

10 COMBAT WEATHER SQUADRON



MISSION

The 10 Combat Weather Squadron organizes, trains, and equips combat weather and supporting personnel for worldwide employment with the forces of the United States Army Special Operations Command, to provide meteorological and oceanographic information in and for the special operations theater of operations. Functions include tactical infiltration, data collection, analysis and forecasting, mission tailoring of environmental information, and operating in concert with host nation weather personnel.

The functions include providing detailed environmental operational impact analyses, generating mission-tailored target and route forecasts, conducting special weather reconnaissance and training foreign national or guerrilla forces.

Special operations weathermen are meteorologists with advanced tactical training to operate in hostile or denied territory. They gather and interpret weather data and provide intelligence from deployed locations while working primarily with Air Force and Army Special Operations Forces. They collect localized weather intelligence, assist mission planning, generate accurate and mission-tailored target and route forecasts in support of global special operations, conduct special reconnaissance and train foreign national forces. Other combat weather capabilities include: training members of U.S. Army Special Operations Command to take and communicate limited weather observations, collect upper air data, organize, establish and maintain weather data reporting networks, and determine host nation meteorological capabilities.

Every Army Special Operations Forces mission is planned using the intelligence and coordination of special operations weathermen.

Special operations weathermen are collocated and deploy with elements of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command's special forces groups, Rangers and Special Operations Aviation Regiment.

Special operations weathermen also join forces with combat controllers and pararescuemen to form highly trained AFSOC special tactics teams. A special tactics team frequently operates with Navy SEALs, Army Rangers and Special Forces in direct action, airfield seizure, foreign internal defense and unconventional warfare.

Operating in all climates, day or night, special operations weathermen maintain the highest standards of physical fitness and proficiency in the use of light weapons. Their training, as well as their unique mission, earns them the right to wear the gray beret.

Special operations weathermen conduct the same technical training as all Air Force weathermen. Unlike other special operations forces, special operations weather recruits only from existing resources within the weather career field.

Special operations weather training includes AFSOC's Advanced Skills Training based at Hurlburt Field, Fla., which produces combat ready special tactics operators through an intensive mentoring training philosophy.

Initial Skills U.S. Army Airborne School, Fort Benning, Ga. -- Trainees learn basic parachuting skills required to infiltrate an objective area by static line airdrop in a three-week course.

U.S. Air Force Basic Survival School, Fairchild Air Force Base, Wash. -- This two and a half-week course teaches basic survival techniques for remote areas. This includes instruction of techniques in survival, evasion and escape.

U.S. Air Force Water Survival School, Pensacola Naval Air Station, Fla. -- This one-week course teaches basic water survival techniques.

Initial Skills Training, Hurlburt Field, Fla. -- This unit-level training provides newly assigned weathermen those skills necessary to deploy and operate in permissive and semi-permissive environments. The six-week training includes basic communication, navigation and employment techniques, weapons training and small unit tactics.

Air Force Special Operations Command Advanced Skills Training -- Advanced Skills Training employs a "warrior training warrior" philosophy, teaching the skills necessary for successful service in the Special Tactics community. The six-month training school includes advanced communication, navigation techniques, employment techniques, weapons training and small unit tactics.

LINEAGE

10 Weather Squadron constituted, 15 Jun 1942

Activated, 24 Jun 1942

Inactivated, 3 Jul 1946
Activated, 1 Jun 1948
Inactivated, 20 May 1952
Activated, 16 Jun 1966
Organized, 8 Jul 1966
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1975
Redesignated 10 Combat Weather Squadron and activated, 1 Apr 1996

STATIONS

Detrick Fld, MD 1942
Charleston AAB, SC, 1942
Camp Stoneman CA, 1942
New Delhi, India
Rishna, India
Calcutta, India
Titagarh, India, 1945
Shanghai, China, 1946
McClellan AFB, CA 1948-1952
Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, 1966-1 Jun 72
Nakorn Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, 1975
Hurlburt Fld, FL, 1996

