

12 OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 12 Operations Support Squadron is responsible for scheduling, intelligence, weather support, air traffic control, airfield management, flight records, international student training, life support and consolidated commanders support staff. It supports six squadrons, five unique aircraft, 49,000 annual flying hours, 10,000 square miles of airspace and three airfields. It also manages \$39 million in simulators/academic contracts for pilot instructor training and combat systems officer training.

LINEAGE

12 Airdrome Squadron constituted, 28 Dec 1942

Activated, 7 Jan 1943

Inactivated, 20 Aug 1948

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

12 Student Squadron constituted, 22 Mar 1972

Activated, 1 May 1972

12 Airdrome Squadron and 12 Student Squadron consolidated, 15 Dec 1991. Consolidated unit designated 12 Student Squadron

Redesignated 12 Operations Support Squadron, 15 Dec 1991

STATIONS

Greenville AAB, SC, 7 Jan 1943

Daniel Fld, GA, 11 Jan 1943

Hunter Fld. GA, 8 Feb-15 May 1943

Noumea, New Caledonia, 8 Jul 1943

Stirling Island, 20 Feb 1944

Sansapor, New Guinea, 24 Aug 1944

Puerto Princesa, Palawan, 14 Mar 1945
Florida Blanca, Luzon, 18 Nov 1946
Ham10n Fld, Guam, 1 May 1947
Nagoya AB, Japan, 10 Mar 1948
Itazuke AB, Japan, 22 Mar 1948
Miho AB, Japan, unkn-20 Aug 1948
Randolph AFB, TX, 1 May 1972

ASSIGNMENTS

III Bomber Command, 7 Jan 1943
Thirteenth Air Force, 8 Jul 1943
XIII Air Force Service Command, 13 Oct 1943
6 Air Service Group, 1 Feb 1945
XIII Air Force Service Command, 16 May 1945
XIII Fighter Command, 1 Feb 1946
85 Fighter Wing, by 1 Apr 1946
Twentieth Air Force, 1 May 1947
Fifth Air Force, 10 Mar 1948
315 Composite Wing, 22 Mar-20 Aug 1948
12 Flying Training Wing, 1 May 1972
12 Operations Group, 15 Dec 1991

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Kevin B. King
Lt Col Steven M. Tippetts

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Asiatic-Pacific Theater
New Guinea 1943-1944
Northern Solomons 1943-1944
Southern Philippines 1945

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 May 1972-28 Feb 1973
1 Jan 1975-30 Jun 1976
23 Jan 1985-22 Jan 1987
1 Jan 1987-31 Dec 1988

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991
1 Jan 1992-30 Jun 1993
1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994
1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1995
1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM



12 Student Squadron patch

Significance: The emblem is symbolic of the unit and the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, as well as the National colors, are used in the design. The color blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, and yellow to the sun and excellence of personnel in assigned tasks. Golden yellow is also the squadron color. The elements of the design signify the wisdom of the owl in uniting the parts of the torch of the Air Training Command emblem. The owl symbolizes the PIT trainee who obtains knowledge from academics taught in the 12th Student Squadron. The lightning bolts are from the old 3517th Student Squadron emblem. They represent the dual function of the unit, academic and officer training. The significance of the color black is the limitness of knowledge and space. (Approved, 10 Jul 1972)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Imagine having a second to make a life-or-death decision. For that reason, the 12th Operations Support Squadron's Aircrew Flight Equipment and Survival Course impacts

aviation safety throughout the Air Force. With approximately 1,200 students certified or recertified every year, the program teaches pilots how to properly egress from T-1A Jayhawk, T-6A Texan II and T-38C Talon aircraft. "I like to think that I enhance the survival skills of all the people that fly," said Reynaldo Gutierrez, 12th OSS lead course instructor. "The main goal for them is to survive, to come back to fly and fight another day; to come back to their missions and families."

The class teaches aircrew flight equipment, ejection seat operation, emergency parachute deployment and ground survival. "It is important because if you encounter yourself in the situation where you have to bail out of the aircraft in a split second time you don't want to be in a situation where you made it out of the aircraft, you possibly could have lived but then you end up putting yourself into more harm by not having the proper training or knowing what is available to you," said 1st Lt. Austin Anderson, 14th Student Squadron, Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

While egressing is a rare occurrence, Lt. Col. Spencer Godwin, 435th Fighter Training Squadron, recalled a debriefing after a squadron mate successfully egressed. "It's a significant emotional event when that happens," he said. "Whether you have time to prep or it just happens instantaneously, you want your training to kick in versus having to think about it. "That's the reason for egress training once a year." For pilots and instructors it's crucial, stated Gutierrez.

"Some of these students are going to become instructors," he said. "You have to show them how to do it correctly because they are role models." When he hears that an Air Force pilot needed to egress, Gutierrez doesn't want to wonder "how did I teach them?" "Before they go out the jet they need to put on their gear and they need to test it," he said. "Then I teach them egress, how to strap into the ejection seat how to do the preflight of the ejection seat. I teach air and ground egress."

Next he teaches how to fly the parachute. How to go through trees or power lines. How to land. "Once they land I teach them local area survival, survival techniques and tactics like to drink the water, turn off the beacon, get on the radio, treat for shock, avoid snakes," Gutierrez said. There is a diverse audience for egress training: novice and seasoned pilot instructors, distinguished visitors, introduction fighter fundamentals pilots, Air Force academy cadets and combat camera photographers.

"If you don't have the training and you don't have the skills no amount of luck is going to be able to save you," Gutierrez said. "That's what we are doing here, we are building survival skills; luck is good but I wouldn't count on it. Be skilled, know your systems, know how to use your systems and be competent."

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 12 Dec 2010
Updated: 10 Jul 2021

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.