

9 COMBAT OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

9 Space Operations Squadron operates the Joint Space Operations Center, performing combat operations, plans, strategy and intelligence assessments enabling the commander, Joint Functional Component Command, Space to command and control space forces by providing worldwide space effects to combatant commanders.

The 9 Space Operations Squadron is an Air Force Reserve associate unit to the 614th Space Operations Squadron. The members of the 9 SOPS augment the 14th Air Force Joint Space Operations Center (JSpOC), which provides the Commander, Air Force Space Component to U.S. Strategic Command, the capability to monitor the mission status of all Air Force space components. These missions include space surveillance, missile warning, space launch, navigation and precision timing, communications, weather, and satellite command and control. In addition, the JSpOC enables the COMSPACEAF to task Air Force space forces to provide space effects for warfighters worldwide.

LINEAGE

761 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 19 May 1943

Activated, 1 Jul 1943

Redesignated 761 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 29 Sep 1944

Inactivated, 26 Sep 1945

Redesignated 9 Reconnaissance Squadron, Very Long Range, Photographic, 29 Apr 1946

Activated, 20 Jun 1946

Inactivated, 20 Oct 1947

Redesignated 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Electronics and Weather, 21 Jul 1953

Activated, 11 Nov 1953

Redesignated 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Photo-Jet, 15 May 1965

Redesignated 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 1 Oct 1966

Inactivated, 31 Aug 1971

Redesignated 9 Space Operations Squadron, 5 Feb 1999

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1999

Redesignated 9 Combat Operations Squadron, 3 Jun 2017

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAF, NM, 1 Jul 1943
Kearns AAF, UT, 31 Aug 1943
Chatham AAF, GA, 29 Oct 1943-3 Jan 1944
Spinazzola, Italy, 11 Feb 1944-6 Jun 1945
Waller Field, Trinidad, 15 Jun 1945
Natal, Brazil, 30 Jun-26 Sep 1945
Johnson AB, Japan, 20 Jun 1946
Yokota AB, Japan, Sep 1946-20 Oct 1947
Shaw AFB, SC, 11 Nov 1953
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1969-31 Aug 1971
Vandenberg AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1999

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jun-1 Oct 1959
MacDill AFB, FL, 21 Oct-30 Nov 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

460 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1943-26 Sep 1945
314 Composite Wing, 20 Jun 1946-20 Oct 1947
363 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 11 Nov 1953
363 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Feb 1958
4402 Tactical Training Group, 1 Jul 1966
363 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Feb 1967
75 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Sep 1969
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 15 Jul-31 Aug 1971
310 Space Group, 1 Oct 1999
310 Operations Group, 7 Mar 2008

ATTACHMENTS

3 Bombardment Group, c. 25 Sep 1946-21 Apr 1947
71 Reconnaissance Group, 22 Apr-7 May 1947
3 Bombardment Group, 7 May-20 Oct 1947

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
F-7, B-17, 1946
F-2
F-9, 1946-1947
F-13, FB-17, 1947
RB-26, 1954-1956
RT-33, 1955-1956

WT-33, 1956
TB-25, 1956
RB-66, 1956
WB-66, 1957
RF-4, 1965-1967, 1969-1971

COMMANDERS

Capt Robert L. Spear, Jul 1943
Maj William B. Campbell, Sep 1943
Lt Col Robert L. Spear, Nov 1943
Maj Henry L. Downey, 19 Jan 1945
Unkn, Apr-26 Sep 1945
Maj Donald C. Surles, 20 Jun 1946
Lt Col William L. Gray, 24 Jul 1946-20 Oct 1947
Lt Col Charles A. Callahan, 1 Jan 1954
Lt Col Robert G. Williams, 14 Oct 1955
Lt Col Allen S. Webb, 5 Aug 1957
Lt Col William E. Hanes, 5 Jun 1959
Lt Col Walter C. Goodson, 18 Feb 1961
Commander Chester E. Kingsbury (USN), 6 Jun 1962
Lt Col Everett G. Walker, 1 Oct 1963
Lt Col Duane A. Kuhlmann, 7 Apr 1964
Capt Henry O. Porter, Jul 1966
Unmanned, 20 Jan 1968-31 Aug 1969
Lt Col James P. Estes, 1 Sep 1969
Lt Col Raymond L. Norman, 1 Mar 1970-31 Aug 1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Rome-Arno
Southern France
North Apennines
Po Valley
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Austria, 26 Jul 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

23 Oct-24 Nov 1962

1 Nov 1969-31 May 1971

15 Jul-31 Aug 1971

1 Oct 2002-30 Jul 2004

1 Aug 2004-31 Jul 2006

1 Aug 2006-31 Jul 2008

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2003

EMBLEM



761 Bombardment Squadron





9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: On a yellow disc, edged black, a stylized hawk of the second in flight toward dexter base. (Approved, 14 Oct 1946)



9 Space Operations Squadron emblem: Azure, an eagle Sable stooping bendwise sinister fimbriated Argent, eyed Gules talons of the first (Silver Gray) highlighted of the like (White) and grasping in each talon a lightning bolt bendwise sinister Or fimbriated of the third; all within a diminished bordure of the first. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "9 SPACE OPERATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "SEMPER SUMMATUM" 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 eagle symbolizes the control over the high ground maintained by today's aerospace operations. The lightning bolts represent the power which the unit commands. The talons are for the control the unit maintains over that power. The eyes of the eagle allude to the intensity with which the squadron executes the mission. (Approved, 6 May 1999)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Combat in MTO and ETO, 19 Mar 1944-26 Apr 1945.

During 1953, Tactical Air Command received its first electronic warfare planes, five B-26s and a B-25 modified to carry jammers and receivers. The aircraft were attached to the 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. The planes carried APR-4 and APR-9 receivers, and APA-17 direction finders; some were also fitted with jammers, for the most part APT-Is, and chaff dispensers. Although the unit's war role was to fly Ferret and stand-off jamming missions, it aroused little interest within the command and little was expected of it. The main task assigned to the 9 TRS was to provide jamming training for US radar operators.

Electronic and weather reconnaissance, 1954-1966.

TAC's initial RB-66C, received at Shaw AFB in 1956 was assigned to the 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. Only a few more of the aircraft were delivered before mid-year, but by the end of December, more than half of the RB-66C contingent had reached the Air Force. Although the aircraft's initial all-weather capability was limited, arrival of the RB-66Bs permitted the long overdue replacement of the RB-26s, and speeded phase-out in early 1957 of the RB-57As.

The spring delivery of 3 interim WB-66Ds to the 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron was an important milestone for the Tactical Air Command. The synoptic weather mission, which covered a large geographical area simultaneously, was a relatively new development within the command. Theoretically, a few modified T-33 trainers constituted TAC's weather reconnaissance fleet. In reality, these planes awaited delayed equipment kits. Because of the obsolescence of the WB-26s, TAC flew the partially equipped T-33s to gather high-altitude weather information, relying essentially on the data observed by the aircraft's back-seat weatherman. Although the early WB-66Ds did not meet all of TAC's needs, their arrival did signify a long overdue operational improvement.

World-wide deployment capabilities were still being tested when, on Feb. 15, 1961, three WB-66 aircraft of the 9 TRS and eight RF-101 aircraft of the 29 TRS deployed in support of "Operation Long Pass." This exercise was conducted by units of the Strategic Army Corps and the Composite Air Strike Force at Clark AB, Stotsenberg Training Area, Philippines.

10 March 1961 RB-66C 54-0471, of the 9 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, suffers explosion in starboard engine on climb-out from Shaw AFB, South Carolina, and attempts emergency landing in zero-zero visibility weather at Donaldson AFB at Greenville, South Carolina. On second attempt, aircraft strikes embankment to right of runway threshold, slides onto airfield, burns. Crew escapes with only minor injuries.

Flew classified film during Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962.

Routinely deployed aircraft and crews to SEA, 1965-1966.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Shaw AFB, SC, 1956*. Army and Navy Publishing Company of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, LA. 1956.