ASSIGNMENTS

Unknown
Tenth Air Force
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector
101 Weather Group (later 2101 Air Weather Group), 1948-1 Oct 1950
2059 Air Weather Wing
1 Weather Group, 1966-1 Jun 1972
1 Weather Wing, 1975
720 Special Tactics Group, 1996

COMMANDERS

Maj John S. Hambleton, 4 Jul, 1942
Maj William E. Marling, 16 Jul 1943
Lt Col Richard E. Ellsworth, 24 Aug 1943
Lt Col Joseph J. George, 6 Jul 1943
Lt Col Arthur A. McCartan, 21 Sep 1945
Capt Joseph W. Wilson, 6 May 1946
Maj Frank Arietta, 1 Jun 1948
Maj Dewitt N. Morgan, 12 Jul 1948
Maj Charles W. Yerkes, 1 Aug 1948
Maj Joaquin P. Hawley, 1 Jan 1950
Maj James H. Marsteller (Temporary), 1 May 1950

Maj Joaquin P. Hawley, 15 May 1950
Maj James H. Marsteller (Temporary), 25 May 1950
Maj Joaquin P. Hawley, 5 Jun 1950
Maj James H. Marsteller, 14 Aug 1950
Maj Frank Arietta, 1 Sep 1950
Lt Col John A. Hass, 20 Sep 1950
Lt Col Virgil E. Sandifer, 23 Mar 1951
Lt Col John A. Hass, 1951
Lt Col Virgil E. Sandifer, 1951
Lt Col Thomas J. Arbagast, 10 Sep 1951
Maj Charles W. Yerkes (Temporary), Mar 1952
Lt Col James H. Gillard, 8 Jul 1966
Lt Col Robert F. Mackenzie, 23 Aug 1966
Lt Col Thomas L. Scanlon, 11 Aug 1967
Lt Col Arthur L. Warren, 26 Jan 1968
Lt Col Harry B. Vaughan, 1 Aug 1968
Lt Col Herbert A. Million, 26 Jul 1969
Lt Col Albert J. Kaehn, Jr, 19 Jul 1970
Col Joseph K. Lambert, 1 Jul 1971
Col Berry W. Rowe, 1 Jul 1972
Col Robert G. Mathers, 20 Nov 1972
Col Patrick J. Breitling, 25 Feb 1973
Col Arthur Bidner, 15 Jul 1973
Lt Col Keith R. Grimes, 7 Jul 1974
Lt Col Earl E. Sands, 15 Jul 1975

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



First emblem; used during World War II, Donald Duck was used in this design although the emblem was apparently not designed by the Walt Disney Company.



Second emblem used during World War II, the elephants represented the area the squadron and its detachments were located.



10 Combat Weather Squadron emblem: Per bend Or and Sable, a cost Azure, three lightning bolts bendwise surmounting each other bendwise sinister to chief Vert, Purpure and Blue between in dexter base a parachute surmounted by a dagger erect Argent and in sinister chief a weathervane point to sinister of the third; all within a diminished bordure of the like. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "10 COMBAT WEATHER SQ" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "COELA BELLATORES" in Blue letters. Blue and 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 white parachute represents the airborne requirement for all personnel in the unit and the dagger links the Squadron to the Air Force Special Operations Command. The weathervane symbolizes the unit's previous designation as the 10 Weather Squadron. The lightning flashes, which signify the Squadron's rapid response capabilities, are identified by color: Green for Army, Purple for Joint Operations and Blue for Air Force.

MOTTO

COELA BELLATORES--Weather Warriors

OPERATIONS

The 10 Weather Squadron was initially activated at Derrick Field, Maryland, on the 24th of June of 1942. It was assigned to the 10 Air Force in New Delhi, India in January 1943. The unit operated with Col. Philip Cochran's 1st Air Commando Group throughout the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater.

