan 1993  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jan 1993

### **STATIONS**

MacDill Field, FL, 28 Jan 1942  
Savannah, GA, 27 Feb 1942  
Colorado Springs, CO, 15 May 1942  
Will Rogers Fld, OK, 10 Oct 1943-1 May 1944  
Heidelberg, Germany, 10 Dec 1945  
Phaffengrund, Germany, 1 Jan-25 Jun 1947  
Langley Fld, VA, 25 Jun 1947  
March Field (later, AFB), CA, 1 Sep 1947-28 Mar 1949  
Albrook AFB, Canal Zone, 27 Oct 1949-8 Sep 1952  
Donaldson AFB, SC, 20 Oct 1952-18 Jun 1954  
Otis AFB, MA, 1 Jul 1969  
Eglin Aux Fld #9 (Hurlburt Fld), FL, 31 May 1972-30 Apr 1974  
Falcon (later, Schriever) AFB, CO, 1 Jan 1993

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Third Air Force, 28 Jan 1942  
Eighth Air Force, 29 Mar 1942  
2 Photographic (later 2 Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping; 2 Photographic Reconnaissance) Group, 7 May 1942-1 May 1944  
XII Tactical Air Command, 10 Dec 1945  
Headquarters Command, United States Air Force in Europe, 10 Mar 1947  
Tactical Air Command (attached to 300 Army Air Forces Base Unit), 25 Jun 1947  
1 Fighter Wing, 1 Sep 1947-28 Mar 1949  
5700 Air Base Group, 27 Oct 1949-8 Sep 1952  
Eighteenth Air Force, 20 Oct 1952-18 Jun 1954  
1 Special Operations Wing, 1 Jul 1969  
317 Special Operations Squadron, 31 May 1972-30 Apr 1974  
302 Airlift Wing, 1 Jan 1993  
302 Operations Group, 1 May 1993  
310 Space Group, 1 Sep 1997-.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

64 Troop Carrier Group, 20 Oct 1952-9 Jan 1953

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-38/F-4 and F-5, 1942-1944  
B-25/F-10, 1942-1944

L-5, 1946-1947, 1948; 1949-1952  
L-13, 1947-1948  
L-4, 1948-1949  
L-20, 1952-1954  
C-47, 1969-1970  
U-10, 1969-1971  
C-123, 1970-1973  
UH-1, 1971-1974  
Satellites, 1993

## **COMMANDERS**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Neuenhahn, 28 Jan 1942  
Maj Harry T. Eidson, 28 Feb 1942  
Capt Emmett C. Gravitt, 26 May 1942  
Capt Thomas G. Tracy, c. Aug 1942  
Capt MacArthur Gorton, by Jun 1943  
Capt Darold K. Barker, Nov 1943 (temporary)  
Capt Donald G. Kaufman, Dec 1943-unkn  
Maj Frederick A. Campbell, Jr., 12 Dec 1945  
Maj Eugene O'Brien, by Mar 1946 (temporary)  
Maj Stanley G. Wright, Oct 1946  
Maj Donald Hamilton, 25 Jun 1947  
1Lt Girard S. Tallent, 1 Sep 1947 (temporary)  
Capt Charles J. Crysler, 4 Nov 1947  
Capt Clyde E. Goode, 22 Feb 1948 (temporary)  
Maj James A. Watkins, 24 Apr 1948  
Capt Charles J. Crysler, 31 Jul 1948 (temporary)  
Maj William R. Crooks, 1 Sep 1948  
Capt Dean Miller, 2 Feb-29 Mar 1949  
Unkn, 27 Oct 1949-8 Sep 1952  
Maj Kelton M. Farris, 20 Oct 1952  
Capt Russell D. Barney, 18 Jan-18 Jun 1954  
Lt Col Raymond G. Summy, Jul 1969  
Lt Col Richard R. Cole, 31 Jul 1970  
Lt Col Robert E. Hubeli, 6 Apr 1972  
Lt Col Charles E. McMillan, 12 Jan 1973-30 Apr 1974  
None (not manned), 17 Jan-17 Mar 1993  
Maj Frank J. Cassarino, 18 Mar 1993  
Lt Col Kevin G. Cavanagh, Aug 2000-Jan 2003

