

157th SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

LINEAGE

157th Weapons Systems Security Flight
157th Security Forces Squadron

STATIONS

Pease ANGB, NH

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Capt. Peter G. Robinson, #1972

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Security Police attended the first class for SP anti-terrorist tactics at Lackland AFB, Texas. The class came after 10 Air National Guard aircraft had been bombed in Puerto Rico.

During 1984 the 157th sent the Security Police to Hawaii, the CE Squadron to Louisiana and others to Mildenhall, England for training.

The strain on people was intensified when, like SSgt. Daigle, individuals or groups of individuals

were activated rather than entire units. For example, in February, the 157th USAF Clinic sent two unit members to March AFB, Calif., one to Whiteman AFB, Mo., and 16 to Carswell AFB, Texas. Twenty-six members of the 157th Security Police went to Malmstrom AFB, Mont. Another 18 were activated at Pease.

2004 NEWINGTON, N.H. – For family and friends of the 23 airmen of the 157th Air Refueling Wing Security Forces deploying to Afghanistan, the ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base on Aug. 9 was bittersweet. They spent cherished time with loved ones, but it would be the last time for about six months. After a few short hours, the group deployed to Afghanistan where they will perform air base defense missions as part of the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. Prior to deploying, the airmen spent two weeks at Fort Bliss, Texas, for theater-specific training. For some members, this is their third deployment, but it is everyone's first time deploying to Afghanistan. During the gathering, the room was filled with spouses, brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers who wiped away tears while children ran around and played – bringing life to a somewhat solemn gathering. Also in attendance were the Pease Greeters, about 100 retired military members and other men and women who see-off service members and welcome them home. “We come here as fellow Americans to pay our respects,” said Ed Johnson, chairman of the Pease Greeters. “We respect the sacrifices you make and we respect the sacrifices that the families are experiencing.” As is customary for each departure, the retired military members stood at attention and saluted the departing security forces members. “We, the old warriors, salute you, the new warriors,” said Johnson. The Pease Greeters also gave each member phone cards to keep in touch with their families. Families are not just service members' immediate relations, said Bonnie Lee Rice, the Wing's family program coordinator. “It includes the parents, spouses, significant others, neighbors, friends, aunts, uncles, whoever.” “New Hampshire provides a lot of great support for families,” said Staff Sgt. Justin Woody, who married his wife, Britney, just two weeks before deploying. “I feel confident about the support she will get.” Staff Sgt. Paul Dovich feels “very confident that the Wing will be there if (his family) needs anything.” “We are prepared to support any and all needs of the families,” said Rice. “I am always available via office phone, cell phone or e-mail 24-7.” While everyone no doubt looks forward to the homecoming, no one is more excited than two members of the security forces team who will come back to families larger than the ones they left. Staff Sgt. Edward Dubaniewicz's wife, Alayna, is expecting their second child. Their other daughter, Sierra, is 18 months. Due in September, Alayna said, “I wish he is here when the baby is born but I have family and friends nearby to help.” The couple said they will communicate as much as possible through e-mails and a Web cam they purchased for their home. Master Sgt. Bill Charland's wife, Judy, is also expecting their second child during the deployment. While Charland won't physically be able to be with his wife during delivery, he will be able to view the birth thanks to Web cam and telecommunications equipment from Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

2008

From 30,000 feet in the air, Senior Master Sgt. John Craig could see ribbons of light snaking through total darkness. Through the boom window in the belly of the KC-135, he recognized the sight as a long, slow convoy of trucks on the earth below. He thought about the people who sat inside and drove the dusty humvees. “I wondered if those were New Hampshire guys down there,” said Craig, who just returned from a deployment in the Middle East. The NH Air National Guard currently has roughly 75 people serving in overseas missions. Many of them are

serving with the 157th Security Forces in Bagram Air Field in Afghanistan. It is the eighth time the unit has deployed personnel since Sept. 11, 2001. The ancient city of Bagram was once a key stop on the historic Silk Road to India. The air field, just outside of the city, also played a key role in the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Today it is a temporary home to airmen from New Hampshire who arrived there in August. Their mission is to provide security in defense of the air field, which holds approximately \$3 billion worth of military assets. On a daily basis, they uphold and ensure general law and order and provide security for all the aircraft currently stationed and visiting the air field. "I have satisfaction that I am contributing to the freedom and democracy of the people of this country and the fight on terrorism," said Senior Master Sgt. Daniel Yoder, serving as the Security Forces functional manager. "Even though we are a small part of what is a really big picture, if it was not for the contribution of our AF Security Forces, the mission would not have the success it is having in this region." Set in a valley surrounded by harsh, ragged mountain ranges, the air field is flat and dusty. Snow has already topped the steep peaks. Between blowing sand gusts, the vision of the hills reminds Yoder of the White Mountains back home in winter. The similarities to home seem to end there. "Right outside the perimeter fence you can see people still living in mud huts," Yoder said. "To say the least, the population 157th Security Forces defend Bagram Air Field is poor and limited on essentials that we take for granted every day, like running water and sanitation facilities." It is a contrast to the things the airmen have left behind at home. The 157th Security Forces have missed both the election and the holiday season. Two of their members, who have new additions to their family, will miss their children's first Christmas. Master Sgt. William Charland's son Ryan was born in October 2008. Charland and his wife, Judy, have a list of events they plan to celebrate in order when he gets home: his son's birth on Oct. 3, 2008, his birthday on Nov. 5, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, their anniversary on Jan. 27 and Valentine's Day. In the meantime, he gets daily pictures of both of his children and talks to them using Skype. His older son, Daniel, 16 months, tries to feed him pretzels through the computer. "The hard part is Daniel, who knows me, occasionally wakes up at night crying for Daddy," said Charland. The true hero, he said, is his wife. "She has to raise our two children, both still in diapers, pay the bills, make decisions on renovations for the house, ensure our furnace gets fixed and get the collapsed chimney flu repaired, and while doing all this, she remains strong and in control. She takes this a step further by passing her strength to me." Tech. Sgt. Edward Dubaniewicz also has two children, one born during his deployment. "It is tough knowing that my daughter this year will be old enough to understand what Christmas is about," Dubaniewicz said. "But I know that being here is going to make the USA and the world a safer place. I would rather be home with my family, but being here makes it possible to all the families in the USA to have a safe holiday season." It's a sentiment shared by Yoder. "The majority of these guys volunteered for this mission, and they did it without reservation, knowing they would be leaving their families during a real difficult time," said Yoder. "Without their dedication to duty and honor, the success of this mission would be limited. As the beginning of the Airmen's Creed goes, 'I am an American Airman. I am a warrior. I have answered my Nation's Call.' These guys have answered that call and will continue to do so, and their families can be proud of them."