The squadron made use of small weather teams that were inserted deep into enemy territory to provide weather observations. In August of 1944 Gen. Curtis Lemay authorized the unit to begin training Chinese guerillas in basic weather observation skills.

10 Weather Squadron had a detachment at each U.S. Army Air Force base and numerous isolated locations between them to give coverage of weather reports. Allied air forces used the weather information provided not only by 10 Weather, but by weather people of the RAF, CAF, Indian civilian weather service and the USSR. In addition, OSS men working behind the Japanese lines and Chinese Communist weathermen supplied weather information.

The distribution of stations sending and receiving weather information in the CBI required an extensive communication network be set up and this was often manned by members of AACS (Army Airways Communication Service). This communication network included radio and radio teletype equipment be established, connecting the many stations. It also was connected with other weather regions in the world such as the Pacific and Middle East and even Washington, D.C., by use of a "blind broadcast" transmitted four times a day. All messages (incoming and outgoing) were encyphered which meant cryptographers were needed in each weather station. This was usually the job of the weather observer in addition to his regular duties.

Weather station personnel included forecasters and observers, although some remote stations had no need for forecasters as they only reported their weather observations.

The 10's stations are located in some of the remotest spots in the world. The days roll into each other in an indistinguishable series of balloon runs, instrument readings, and radio reports. Moving personnel and weather and communications equipment into China was a difficult task at a time when every ounce flown over the Hump was questioned. Colonel Ellsworth finally acquired two C-47's of his own. These two ships, affectionately called "The Weather Airline," have carried most of the personnel and the great bulk of supplies to all corners of the beat.

The operation has involved grueling and spectacular flying. Ellsworth has flown the Hump more than 100 times and has piloted squadron ships to his farthest stations. Maj. Harry (Tex) Albaugh of San Antonio recently went home after completing some 1,300 hours of hazardous flying for the squadron. Last November Albaugh and Maj. Joseph Dillow, Squadron communications officer, flew from Peshawar in Northwestern India across the high end of the Himalayas, direct to Tihwa in Sinkiang.

In the Assam Valley in Northeastern India, jumping-off place for all Hump flying, Capt. Donald E. Martin and M/Sgt. Paul Bauer worked out their own tricks (still secret) for forecasting when fog would come down and when it would lift.

In East China a young forecaster, Lt. Lester Supiro, found a way of making hydrogen for inflating the balloons out of materials available in China. For ferro-silicon he substituted aluminum salvaged from wrecked planes and locally processed. This technique, which has saved up to 25,000 pounds of freight each month, has been adopted all over the world by the Army.

On the 16th of June 1966 the 10 WS was reactivated at Udorn Airfield, Thailand and tasked with conducting combat operations in Southeast Asia. The squadron was also tasked with providing support to US special operations units operating in the same theater. They accomplished this by establishing clandestine weather observations stations, and providing weather observation training to indigenous personnel. 10 WS special operations weather teams also provided critical weather support to US special operations forces involved in Operation Ivory Coast, the raid on the Son Tay POW camp. On June 30th 1972 the squadron relocated to Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base (RTAFB), and continued to conduct operations until its inactivation on September 30 1975.

Airmen from the 10 Combat Weather Squadron at Hurlburt Field, Fla., will integrate into the 720th Special Tactics Group on May 16, following an inactivation ceremony at the base earlier this month. Col. Kurt Buller, commander of the 720th STG, presided over the May 7 inactivation ceremony, according to a May 14 release "When you leave this building ... I want you to excel because there are a lot of people depending on you," said Buller. 2014