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

## Campaign Streamers

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1969-15 Apr 1971

4 Sep 1997-1 Nov 1998

## EMBLEM



Photo: Kaca, SoDa



Centered on an Air Force blue disc is a turquoise globe with black longitude and latitude lines. In the foreground is a silver delta figure with Air Force yellow wings. A single silver five pointed star circles the globe in an inclined orbit. Attached above and below the disc are Air Force yellow scrolls with Air Force blue borders. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force

colors. Blue signifies the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of all Air Force personnel. The turquoise globe represents our foundation for satellite operations. The single silver star orbiting the globe identifies our squadron as the first Reserve squadron in Air Force Space Command. Our heritage from the 7 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron is represented by the wings, and our presence in space operations is represented by the delta figure. Combined, the winged delta figure represents our past, present, and future role in aerospace operations.

Azure a globe Celeste gridlined Sable with orbit ring bendwise and mullet satellite in dexter chief Argent surmounted in base by a flight symbol palewise of the like winged Or. Attached above the disc, a yellow scroll edged with a narrow blue border and inscribed "7 SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in blue letters. Attached below the disc, a yellow scroll edged with a narrow blue border and inscribed "FIRST FROM THE STARS" in blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 reflects the unit's foundation for satellite operations. The star in orbit around the globe denotes the squadron as the first Reserve squadron in Air Force Space Command. The winged flight symbol symbolizes the unit's past, present, and future in aerospace operations.



#### **MOTTO**

First From the Stars

#### **OPERATIONS**

Trained pilots and technicians for photographic reconnaissance, Jan 1942-Apr 1944.

Provided transportation and courier service in Europe, 1946-mid 1947, the US 1947-1949, and Latin America, 1949-1952.

Airlift support for US Army Special Forces, 1972-1974.

Satellite control since early 1993.

The 7 Photographic Squadron was constituted on 19 January 1942 and activated on 28 January 1942, flying the P-38/F-4 and F-5, and the B-25/F-10 aircraft. After several redesignations, the unit was named the 7 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron on 11 August 1943. During the course of World War II, the 7 trained pilots and technicians for photographic reconnaissance at several locations, including Colorado Springs, Colorado. The unit disbanded on 11 May 1944.

The unit was reactivated in December 1945 as the 7 Liaison Squadron at Heidelberg, Germany, providing VTP transportation and courier service for Headquarters, Third Army, using the L-5 aircraft. In June 1947, the 7 relocated to March Field, California, where it provided similar services to Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force and later, Headquarters, Fourth Air Force. The unit was inactivated on 28 March 1949 and activated again on 27 October 1949 at Albrook Air Force Base, Panama Canal Zone. While there, it provided operational and logistical support to the Inter-American Geodetic Survey unit it was inactivated on 8 September 1952.

The 7 was activated again on 20 October 1953 and attached to the 64th Troop Carrier Group at Donaldson Air Force Base, South Carolina where it participated in medical evacuations feasibility studies. The unit was inactivated on 18 June 1954.

The 7 Special Operations Flight activated in July 1969 at Otis Air Force Base, Massachusetts and transferred to Hurlbert Field, Florida in May 1972 flying the C-47, U-10, C-123, and UH-1 aircraft. At both locations, it supported the 10th U.S. Army Special Forces at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Its mission included logistical support, infiltration and exfiltration of personnel, reconnaissance, psychological warfare, flare dropping, and civic action. It was inactivated on 30 April 1974 and consolidated and redesignated the 27 Special Operations Squadron on 19 September 1985.

The 7 Space Operations Squadron was activated on 1 JAN 1993 at Falcon Air Force Base, Colorado. It provides launch and day to day operational support for the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program, the Defense Support Program, and the Navstar Global Positioning System. The 7 Space Operations Squadron is the first Reserve unit in Air Force Space Command.

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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.