

34 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

34 Transport Squadron constituted, 2 Feb 1942
Activated, 14 Feb 1942
Redesignated 34 Troop Carrier Squadron, 4 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1945
Activated, 19 May 1947
Inactivated, 10 Sep 1948
Redesignated 34 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 23 May 1952
Activated, 10 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 18 Jan 1955
Redesignated 34 Special Operations Squadron, 26 Feb 2010
Activated, 9 Apr 2010

STATIONS

Olmsted Field, PA, 14 Feb 1942
Bowman Field, KY, 18 Jun 1942
Florence AAB, SC, 4 Aug-11 Oct 1942
Aldermaston, England, 1 Dec 1942 (operated from Blida Airdrome, Algeria, 29 May 1943-7 Mar 1944)
Welford, England, 6 Nov 1943
Spanhoe, England, 6 Feb 1944
Amiens, France, 6 Apr-May 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, May-31 Jul 1945

Langley Field, VA, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
Brady AB, Japan, 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955
Hurlburt Field, FL, 9 Apr 2010

ASSIGNMENTS

315 Transport (later, 315 Troop Carrier) Group, 14 Feb 1942-31 Jul 1945
315 Troop Carrier Group, 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
315 Troop Carrier Group, 10 Jun 1952-18 Jan 1955
1 Special Operations Group, 9 Apr 2010

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
C-46, 1952-1955
U-28, 2010

COMMANDERS

Lt Col John W. Lacy, 17 Feb 1942
Lt Col Donald G. Dekin, 17 May 1942
Maj James S. Smith, 5 Nov 1944-unkn
None (not manned), 19 May 1947-10 Sep 1948
Lt Col Henry L. Wheelhouse, by Jul 1952-unkn
Lt Col Thomas R. Cook Jr., unkn
Lt Col Charles A. Chilcote, 8 Dec 1954-18 Jan 1955
Lt Col Justin R. Hoffman, 9 Apr 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe

Korean War

Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Third Korean Winter

Korea Summer-Fall, 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6] Jun 1944

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
[10 Jun 1952]-27 Jul 1953

EMBLEM



34 Troop Carrier Squadron emblem





34 Special Operations Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, a cloud formation Argent, overall a Pegasus Gules in flight, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "34TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 winged horse, Pegasus, is symbolic of the rapid transport through the air as, on occasion, Pegasus carried heroic figures of Greek mythology from place to place "with the speed of the wind." The horse, which is universally accepted as a beast of burden, is also one of the most dignified and proud animals. The background of the disc represents the sky, and the cloud without base indicates the troop carrier mission of aerial movement through the sky anywhere on the globe. Special colors in this emblem signify that this squadron is known as the "Red Squadron" of the 315th Troop Carrier Group, Medium. The insignia was adopted in 1954, which was the Year of the Horse in the Japanese calendar system.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

World War II operations included airborne assaults on Normandy, Holland, and Germany, as well as aerial transportation of troops, supplies, and materiel in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) and Mediterranean Theater of Operations (MTO).

Not manned, 1947-1948.

Aerial transportation between Japan and Korea during the Korean War.

Activated at Hurlburt Field, FL in Apr 2010 for special operations missions.

Four Air Force special operators were killed Feb. 18 when their single-engine U-28 aircraft crashed in Djibouti on the Horn of Africa, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said Feb. 21. "This is obviously a tragic incident," Little said about the accident, which occurred at the Djibouti-Ambouli International Airport in Djibouti City. Camp Lemonnier, located nearby, is the main base of operations for U.S. Africa Command in the Horn of Africa. The Airmen were conducting a surveillance and reconnaissance mission, Little said. "There is absolutely no indication of any kind

of enemy involvement in the downing of the plane," he added. Little said the Air Force mission was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, which includes operations in Afghanistan, the Philippines, the Horn of Africa and elsewhere. The special operators, all from Hurlburt Field, Fla., were: Capt. Ryan P. Hall, 30, of Colorado Springs, Colo., assigned to the 319th Special Operations Squadron. Capt. Nicholas S. Whitlock, 29, of Newnan, Ga., and 1st Lt. Justin J. Wilkens, 26, of Bend, Ore., both assigned to the 34th Special Operations Squadron.- Senior Airman Julian S. Scholten, 26, of Upper Marlboro, Md., assigned to the 25th Intelligence Squadron. Little said a dignified transfer ceremony took place at the Dover Air Force Base military mortuary in Delaware early this morning "for our returning fallen heroes who were involved in this crash." A safety board investigation has been initiated to determine the cause of the incident, according to a statement on the Africa Command website. The accident occurred at about 8 p.m. local time, the statement said, and U.S. military personnel were dispatched to the scene. "We need to understand precisely what happened in this tragic incident," Little said. Spatial disorientation among the aircrew caused the fatal crash of an Air Force Special Operations Command U-28A ISR aircraft in Djibouti, Africa, earlier this year, announced command officials on Oct. 24. All four crewmembers were killed when the aircraft went down just outside of the Ambouli International Airport on Feb. 18 as it was returning from a combat mission. AFSOC's accident investigation board found that "the crew had fallen victim to spatial disorientation. "The evidence demonstrates that the [mission crew] did not recognize the position of the aircraft and, as a result, failed to take appropriate corrective actions," states the AIB report "The crew never lost control of the aircraft" and "there were no indications of mechanical malfunction. The mishap crew was deployed to the 34th Expeditionary Special Operations Squadron at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. The aircraft, tail number 07-0736, was assigned to Hurlburt Field, Fla. Valued at \$14.5 million, it was destroyed in the mishap. 2012

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.