10 Weather Sq – Titagarh, India

Det #101 (671 NY) - Titagarh, India

Det #102 (884 NY) - Agra, India

Det #103 (491 NY) - Bangalore, India

Det #104 (492 NY) - Barrackpore, India
Det #107 (629 NY) - Chabua, India
Det #108 (631 NY) - Chakulia, India
Det #109 (214 NY) - Chittagong, India
Det #110 (433 NY) - Comilla, India
Det #111 (487 NY) - Dinjan, India
Det #112 (465 NY) - Calcutta, India
Det #113 (390 NY) - Feni, India
Det #114 (630 NY) - Gaya, India
Det #116 (886 NY) - Jiwani, India
Det #117 (886 NY) - Jodhpur, India
Det #118 (466 NY) - Jorhat, India
Det #119 (493 NY) - Kalaikundai, India
Det #120 (487 NY) - Kanjikoah, India
Det #121 (882 NY) - Karachi, India
Det #122 (493 NY) - Kharagpur, India
Det #123 (493 NY) - Hijli, India
Det #124 (433 NY) - Kurmitola, India
Det #125 (689 NY) – Lalmanir Hat, India
Det #126 (489 NY) - Ledo, India
Det #127 (489 NY) - Misamari, India
Det #128 (490 NY) - Mohanbari, India
Det #129 (629 NY) - Moran, India
Det #130 (885 NY) – New Delhi, India
Det #131 (690 NY) - Ondal, India
Det #132 (690 NY) - Panagarh, India
Det #133 (885 NY) - Peshawar, India
Det #134 (220 NY) - Piardoba, India
Det #135 (432 NY) - Ratmalana, Ceylon
Det #136 (881 NY) - Bombay, India
Det #137 (467 NY) - Sookerating, India
Det #138 (219 NY) - Shamshernagar, India
Det #139 (433 NY) - Tezgaon, India
Det #140 (429 NY) - Tezpur, India
Det #141 (215 NY) - Dudhkundi, India
Det #143 (432 NY) – Addu Atoll, India
Det #146 (671 NY) - Titagarh, India
Det #147 (690 NY) - Pandaveswar, India
Det #148 (690 NY) - Gushkara, India
Det #149 (492 NY) - Visagapatan, India
Det #150 (433 NY) - Tulihal, India
Det #151 (219 NY) - Shamshernagar, India
Det #152 (433 NY) - Agartala, India
Det #153 (433 NY) – Cox’s Bazaar, India

Det #154 (214 NY) - Chittagong, India
Det #156 (214 NY) - Chittagong, India
Det #157 (495 NY) - Gauhati, India
Det #201 to 246 were in China
Det (627 NY) – Changsha, China
Det (627 NY) – Chanyi, China
Det (627 NY) – Changkung, China
Det (627 NY) – Chengtu, China
Det (627 NY) – Hengyang, China
Det (627 NY) – Ipin, China
Det (430 NY) – Kweilin, China
Det (627 NY) – Liklang, China
Det (627 NY) – Lingling, China
Det (627 NY) – Luichow, China
Det (627 NY) – Poashan, China
Det (627 NY) – Sichang, China
Det (627 NY) – Sichow, China
Det (627 NY) – Suichwan, China
Det (627 NY) – Teuyung, China
Det (627 NY) – Yangkai, China
Det (488 NY) – Yunnanyi, China
Det #304 (218 NY) – Myitkyina, Burma
Det #305 (689 NY) – Shingbuiyang, Burma
Det #307 (689 NY) – Tingkwak Sakan, Burma
Det #308 (689 NY) – Warasup, Burma
Det #309 (218 NY) – Mogsung, Burma
Det #310 (218 NY) – Myitkyina, Burma
Det #311 (218 NY) – Myitkyina, Burma
Det #312 (218 NY) – Myitkyina, Burma
Det #313 (214 NY) – Chittagong, India
Det #314 (218 NY) – Shwebo, Burma
Det #315 (216 NY) – Bhamo, Burma
Det #316 (218 NY) – Kota, Burma
Det #324 (218 NY) – Myitkyina, Burma
Det #401 (671 NY) – Titagarh, Burma

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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