

341st TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 341 TRS is provide trained military working dogs (MWDs) used in patrol, drug and explosive detection, and specialized mission functions for the Department of Defense (DoD), and other government agencies including the Transportation Security Administration. The 341 TRS also conducts operational training of MWD handlers and supervisors. Additionally, the squadron sustains the DoD MWD program through logistical support, veterinary care, and research and development for security efforts worldwide. Squadron is made up of 3 Officers, 55 Enlisted, and 31 civilians.

LINEAGE

Department of Defense Military Working Dog Agency, established, 9 Aug 1990
Activated, 1 Oct 1990
Redesignated 3250th Military Working Dog Training Squadron, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 341st Military Working Dog Training Squadron, 15 Sep 1992
Redesignated 341st Training Squadron, 1 Apr 1994

STATIONS

Lackland AFB, TX, 1 Oct 1990

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1990-31 Dec 1991

1 Jul 1992-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

EMBLEM

Per fess Argent and Azure, a bar wavy Gules, overall a lion rampant Vert armed Or langued Red, grasping in dexter paw a torch Green enflamed Red; all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached above the disc a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border. **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 scarlet wave represents the forward movement of the technical training performed by the squadron. The rampant lion demonstrates the "lion's share" of the dog and handler training done by the unit for all military services and other government agencies. The all service mission is reflected by the colors in the emblem. The Red and Dark Blue colors refer to the Marines, Blue and Gold stand for the Air Force, and Olive Drab is an Army color. The torch represents knowledge. (Approved, 26 Jul 1995)

MOTTO

DETECT AND DEFEND

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The first Air Force sentry dog school was activated at Showa Air Station, Japan, in 1952. In 1953, the second school was opened at Wiesbaden, West Germany. The Army continued to train and supply sentry dogs to Air Force units in the United States until the Sentry Dog Training Branch of the Department of Security Police Training was established at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1958.

In 1966, four sentry dog teams from Andrews Air Force Base, Md., were given patrol dog training by the Washington, D. C., Metropolitan Police Department. The additional advantages and capabilities of more tolerant and controllable dogs were quickly proven, and the patrol dog training program expanded. By 1969, the Air Force adopted the patrol dog as the standard military working dog.

To combat the growing use of marijuana and other drugs in Southeast Asia, a drug detection course was added in January 1971 to the MWD program. Based on the programs merit and success, the marijuana detector dog program expanded introducing cocaine, hashish and heroin to the program to expand the dog's capabilities. Also in 1971, the Air Force began training dogs to detect explosives.

In 2005, a new type of detector dog was introduced into the DoD inventory in response the rising threat of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Aptly referred to as Specialized Search Dogs (or SSDs), these highly skilled counter-terrorist search assets are trained to detect arms, ammunition, and explosives - both of the conventional and home-made varieties. They differ from their standard Explosive Detector Dog (EDD) counterparts in the fact that they are far more independent and work primarily off-leash via voice and directional commands issued by the handler.

In early 2010, the 341st TRS began assisting the Marine Corps in training Combat Tracker Dog Teams to recognize and follow a human quarry. This is the first program of its kind since the end of the Vietnam War. Upon deployment, Combat Trackers assist Unit Commanders by tracking enemy insurgents, IED makers, and snipers. This force multiplier offers the abilities to both stop current attacks and prevent future ones.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.