

# **386<sup>th</sup> EXPEDITIONARY SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

## **STATIONS**

Ali Al Salem, Kuwait

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

386<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Mission Support Group

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

US, Canadian Forces Exercise Insider Threat Response The Canadian Armed Forces is looking to mimic the US Air Force's "Check Six" program to counter insider threats, according to a March 30 release. So far, members of USAF's 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, based in the Persian Gulf region, have trained Canadian forces on active shooter scenarios, support for

joint task force components, retaining personal weapons, and disarming hostile persons, said MSgt. Antonio Martinez, the "Check Six" program lead. The Canadians also have begun the first phase of active shooter training with their own forces, he added. Although the training has been adapted for Canadian needs and the newly formed "auxiliary security forces" in theater, it also ensures that situational awareness and response will be similar in a coalition environment. Martinez noted active shooters and aggressors have conducted several high-profile attacks on USAF and coalition personnel, such as the 2011 Kabul International Airport attack on USAF air advisors, underscoring the need to promote resilience and awareness of the problem among coalition partners. 2015

Members of the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron base security zone patrol team have a more unique mission than the average security forces Airman while on deployment at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. The mission of the patrol team is to secure the base perimeter and build positive relationships with the locals who live in camps surrounding the base. The perimeter consists of two zones: the outer base security zone, which includes camps of host nation citizens, and the inner military exclusion zone, which is off limits to everyone except authorized military personnel.

"A typical day for the patrol team involves listening for and observing any suspicious activity within these zones," said Senior Airman Rhea Flambeau, a 386th ESFS patrolman. Encounters during his patrols often include unauthorized individuals and hazardous materials. He also comes across creatures that are unique to the surrounding desert region. "Sometimes we come across grazing camels," Flambeau said. "Most of them are friendly but some get scared off when you drive or walk near them."

The patrol team is also responsible for building relationships with locals in the area. The relationships help the security forces mission of protecting the base from intruders and other hazards. The Airmen use the visits with locals to communicate about issues that may impact base operations in an effort to solve problems before they occur. "Our Airmen visit local national and Bedouin camps within our base security zone," said Capt. Timothy Marriner, the 386th ESFS operations officer. "Their job is to develop relationships with camp owners with knowledge of the local area and activities and identify leaders who may have influence with the local government and public agencies."

Building relationships with the local population has proven effective and has led to a sharp decrease in incidents that can harm the wing mission; incidents include military exclusion zone intrusions and any actions harming flightline operations. "We have seen a 46 percent reduction in mission impacting events over the last deployment rotation within the base security zone because of our operations," Marriner stated. "These relationships help us protect the base against hazards and unauthorized personnel." The patrol team also works at connecting base leadership with influential members of the local area through key leadership engagements which assist in preventing possible negative impacts on flight operations.

"The sit downs with the locals help us get information about the local area and educate influential leaders about various hazards to our base including people pointing lasers at our aircraft," said Tech. Sgt. Brett Reed, a 386th ESFS craftsman. The meetings sometimes include dinner and tea inside camp tents and have had a big impact on the lives of patrol team members. "The people here are very welcoming and friendly," Reed said. "This mission has

given me a different view than what the world might present about people of the Middle East.”

Sounds of radio traffic fill the air, “Viper four this is Viper one, meet me at hilltop 140,” as patrols cautiously maneuver four-wheel drive vehicles through rough desert terrain at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia. Defenders of the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron stand ready to protect lives and secure the installation in a deployed environment by going outside the wire each day as part of Viper Patrol. “They are the first layer of integrated defense,” said Maj. Aaron Williams, 386th ESFS commander. “They assess if anything out of the ordinary is going on in the base security zone and they are very effective at what they do.”

The base security zone is a five-kilometer area stretching outward from the perimeter of the installation. This area outside the wire can pose a threat either by indirect fire or threats to coalition aircraft as they approach or take off. Part of the Viper Patrol duties include engaging locals within the security zone to build a rapport and establish a positive narrative on the mission. Periodically, social key leader engagements are organized in local camps to discuss and assess unusual activities in area. Typically, defenders are invited to eat or have tea. “This gives us an opportunity to let them know we are not just here for us,” Williams said. “We are here to help everyone involved.”

Occasionally, a “2K” incursion occurs. Typically, this is when locals unintentionally wander into an area within two kilometers of the installation and Viper Patrol defenders immediately step into action and make contact. This is more prevalent during the fall season when locals are encouraged by their government to camp outdoors. Many of the locals and their livestock reside within the five-kilometer security zone but cannot encroach upon the two-kilometer demarcation barrier without resistance.

“For me, going to the camps and interacting with the locals is the best part of the job,” said Master Sgt. Tyrel Askren, Viper Patrol noncommissioned officer in charge. “It gives us an opportunity to learn their customs and practice what we’ve learned at the next camp.” Askren is a reservist from the 931st Security Forces Squadron at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, and a civilian police officer on a federal Native American reservation. This is his third deployment in his 17-year career. He expressed the importance of this duty and said it’s important for defenders to carry themselves as ambassadors and be willing to communicate with locals. Williams emphasized how effective the Viper Patrol was to the fight and how proud he was of his defenders.

“I have a squadron of extremely professional defenders,” concluded Williams. “We draw on experiences of total force integration from civilian law enforcement and active duty and different bases. Our noncommissioned officers and senior NCOs do a phenomenal job of taking those pieces and putting it together creating the 386th ESFS and conducting air base defense on a day-to-day basis.”

At any given moment, the 386th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron stands ready to protect, defend and fight against all threats to the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing. Among those men and women who guard the wing’s high valued assets and people, is a newly formed group of defenders who dedicate their time, on-duty and off, to train for high risk situations. After an extensive selection process, the 386th ESFS High Risk Response Team was established in August

2017. The team is a highly trained response force, much more than the typical first responder. "We wanted to start the HRRT to have the flexibility and capability to better react to any critical response scenarios," said Capt. Cory Cook, 386th ESFS operations officer. "If a situation arises that requires specially trained personnel, we will bring the HRRT. The teams are always on alert and there is always a team prepared to respond in a moment's notice." The team focuses on close-quarters combat to effectively control any complex situations such as hostage situations, barricaded subjects, buildings rigged with explosives, aircraft hijackings and active shooter scenarios, to name a few.

"The importance of a team that can neutralize a threat, dominate a structure, lock down and clear the buildings within minutes is phenomenal," said Tech. Sgt. Domenic Mash, 386th ESFS training manager, deployed from the Pittsburgh International Airport Air Reserve Station. "Limiting casualties in any situation is the number one goal." "The HRRT is important for responding to scenarios that require a particular set of skills in order to neutralize threats while limiting the potential of serious injury or harm to innocent personnel," said Cook. Expanding on its skill sets, the HRRT recently incorporated military working dogs and coalition partner forces into its training. "The importance of having K-9 is pretty obvious; they can detect people as well as explosives to keep the team as safe as possible," said Mash. "Working with coalition military police ups our manning, gets more guns into the fight, and with them integrating with us, it allows them to know our movements and tactics, techniques and procedures."

The total force team regularly trains together to improve its tactics, techniques and procedures with intentions of continuously expanding its training to meet any type of threat that could be encountered. This highly trained response force is comprised of defenders who have full-time duties other than the HRRT. These dedicated Airmen devote their free time, training around the clock to maintain their readiness to defend U.S., coalition and host nation personnel, fight all adversaries during high risk operations and to preserve the ability to deliver decisive airpower. 2017

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#### Sources

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