

# 165 AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

165 Air Support Operations Squadron

## STATIONS

Brunswick, GA

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

LTC Rico Dammer, 1989-1992

LTC James B. Pack, 1992

LTC John Haley, April 5, 2003

LTC Paul G. Havel, June 3, 2006

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## EMBLEM



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Federally recognized on 15 September 1988, this small group of Air Liaison Officers (ALOs), enlisted Ground Terminal Attack Controllers (GTACs), maintenance and support people are a close-knit group with a unique mission. They wear Air Force uniforms but work closely with the Army. The ALOs are specially trained pilots or navigators who work directly with the Army in the Tactical Operations Center as members of the Commander's Special Staff. Their job is to plan and integrate Close Air Support (CAS) with the army scheme of maneuver on the battlefield. They also command the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) while in the field. The TACP is made up of two or three Enlisted Terminal Attack Controllers (ETACS) and ROMADS. These enlisted specialists setup and maintain all TACP radios and equipment. They use the Air Force Air Request Net (AFARN) to request CAS missions in support of their ground maneuver unit. After linking-up with forward Army units such as FIST teams or Scouts, they position themselves to observe the battlefield, day or night and direct CAS aircraft in destroying enemy targets.

The 165 has undergone three separate conversions and held residence in four different places, eventually settling in its new building at 1050 Canal Road, Brunswick, Georgia in January, 1998. It is co-located with the 224th JCSS. The 165 ASOS was activated for DESERT STORM and deployed to Fort Irwin, CA for train up in 1991. They have participated in over 220 exercises, including NTC, JRTC, JOINT GUARD, READY OLYMPIAD and a multitude of Air Force and Army exercises. The 165 ASOS supports the 48th SIB (M), 53rd SIB (L), the 28th ID (M), 38th ID (M) and 42nd ID (M). The unit was instrumental in saving lives in the Blizzard of '93 in North Georgia, the Flood of the Century in western Georgia and numerous hurricanes.

9th Air Force Gained Unit, Air Combat Command Number Personnel Assigned: 72 (16 Rated Officers, 56 Enlisted) 11 Full-time; 61 Traditional Guard; Equipment: 22 HMMWVs; GRC 206 Radio Pallets, Associated Portable Radios, NVGs, GPS, Comm Crypto, Gau-5s

2007 Thirty members of the Georgia's 165th ASOS were called out recently to help local authorities search for six-year-old Christopher Michael Barrios Jr., disappeared March 10 from a trailer park near the unit's Canal Road headquarters. The Guardsmen were part of an intensive weeklong search and recovery effort involving local and state police, fire, emergency responders and civilian search parties. The areas searched by the Georgia Air Guardsmen covered about two square miles of very dense brush, briars, and coastal palms. Following more than seven hours, Brunswick Guardsmen ceased their search without the child being located. Update: Authorities found the body of six-year-old Michael on Monday, March 19. Glynn County authorities have now charged four persons with murder.

Airmen with the Georgia Air National Guard's 165th Air Support Operations Squadron are now deployed with members of the Army's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Nangarhar Province, in eastern Afghanistan. These airmen are assigned to several joint terminal attack controller units that will call in combat air support for their Army brethren if the situation dictates. Some of these Air Guardsmen have worked before with these soldiers, in Iraq. "Because of that history, they know what they can expect from us and what we can provide them," said MSgt. James F. Harnisch, a senior NCO among the deployed airmen. The JTACs' sense of situational awareness allows them to assist with intelligence gathering for the ground troops, an invaluable skill. 2009/2010

Close air support for advancing ground units is often critical in perilous combat environments like Afghanistan. The "Battlefield Airmen" of Brunswick's 165th Air Support Operations Squadron deploy with, advise and assist joint force commanders in planning, requesting, coordinating and controlling close air support, reconnaissance, and tactical airlift missions. Fourteen 165th ASOS members were deployed with Army ground units during 2010. Ten deployed with Georgia's 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to Afghanistan, while one unit member deployed to support 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division – also in Afghanistan. Another ASOS Guardsman deployed to Djibouti and Kenya in support of Africa Command and its operations around the Horn of Africa. Returning Guardsmen assisted non-deployed unit members in the intense unit training schedule for close air support, training at bombing ranges in Florida and at Moody Air Force Base.

**2 Sep 2005**The 165<sup>th</sup> Air Support Operations Squadron, Georgia ANG, deployed ten personnel to Jackson Barracks, Louisiana to provide SATCOM and Radio relay capability.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *165 Tactical Airlift Group, Georgia Air National Guard, Savannah, GA, 1946-1984.*  
Unit yearbook. *Georgia Air National Guard History, 1941-2000*