

23rd SPECIAL TACTICS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Constituted 23rd Fighter Control Squadron (Special) on 10 Jan 1943. Activated on 6 Feb 1943. Redesignated 23rd Fighter Control Squadron on 16 Sep 1943. Inactivated on 29 Oct 1945. Disbanded on 8 Oct 1948. Reconstituted, and consolidated (1 Mar 1992) with 1723rd Combat Control Squadron. Redesignated 1723rd Special tactics Squadron on 1 Apr 1990; 23rd Special Tactics Squadron on 31 Mar 1992.

STATIONS

Hurlburt Fld, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

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 globe stands for the worldwide commitment of Special Tactics Combat Controllers and

Pararescuemen. The two shades of blue signify night and day deployment capability. The parachute and the dagger denote infiltration and commando operations respectively. The arrows represent triple threat capabilities--land, sea, or air. The lightning bolt indicates quick action medical and communications capabilities. The lamp of knowledge reflects the civic action role of the unit, i.e. the unit functions as teachers and medical providers as well as warriors.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The unit trains, equips and employs combat control, pararescue, and support personnel in response to Presidential/Secretary of Defense taskings. The primary task is to integrate, synchronize, and/or control the elements of air and space power in the objective area.

The unit performs austere airfield control, terminal attack control, personnel rescue and recovery, assault zone assessment, battlefield trauma care, direct action, and special reconnaissance.

Source: Fact Sheets - 23rd Special Tactics Squadron

23d STSQ, Blue Team

23d STSQ, Gold Team

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Mission: The unit trains, equips and employs combat control, pararescue, and support personnel in response to Presidential/Secretary of Defense taskings. The primary task is to integrate, synchronize, and/or control the elements of air and space power in the objective area.

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Emblem Significance: 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 globe stands for the worldwide commitment of Special Tactics

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Combat controllers of the 23d Special Tactics Squadron were deployed to Tuzla, Bosnia, in early 1996 where they were working in all three of the sectors controlled by British, French and American forces in Bosnia. While there, they were tasked with keeping commanders of the three special operations command control elements in radio contact with the special forces liaison coordination elements in the field. They also provided the six non-NATO countries with services such as assault zone surveys, communications and air traffic control.

Combat controllers from the 23d STS also deployed to Somalia during relief efforts there. During Operation United Shield in Mogadishu, and for a period of 72 hours, they oversaw more than 150 aircraft sorties from the airport.

Personnel from the 23d STS were involved in the recovery of downed 2 US Air Force pilots during Operation Allied Force. The two pilots involved were flying an F-16 and an F-117 aircraft.

Personnel from the 23d STS took part in the 2000 edition of the Canadian Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) from September 15-20, along with personnel from the 24th STS, based at Pope AFB, NC, and the 210th RQS, based at Kulis ANGB, AK. This was the first time in 15 years that American units had participated in the annual Canadian exercise.

The 23d Special Tactics Squadron comprises pararescuemen, combat controllers and various support specialties into one cohesive team. This unit provides a force multiplier capability for unconventional warfare in the worldwide arena.

The mission of the 23d STS is to:

Deploy specially organized, trained, and equipped forces to survey and assess assault zones. Establish and control landing and drop zones in the most austere and inhospitable regions of the world.

Set up and operate forward area refueling and rearming points.

Establish and manage casualty collection, triage and evacuation sites.

Participate in Air Force Special Operations Command foreign internal defense efforts.

Provide special operations terminal attack control capability in hostile environments.

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specially organized, trained, and equipped forces to survey and assess assault zones. Establish and control landing and drop zones in the most austere and inhospitable regions of the world. Set up and operate forward area refueling and rearming points. Establish and manage casualty collection, triage and evacuation sites. Participate in Air Force Special Operations Command foreign internal defense efforts. Provide special operations terminal attack control capability in hostile environments. Special tactics teams employ into hostile or denied areas via a variety of tactical insertion methods including: Static line or military free fall parachuting; SCUBA or amphibious means; Overland infiltration (mounted or unmounted); and fixed or rotary wing aircraft. Special Tactics personnel are skilled in demolitions, weapons, air traffic control, small unit tactics, trauma medical response, communications, and forward weather observation. Special Tactics teams routinely employ in support of contingencies and humanitarian aid missions worldwide.

CONTAINS HISTORICAL RECORD DATA FOR 1723 COMBAT CONTROL SQUADRON, HURLBURT FIELD, FL WITH SUBORDINATE DETACHMENTS AT RHEIN MAIN AIR BASE, GERMANY AND CLARK AIR BASE, PHILIPPINES. MISSION OF 1723 COMBAT SQUADRON TO ORGANIZE, TRAIN, AND EQUIP COMBAT CONTROL TEAMS (CCT) TO RAPIDLY ESTABLISH ASSAULT ZONES AND CONTROL EXPEDITIONARY AIRFIELDS. MISSION INCLUDES CONDUCTING RECONNAISSANCE OF POTENTIAL ASSAULT ZONE SITES, PLACEMENT OF ENROUTE AND TERMINAL NAVIGATIONAL AIDS, PROVIDING COMMAND/CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS, AND REMOVAL OF OBSTACLES AND UNEXPLODED ORDNANCES WITH DEMOLITIONS. LT COL JOHN T CARNEY JR SERVED AS FIRST COMMANDER OF 1723 COMBAT CONTROL SQUADRON, FOLLOWED BY LT COL ROBERT A. COULTER, AND MAJ CRAIG F. BROTCHE ON 7 AUG 87. COMMANDERS QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES LETTERS INCLUDE INFORMATION ON SIGNIFICANT MISSIONS, EXERCISES, TRAINING ACTIVITY, INSPECTIONS, TEST PROJECTS, CONFERENCES, INDIVIDUAL AND UNIT ACCOMPLISHMENTS, IMPORTANT VISITORS, AND COMMUNITY PROJECTS.



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources