

140th SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

LINEAGE

Activated 1973

STATIONS

Buckley AFB, CO

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert McCloy, #2001

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Mission: To secure Air Force assets and personnel, protect the state and nation, and forward deploy forces at any time and any place. The 140th Security Forces Squadron is responsible for the safety and security of assigned and transient aircraft, Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection programs and provides Combat Arms Training for all Air Expeditionary Forces assigned to the 140th Wing. One of the most heavily deployed squadrons in the Wing, the 140 SFS provides

highly trained "Defenders" to the Air Expeditionary Forces.

The history of the 140 WSSF and its air police/security police forerunner is a colorful progression from a small branch in the old air base group of the 1950s to a separate unit with its own commander.

There have been many changes in requirements, tasking and personnel structure, Security police work requires a special kind of teamwork and dedication that receives small rewards for the responsibilities encountered.

The security police unit was called to active duty along with the 140th Fighter-Bomber wing in 1951, They helped re-open Clovis, now Cannon AFB, N.M. Security police ranks were at the time veterans of WWII, including some who had flown bombing raids throughout Europe, including the raids over Ploesti. From 1952 to 1961, the unit continued to accept new responsibilities and train with new equipment.

When President Kennedy took his stand against the blockade of Berlin in 1961, the unit was once again called to active duty, spending a considerable amount of time at George AFB, CA. Also active at the time was a very successful squadron drill team known as the "Blue Berets," wearing headgear that would become standard issue for the unit in the not-too-distant future. Many unit personnel left after being released from active duty in 1962 and a rebuilding process began again—as it does after every call-up and subsequent release. In 1966, the air police career field was changed to "security police." The term was considered more descriptive and uniformly applicable and it combined the two main mission elements police and security forces.

The unit was once again called to active duty in Jan 1968 for Vietnam, with greater emphasis on unit readiness than ever before. A 12th Air Force team in the air at the time of the call-up notification inspected and passed the squadron as a regular Air Force unit. Personnel processing was hectic as the unit prepared to deploy individuals to separate locations, much to the disappointment of a unit which would have preferred deploying intact. Eight security policemen were assigned to the 35th Security Police Squadron, Phan Rang AB, Vietnam part of the first deployment of a Guard unit from its home base into a combat zone. Some 20 other individuals went to Kunsan AB and Kwanju AB in Korea and two remained in CONUS. Those deployed overseas performed commendably, garnering numerous decorations as individuals, including one bronze star with the "V" device for valor.

The unit returned in 1969 to start another retraining and rebuilding process. New challenges included full-time manning of a "priority 'A' " resource, as well as full-time base security. There were now two security police units, the old group belonging to the 140th TFW, and a new unit, HQ COANG Det. 1. Many personnel in the full-time headquarters unit were veterans of both Korea and Vietnam. The units worked as one, growing from 30 to 71 full-time personnel. They received two Air Force Organizational Awards for the protection of resources.

In 1971, the enlisted career field was divided into two separate fields, identified as "security specialist" and "law enforcement specialist."

There have been many deployments and exercises since 1969. State call-ups such as the Estes Park flood and forest fires have seen the unit always rise to the occasion. If the entire unit was not called, many traditional Guardsmen gave of their own time to help whenever needed. As day-to-day operations increased in recent years, arrivals of many VIPs to the Denver area and their need for security became commonplace. The unit has averaged two presidential/vice presidential visits per year and assumed the protective requirements for King Hussein of Jordan when he visited Colorado.

A COANG reorganization in late 1973 saw the deactivation of the 140th Supply Squadron and the activation of the 140th Weapons System Security Flight (WSSF), the 140th Mobility Support Flight and the reorganization of the 140th Combat Support Squadron (CSS).

Because of USAF tasking in 1977, most of the Colorado ANG spent its annual field training at various locations. The 140 CES deployed to Whiteman AFB, Mo., where they supported a base construction program. In another small deployment, the 140th Communications Flight sent 29 people to Baden-Solingen, West Germany, as part of a specialized unit to assist in a communications set-up for numerous European theater exercises. The 120th Weather Flight furnished weather support at Gulfport, Miss. Members of the 140 WSSF received training at Canon AFB, N.M.

140 WSSF troops deployed in March to Fort Huachuca, Ariz., for night maneuvers. Conducted jointly with the Coast Guard and Army National Guard, the training involved basic "soldiering" skills. Those skills were tested in April when the WSSF was pitted against soldiers from the Army Reserve's 387th Infantry in defending a landing zone against aggressors.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources