

801st SPECIAL OPERATIONS AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The Squadron's mission is to perform all on-equipment maintenance in support of worldwide special operations missions in response to national command authority tasking for the MH-53J/M supporting the 20th Special Operations Squadron. The maintenance performed includes routine flight-line tasks, aircraft servicing and inspections, to include phase inspections, troubleshooting, repair, modifications, and launch and recovery for all assigned aircraft.

LINEAGE¹

16th Floating Repair Unit constituted, 18 May 1944

Redesignated 16th Aircraft Maintenance Unit (Floating), 29 May 1944

Activated, 2 Jun 1944

Inactivated, 18 Feb 1946

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

Reconstituted and redesignated 16th Helicopter Generation Squadron, 23 Aug 1995

Activated, 1 Oct 1995

Redesignated 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, 1 Oct 2002

Redesignated 1st Special Operations Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, 16 Nov 2006

Redesignated 801st Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 1 Jun 2009

STATIONS

Daniel Field, Georgia, 2 Jun 1944

Brookley Field, Alabama, 25 Jul 1944

Bates Field, Alabama, 7 Oct 1944

Point Clear, Alabama, 14 Oct 1944

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

Bates Field, Alabama, 6 Nov 1944

Brookley Field, Alabama, 23 Dec 1944

[From 11 Jan 1945-5 Feb 1946, unit stationed aboard the Auxillary Aircraft Repair Ship FS-215, renamed Colonel Donald R. Lyon on 9 Mar 1945] Los Angeles Port of Embarkation, California, 31 Jan 1945

Santa Monica, California, 1-19 Mar 1945

Honolulu Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, 28 Mar 1945

Apra Harbor, Guam, 30 Apr 1945

Tanapag Harbor, Saipan, 13 May 1945

Tinian Harbor, Tinian, 7 Aug-28 Dec 1945

San Francisco Harbor, California, 2 Feb 1946

Camp Stoneman, Californian, 5-18 Feb 1946

Hurlburt Field, Florida, 1 Oct 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

Warner Robins Air Service Command, 2 Jun 1944

Army Air Forces, Air Technical Service Command, 31 Aug 1944-12 Jan 1945

Pacific Ocean Area, c. Mar 1945

Guam Air Depot, 1 Apr 1945

United States Army Strategic Tactical Air Forces (later, Pacific Air Command, U. S. Army), 20 Sep-28 Dec 1945

Unkn, 2-18 Feb 1946

16th Logistics Group, 1 Oct 1995

16th Maintenance (later, 1st Special Operations Maintenance) Group, 1 Oct 2002

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Raymond James

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

Meritorious Unit Award

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009

1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2011

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[1 Oct] 1995-31 May 1997

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2004-1 Jun 2006

EMBLEM

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe indicates world-wide service and reflects the night and day maintenance. The eagle represents freedom. The wrench represents the maintenance mission of the squadron. The lightning bolt signifies the speed with which the mission is performed. (Approved, 8 Aug 1996)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS²

6/25/2009 Individuals hoping to find the 1st Special Operations Helicopter Maintenance Squadron may be busy for a while. Perhaps forever. The 1 SOHMXS was redesignated the 801st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron during a ceremony in Freedom Hangar June 19. "We stand today as the 801st AMXS, with two complimentary weapon systems which have very similar missions of infiltration, resupply, exfiltration and close air support missions during night, low level and/or adverse weather conditions, as well as the added benefit of air refueling the Talons provide," said Lt. Col. Raymond James, 801st AMXS commander.

Originally stood up as the 16th Floating Repair Unit in 1944, the 16th Helicopter Generation Squadron was reconstituted and re-designated in 1995 to care for all rotary aircraft in the 16th Special Operations Wing, including the MH-53J PAVE LOW helicopters and the MH-60G Pave Hawks, Colonel James said. The squadron was again redesignated in 2006 as the 1st SOHMXS when the entire 1st SOW was redesignated. The loss of the Pave Hawks ushered in the mission of maintaining the advance tilt rotor technology of the CV-22 Osprey for the squadron. Even more recently, the retirement of the PAVE LOWS brought about the addition of another weapons system to the 1 SOHMXS inventory, the MC-130H Combat Talon II along with the maintainers of the 15th Aircraft Maintenance Unit. "Men and women of the 801st SOAMXS, you now own and hold a special bond. You're the only self-sustaining two platform-squadron capable of deploying on a moment's notice with air refueling capability. Cherish this special bond and grow as one. As we deploy in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, take the lessons learned from the lineage of our RAF brethren, the original 801st. Persevere and never give up the fight!" So, if there is anyone that is seeking to find the 1st SOHMXS, they need not look further than the proud chests and busy hands of the 801st AMXS.

² Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.