711th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON

LINEAGE
711th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 6 Apr 1943
Activated, 1 May 1943
Redesignated 711th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945
Redesignated 711th Bombardment Squadron, Light, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Ordered to active service, 17 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 21 Mar 1951
Redesignated 711th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 12 Apr 1955
Activated in the Reserve, 18 May 1955
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957
Redesignated 711th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 17 Jun 1971
Activated in the Reserve, 30 Jul 1971
Redesignated 711th Special Operations Squadron, 1 Jul 1975

STATIONS
Ephrata AAB, WA, 1 May 1943
Rapid City AAB, SD, 13 Jun 1943
Harvard AAFld, NE, 1 Aug-11 Nov 1943
Rattlesden, England, 1 Dec 1943-c. 3 Aug 1945
Drew Field, FL, 18 Aug-7 Nov 1945
Long Beach Muni Aprt, CA, 27 Jun 1949-21 Mar 1951
Dallas NAS, TX, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
Eglin AF Aux Field #3 (Duke Field), FL, 30 Jun 1971

ASSIGNMENTS
447th Bombardment Group, 1 May 1943-7 Nov 1945
448th Bombardment Group, 27 Jun 1949-21 Mar 1951
448th Fighter-Bomber Group, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
919th Tactical Airlift (later, 919th Special Operations) Group, 30 Jul 1971
919th Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS
B-17, 1943-1945
T-7, 1949-1951
T-11, 1949-1951
Unkn, 1955-1957
C-130, 1971
AC-130, 1975-1995
MC-130E, 1995

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS
None (not manned), 1-25 May 1943
LTC Edward J. McRay Jr., 26 May 1943
Maj Donald S. Harris, 16 Mar 1945
LTC Robert D. Grandmontagne, 1 May 1945-unkn
Maj Jacques, c. Apr 1950-unkn
Maj Joseph L. Cromer, c. Jun 1955-unkn
LTC Roy E. Ayers Jr., by Dec 1971
LTC Neils R. Poulsen, by Sep 1979
Col Gary L. Patterson, 1 Dec 1980
LTC Lee T. Weiland Jr., 18 Jun 1982
Col Jerry R. Rankin, 4 Sep 1982
Unkn, Jan-Jun 1986
LTC William W. Tyre Jr., 1 Jul 1986
Col Ronald E. Edinger, 1 Dec 1990
Col Charles T. Curry, 11 Jul 1992
Col Gregory L. Hanson, 5 Dec 1994
LTC Michael N. Wilson, 7 Feb 1998

HONORS

Service Streamers
None

Campaign Streamers
World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Southwest Asia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**
Panama, 1989-1990

**Decorations**
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
30 Jul 1971-31 Mar 1973
1 Jul 1975-31 Jan 1977
1 Oct 1983-1 Jun 1985
1 Jun 1987-31 May 1989
8 Dec 1989-7 Jan 1990
1 Jun 1990-31 May 1992
1 Jun 1992-31 May 1994
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**
On a disc Azure, a lightning flash emitting from sinister chief bendwise sinister striking to dexter Or, surmounted by a knight chess piece between two dice in bend Argent detailed Sable, angled in perspective to show the number eleven in dexter chief and seven in sinister base, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “711TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQ” in Yellow letters.

**EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**
Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 lightning flash signifies the speed of response to the unit’s mission. The knight chess piece reflects the careful decision process, with the dice describing the consideration of risk, while representing the numerical designation of the unit.

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**
OPERATIONS

Discounting the A-37 units' earlier interlude, the Air Force Reserve became engaged in special operations in April 1974 when the 302d Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron converted from HH-34 rescue operations to CH-3Es at Luke AFB, Arizona. The squadron's new special operations mission required it to become proficient in helicopter day/night infiltration, exfiltration, reinforcement, and resupply operations. A second special operations unit was created when the 919th Tactical Airlift Group and its 711th Squadron converted from C-130Bs to AC-130As at Duke Field, Eglin AFB, on July 1, 1975. The AC-130A was a close support version of the C-130A and had more powerful engines. It was armed with 7.62-mm miniguns and 20-, 40-, and 105-mm cannon and equipped with searchlight and sensors, including infrared target acquisition and direct-view intensification sights.

The 711th SOS has 8 of the Air Force's inventory of 14 MC-130E Combat Talon I aircraft assigned to it. It transitioned to that aircraft from the AC-130A Spectre gunship beginning in September 1995. The mission called on the squadron to perform specialized day or night low-level delivery of troops or cargo into denied or hostile areas.

The surviving AC-130AS are flown today by the 711th SOS, 919th SOG of the Air Force Reserve which is based at Duke Field, Eglin AFB, Florida. The AC-130Hs are operated by the 16th SOS, 1st SOW at Hurlbert AFB, Florida. Many of the AC-130AS are older than the men who fly them today, however they continue to fill a vital role in our nation's defense. The AC-130Hs took part in Operation 'Eagle Claw' and Grenada. They now train for the next chapter in tomorrow's history.

711 TAS
RC-130A
57-0522
QB

55-4365 assigned to the AFRES at Mecham Field, Ft. Worth, Texas. The 2596th Air Reserve Flying Center, headquartered at Hensley Naval Air Station, Dallas, was the parent unit for the 448th Fighter Bomber Wing, which included the 711th Fighter Bomber Squadron. The 711th
FBS, itself, flew a succession of F-80s, F-84s, and commenced training in F-86Hs before they were inactivated in October 1957.

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Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 8 Dec 2010
Updated:

Sources
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.