

3rd SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON



LINEAGE

3rd Air Police Squadron, Bombardment, Light, constituted 10 Aug 1948
Activated, 18 Aug 1948
Redesignated 3rd Air Police Squadron, 1 Mar 1950
Inactivated, 25 Oct 1957
Activated, 3 Nov 1965
Organized, 8 Nov 1965
Redesignated 3rd Security Police Squadron, 15 May 1967
Redesignated 3rd Security Forces Squadron, 1 Jul 1997

STATIONS

Yokota AB, Japan, 18 Aug 1948
Johnson AB, Japan, 1 Apr 1950
Yokota AB, Japan, 14 Aug 1950
Iwakuni AB, Japan, 1 Dec 1950
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 24 Aug 1951
Johnson AB, Japan, 1 Oct 1954-25 Oct 1957
Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam, 8 Nov 1965
Kunsan AB, South Korea, 15 Mar 1971
Clark AB, Philippines, 16 Sep 1974
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 19 Dec 1991

ASSIGNMENTS

3rd Air Base Group, 18 Aug 1948-25 Oct 1957
3rd Combat Support (later, 3rd Support) Group, 8 Nov 1965
3rd Security Police Group, 16 Sep 1974
3rd Support Group, 19 Dec 1991
3rd Mission Support Group, 30 Sep 2002-present

COMMANDERS

Cpt Walter J. Brown, 18 Aug 1948
Cpt William R. Maylor Sr., 10 Jan 1949
Cpt Herman C. Mitchell, 5 Feb 1949
Cpt Clyde E. DeBaun, May 1949
Maj Chester K. Rhone, 1 Apr 1950
Cpt Clyde E. DeBaun, 14 Aug 1950
1LT Walter P. McBroom, 1 Dec 1950
Maj James A. Geyer, 3 Jan 1951
Cpt Herman V. Capps, 7 Mar 1951
Maj James A. Meyer, Jul 1951
Maj Herman V. Capps, Aug 1951
1LT Antonio D. Fermano, Feb 1952
Cpt James R. Crumley
Maj Don M. Rawls, Apr 1955
1LT Robert J. Delaney, Apr 1955
1LT Richard P. Isper, May 1955
Cpt John H. Mingus, Jul 1955
1LT Joseph A. Lynn, May 1957
Maj Harry Denzel, 5 Sep 1957
Maj John P. Cornett, 8 Nov 1965
Maj Donald H. Tidwell, 14 Oct 1966
LTC Kenton D. Miller, 14 Mar 1967
LTC Joseph A. Lynn, 1 Mar 1968
LTC Bernard H. Fowle, 8 Nov 1968
LTC Henry A. Curtin, 23 Oct 1969
Maj Ronald F. Kibler, 1 Jul 1970
Maj Edward E. Johnson, 24 Oct 1970
Not Manned 1 Nov 1970-15 Mar 1971
Maj Frederick C. Newak, Mar 1971
Maj John C. Bonnette, 19 Feb 1972
Maj John E. Lehning, 6 Mar 1973
Maj David W. Parr, 2 Mar 1974
Maj Joseph W. Barth, 16 Sep 1974
Maj David L. Hetzel, 15 Mar 1976
LTC Kenneth R. LaFon, 17 Aug 1977
Maj Maxey L. Harrell, 1 Jun 1978
Maj Larry D. Cadle, 14 Mar 1980
Maj Robert D. Reider, 11 Feb 1983
Maj Thomas H. Bethart, 2 Sep 1985
Cpt Thomas M. Anderson, 20 Oct 1986

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

Korea

UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951
Second Korean Winter 1951-1952
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter 1952-1853
Korea, Summer-Fall 1953

Vietnam

Vietnam Defensive 1965-1966
Vietnam Air 1966
Vietnam Air Offensive 1966-1967
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II 1967-1968
Vietnam Air/Ground 1968
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III 1968
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV 1968-1969
Tet 69/Counteroffensive 1969
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1969-1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive 1970
Southwest Monsoon 1970

Korea

UN Summer-Fall Offensive 1951
Second Korean Winter 1951-1952
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter 1952-1853
Korea, Summer-Fall 1953

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Vietnam Defensive 1965-1966
Vietnam Air 1966
Vietnam Air Offensive 1966-1967
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II 1967-1968
Vietnam Air/Ground 1968
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III 1968
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV 1968-1969
Tet 69/Counteroffensive 1969
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring 1969-1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive 1970
Southwest Monsoon 1970

