

# 1<sup>st</sup> SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP



## LINEAGE

1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Group established, 21 Sep 1992  
Activated, 22 Sep 1992  
Redesignated 16<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993  
Redesignated 1<sup>st</sup> Special Operations Group, 16 Nov 2006

## STATIONS

Hurlburt Field, FL, 22 Sep 1992

## ASSIGNMENTS

1st Special Operations (later, 16th Special Operations then back to 1st Special Operations)  
Wing, 22 Sep 1992

## COMMANDERS

Col Norton A. Schwartz, 22 Sep 1992  
Col Jack R. Holbein Jr., 14 May 1993  
Col Gary W. Heckman, 6 Sep 1994  
Col Richard L. Comer, 28 Jun 1996  
Col James B. Connors, 25 Apr 1997  
Col Donald C. Wurster, 4 Sep 1997  
Col Lyle M. Koenig, 5 Jun 1998  
Col Robert G. Leonik, 24 Jan 2000  
Col Thomas R. O'Boyle, 27 Jun 2002  
Col Brian H. Greenshields, 6 Oct 2003  
Col Mark B. Alsid, 6 Jul 2005  
Col Dennis Pannell, 19 Jul 2007  
Col Shawn Cameron.

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Gallant Unit Citation

6 Oct 2001-30 May 2003

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999

1 Jul 2003-1 Jun 2005

1 Sep 2006-30 Jun 2007

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

22 Sep 1992-15 Apr 1994

1 Jun 1995-31 May 1997

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2003

1 Sep 2004-31 Aug 2006

## **EMBLEM**

The emblem of the 1st Special Operations Group is that of the 1st Special Operations Wing with the group designation in the scroll. It is symbolic of the organization's history and mission. The blue background represents the sky and the United States Air Force. The 13 red and white stripes stand for the nation's original 13 colonies, the first American force to engage in war to defend freedom. The silver dagger is winged to indicate the 1st Special Operations Wing brings force through the air. A golden lamp of knowledge reflects the wing's civic action role and indicates that members of the 1st Special Operations Wing serve as teachers, as well as warriors, in helping our allies determine their own way of life and form of government.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 1st Special Operations Group is one of four groups assigned to the 1st Special Operations Wing. The group plans, prepares, and executes special operations, foreign internal defense, and security assistance worldwide in support of theater commanders. The 1st SOG also manages Air Force Special Operations Command's formal school for AC-130H/Us and MC-130E/H

qualification and is the lead organization for distributive mission operations.

In order to accomplish its special operations mission, the group employs more than 70 fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft to provide day or night, all-weather access to hostile and/or denied airspace. More than 1,400 people are assigned to the group. There are 10 squadrons within the group with one at a geographically separated location:

1st Special Operations Support Squadron  
4th Special Operations Squadron, AC-130U  
6th Special Operations Squadron, MI-8, C-130E, AN-26, C-47  
8th Special Operations Squadron, CV-22  
9th Special Operations Squadron, MC-130P  
15th Special Operations Squadron, MC-130H  
16th Special Operations Squadron, AC-130H  
19th Special Operations Squadron, Formal Training  
20th Special Operations Squadron, MH-53J/M P  
319th Special Operations Squadron, U-28A

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.