2009 The clock struck 1 a.m. at Pease Air National Guard Base as the KC-135 landing lights became visible in the night sky. A few minutes later, the aircraft carrying 22 Security Forces Squadron (SFS) airmen on their last leg home from Afghanistan taxied to its parking spot. In what seemed like hours to the family and friends awaiting their return, the cargo door finally

opened revealing smiling airmen anxious to be reunited with their loved ones. The airmen could hear the cheers but only see the silhouettes of their friends and family who stood in front of a hangar about 100 yards away. The members were first greeted by Wing Commander Col. Richard P. Martell on the deck of the aircraft as well as members of the senior leadership team as they descended down the stairs. From there, it was only moments before they made their way across the tarmac to where their families and friends stood in wait. While he was able to view his new son Ryan's birth using Skype, Master Sgt. Bill Charland saw him for the first time in person. "He was more than I expected. Pictures and Skype didn't do him justice. He is always smiling and he is a big flirt," Charland said. "That's my boy," he added with a smile. While many onlookers were anxious to witness his reaction to seeing his youngest son for the first time, Charland's biggest concern was with his oldest son Daniel. "I was worried about not reintegrating with Daniel and that he wouldn't know me," he said. "Once we had our first wrestling session we were back on track." Staff Sgt. Edward Dubaniewicz also came back to a new family addition - a five and a half month old son, Landon. While Dubaniewicz held his 24-month old daughter, Sierra, his wife, Alayna, noticed he had a free hand. She then passed Landon to him and said with a smile, "Start practicing." Happiness to see their loved ones was the sentiment Feb. 22 and certainly overshadowed the cold temperatures and early hour. Sergeant Nate Charmand's father attested to that. "I'd be here no matter what time it was," he said. Airman John Pepper stood among his teary eyed friends and family and said, "Thank you all for coming," to which his mother responded, "I wouldn't miss it for the world." The mission A total of 23 airmen spent about six months at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan where they performed air base defense missions. "We secured planes while they landed, and set up 360 degree perimeters while gear was unloaded," said Master Sgt. Peter Vatisas. "We also assisted in POW transfers." "The fine group of Senior NCOs, NCOs, and Airmen who were deployed represented the unit and the state of New Hampshire admirably," said 157th SFS Commander Maj. Richard Hamilton.

2012 FORT DEVENS, Mass. – Eight members of the 157th Security Forces Squadron, along with three Combat Arms Training and Marksmanship (CATM) instructors, traveled from Pease Air National Guard Base to the range here to qualify on the M240B and M249 weapon systems Mar. 5. Each squad is assigned personnel that carry an M240B and M249 as part of a unit tasking requirement. These individuals are required to qualify by a live-fire on their respective weapon once a year. "It's critical to the quality of training that personnel are able to utilize this live-fire training range here with pop-up targets," said Staff Sgt. Brett Peterson, 157th Security Forces Squadron CATM instructor. "Each airman qualifying on the weapon is able to get a much better understanding of the full-range of capabilities each weapon system has." In addition to the hands-on use of the weapon, the range at Fort Devens provides opportunities that are not otherwise afforded at home station. "The pop-up targets at Fort Devens are a great way to provide immediate feedback to SFS personnel," continued Peterson. "The range also allows airman an opportunity to utilize their sights and engage targets at varying distances." CATM personnel not only qualified on each weapon as part of their annual training requirement, they were responsible for maintaining a safe environment. "In addition to being proficient on the weapon to properly instruct members within the squadron, we're there to maintain range safety," added Peterson. "There are a variety of things that can go wrong, it's most important that we maintain a safe environment for personnel." Despite the recent snow storm that dumped over a foot of snow in early March, training was not impacted by the harsh weather conditions. "We

train in all types of weather, so the snow that day had very little impact on the quality of training,” Peterson said. “If anything at all, the snow made it a little more challenging to clean-up brass buried in the snow after.” CATM personnel understand well the good fortune they have in being able to train at Fort Devens. “The training these airmen received today is invaluable. We are very lucky to be able to utilize the range here,” said Peterson. “Hopefully they will use this knowledge and experience and pass it on to their peers in the squadron.”

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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