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations (Vietnam)

8 Jun 1966-16 Apr 1967

6 Mar 1968-31 Jul 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

8 Nov 1965-30 Jun 1966

31 Jan-5 Mar 1968

1 Jan 1969-15 Apr 1970

16 Apr-31 Oct 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 July 1972-31 Dec 1973

3 Apr-31 May 1975

1 May 1980-30 Apr 1982

22 Mar-1 Apr 1986

1 Jan 1989-1 Jun 1990

1 Jan 1994-31 Dec 1995

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation

27 Jun -31 Jul 1950

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm

25 Nov 1965-19 May 1969

1 Apr 1966-31 Oct 1970

1 May-30 Sep 1970

EMBLEM

3rd Air Police Squadron emblem: The two stars represent the united effort put forth by the United States and South Vietnam in curbing Communist aggression. The Torch represents "freedom and liberty" for which both nations are jointly fighting. The deltas represent the USAF weapons systems used to protect freedom and maintain peace. The flaming Swords represent the 3rd Air Police Squadron's mission of providing security and protection over the Aerospace Weapons Systems which are employed in maintaining peace and securing the freedom of South Vietnam. The placement of the swords also shows the relationship of the Squadron's mission to the overall effort. The red, white and blue symbolize the colors of the United States. Red and Yellow symbolize the colors of the Republic of South Vietnam. Blue further symbolizes the medium through which the aircraft operate. White symbolizes peace and tranquility. Red and Yellow flames symbolize firmness of mind, strength and dedication.

On a blue disc bearing gold bamboo stalks a blue chevron abased and over-all a white star fimbriated red with the red tips terminating in red roundels and in chief supported by the lateral arms of the star two white roundels charged respectively with a brown Liberty Bell and a Korean bell, all within a narrow gold border. Emblem between two blue scrolls bordered gold, lower scroll inscribed with gold capital letters. The emblem is symbolic of the Squadron. Against the background of blue which alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, the bamboo

curtain refers to the squadron's service in Vietnam. The chevron symbolizes the unit's strength in support of its parent group and major command. The Marshal's Star represents security and protection provided by the squadron. The Liberty Bell, a symbol of freedom and justice, signifies the cause for which the United States fights. The Korean bell denotes the squadron's Campaign Participation Credits in the Korean Conflict. The emblem bears the National colors and the Air Force colors of gold and ultramarine and blue. (Approved, 9 Sep 1966)

MOTTO

ETERNALLY VIGILANT

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

During the Tet Offensive, Bien Hoa came under intense fire from Viet Cong forces intent on capturing the base. Unlike other air bases in South Vietnam, the ground defense of Bien Hoa was totally in the hands of the 3rd Security Police Squadron and 100 airmen on security augmentee duty, with no heavy artillery backup. The only obstacle standing between the Viet Cong and the flightline was Bunker Hill 10, a reinforced concrete bunker built by the French in the late 1940s, manned by two security police and a security augmentee. No one knows exactly how many Viet Cong attacked the base. Captain Reginald V. Maisey, the Operations Officer, 3rd Security Police Squadron, directed the defense from Bunker Hill 10 during the most intense early stages of the attack, often exposing himself to enemy fire in order to communicate with the Security Command Post and to direct the efforts of the defenders in the bunker until he was hit and killed by the enemy. He received the Air Force Cross and Bronze Star with "V" device for his valor in keeping the base from falling. Staff Sergeant William Piazza, the NCO in charge of four ammunition resupply teams on duty at the time of the attack, drove through enemy positions to resupply the troops defending the base. He joined the battle, engaging the enemy with his M-16 and a 40 mm grenade launcher. Attack helicopters and gunships joined the battle and provided flares to help defenders see the attacking force. When the helicopters ran out of flares, SSgt Piazza threw out hand-held flares and directed fire from outside the bunker. His efforts resulted in his award of the Silver Star. At the end of the attack, the official reports disagreed on the number of enemy casualties--one said 139 attackers were killed while another said 153 with 25 prisoners--two Airmen died in the attack, Captain Massey and a sentry caught out in the open in the initial assault. All 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing operations in Vietnam ceased on 31 October 1970 and personnel and equipment were reassigned to other units in preparation for the wing's departure to Korea the following spring.

Prior to the establishment of Philippine sovereignty over Clark AB, the perimeter surrounded an area of 10,563 acres and stretched for 27 miles. Clark AB was the largest air base outside of the U.S. Because of its size, the proximity of settlements to its perimeter, and the fact that its borders crossed rugged unpopulated terrain, Clark's security police used extraordinary patrol methods, including a mounted military patrol; the only one in the U.S. Armed Forces. The existence of this horse patrol which was housed at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division's Equestrian Center near the ammunition storage area on the Mabalacat Gate Road.

The mounted horse patrol (MHP) stables supported 20 horses in an area shared by recreation

services' horses. Each evening, MHP riders would report to the stables, saddle up and patrol the base. Most of their patrol routes went through the elephant grass, creek beds, and banana groves of the most remote areas of the base. The riders always patrolled in pairs, carried weapons for self-defense and maintained radio contact with central security control. The horse frequently sensed intruders before the riders. When a horse stopped, pricked up its ears and looked in a certain direction, a smart rider gave the horse his head. Sometimes the riders wore night-vision goggles, but the extra weight and danger of losing the valuable goggles in the jungle hardly made the effort worthwhile since the horses saw nearly as well.

After the eruption of Mt Pinutabo, the MHP troopers returned to find that all their horses, as well as the recreational horses, had survived. The stable buildings, which had relatively small roofs, had not collapsed. The horses were not in good condition though. Some Filipino stable hands had returned to feed and water the horses, but there were not enough hands to get each of the nearly 100 horses out for exercise, so the terrified animals were stiff and lame from standing in their stalls for nearly five days. MHP riders acted immediately to rejuvenate the horses. Even though there was little water on the rest of the base, it flowed freely at the stables. The stables were at a low area near the end of the water system. Water was trapped there, and the MHP used it to water and wash the horses as well as themselves. Fodder was a different matter. The horses' grain feed had to be supplemented by grazing the generous pastures around the stables, and the pastures no longer existed. SSgt Tony Price and others started an all-out effort to find enough hay to feed all the horses. For several days, the MHP spent every daylight hour walking the horses up and down a path where the road had once been to get the horses ready for riding. Also, they "recruited" several horses from the recreational stables next door to become MHP mounts. With the inactivation of the Squadron and the closure of the MHP, the horses were purchased at auction by Filipinos.

Clark security forces also had over 100 military working dogs assigned to their unit. When the order was given to evacuate on June 15, only half the dogs, the ones on duty, were evacuated. The other half were left in their kennels with food and water. One dog that was left behind did not survive. It was buried in a large police dog cemetery that held the remains of other dogs that had served well over the decades.

Across the base, security policeman continued to "eat ash" 24 hours a day. The Air Base Ground Defense scheme continued to work well, and thefts on the base dropped to a third of the level that existed prior to the evacuation of dependents and non-essential military personnel on June 10. The security police commander, attributed the success of his police to four factors. First, identifying intruders was easier. Prior to the evacuation, there were thousands of residents, domestics, and other workers on the base. After the evacuation, if a patroller saw someone who was not wearing BDUs walking in the housing area or near a supply warehouse, that person was not supposed to be there. Second, dog handlers were given permission to unleash their dogs to pursue intruders. Third, the entire 3d Security Police Group was present for duty, and they all worked 12-hour shifts. There were no distractions such as training meetings, dental appointments, or family matters to reduce the on-duty force. Fourth, the ABGD scheme put the same patrollers in the same area every day or night. The police learned their special turf well, knew likely intrusion routes and could see when something was out of place.

One security sector, in the Hill housing area closest to the volcano, nicknamed itself Dark Side

Control. The nearly continuous ash fall in the area and the frequent black ash clouds that drifted through made it look like the dark side of the moon. The unit set up operations in a base house that had been unoccupied before the evacuation. The Dark Side Control commander, Capt Richard Scott referred to his 58-man contingent as "very motivated and highly aggressive patrolmen." Dark Side Control, as well as many other control points, maintained a menagerie of abandoned pets. Many evacuees, who went to Subic Bay on June 10, left pets in their quarters, assuming a quick return to the base. Although residents who left pets behind, put out food and water, those supplies quickly ran out. Police patrolling the 3,000 houses, released many of the pets they discovered to fend for themselves, but some were adopted by the Ash Warriors. Dark Side Control had a black Labrador retriever, a couple of rabbits and a parrot. Unfortunately some pets died in their homes of starvation or dehydration.



Air Force Order of Battle
 Created: 16 Nov 2010
 Updated: 20 Nov 2013
 Published:

Sources

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 The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
 Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
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