

132nd SECURITY POLICE FLIGHT

LINEAGE

132nd Weapons Systems Security Flight
132nd Security Police Flight, 8 July 1989

STATIONS

Des Moines, IA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Clark, 1980-1983
Cpt Fitzgerald, 1984-1987
Cpt Langenwalter, 1988

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Members of the Security Police and Law Enforcement Flight have performed their duties on four continents since 1980: North America, South America, Europe, and Asia. In 1980, under the command of Captain Harry E. Clark, the 132d Weapons System Security Flight enjoyed three memorable deployments.

During February, we deployed to sunny Gulfport, MS, where we trained in the use of the M-60 machine gun. With the addition of a limited air base defense mission and the new associated weaponry, the requirement to complete this foreign training was a must. Long hours were spent

under the supervision of our active duty counterparts to perfect our skills with this weapon. Later that year (August 1980), we proceeded north to Volk Field, WI, to fine tune our skills during an Operational Readiness Exercise. Our final deployment during 1980 was to Howard AFB in Panama.

1982 was wrapped up with deployments. Back to Mountain Home AFB, along with security members from our sister units, Sioux City and Sioux Falls. While there, we replaced the 366th Security Police allowing them to attend Silver Flag ALPHA training in the Nevada Desert. Members worked priority B and C ramps, guarding USAF aircraft and Weapon Systems. And finally, we went to Howard AFB, Panama.

Capt Harry E. Clark would leave our unit in January 1984. TSgt Gary A. Fitzgerald was commissioned and appointed as Commander of the 132d Weapons Security Flight in 1984. Along with a new commander during this year, the Security Flight was restructured; our manning changed from 47 to 44; and our mission changed to Air Base Ground Defense.

In 1985, our SP unit ventured across the sea England for a joint exercise with our sister units from Sioux City and Sioux Falls. We spent three weeks getting to know our Checkered Flag base and the sights, customs, and courtesies of Europe. We visited various countries to include: Scotland, France, Denmark, and Knottingham. After England, our year was rounded off with deployments to McDill AFB, Florida and Howard AFB, Panama.

On 8 July 1989, we officially became the 132d Security Police Flight. With this change, we were comprised of three sections: 132d Law Enforcement, 132d Combat Arms Training and Maintenance, and the 132d Internal Defense Flight. In August, we were off again to Volk Field, WI, for an ORE. This was a great learning experience for all who attended. Long hours, with little sleep, made us aware that we would not do it this way during the real inspection.

During 1990, our deployment and tasking schedule would be a full and unique one. We would become involved with Navy personnel, radar units, and see the end of an era in the Panama Canal Zone. Our year started with people being deployed for our final deployment to Howard AFB, Panama. This time, however, things were a little different. Threatcons were in effect, our troops lived in "Harvest Bare" quarters, and all dependents were located on base. Travel off-base was prohibited to mention just a few items. There appeared to be a large build-up of military presence in the area. As we later learned, within days of our troops returning home, this was a build-up of operation "Just Cause."

We continued our year in Volk Field WI, performing an ORI in April. Much to everyone's surprise, temperatures plunged below zero, and we encountered snow. As a force of 61 (LE, CATM, IDF) survived the torture of this ordeal, we looked forward to warmer climates. A week later, we were in a C-130 on our way to the Bahamian Island called "Great Iguana." Our mission was security support for the 133rd Tactical Control Squadron from Fort Dodge, IA. We were involved with "Project ANGIE" (Air National Guard Interdiction Efforts). Once one overlooked the minor inconveniences, this was a great deployment.

Roosevelt Rhoads NAS in Puerto Rico. Here we encountered Navy ideas of existence.

Housing, although adequate, was not quite what we were used to in the Air Force. Six-person rooms, no air conditioning, and not exactly quiet was the norm. Also, the Navy did not understand the Air Force requirement for aircraft security. Now ropes and nets, these appeared important enough to the Navy for armed guards. Compromises were made, and all branches were able to get the jobs done. Off time was filled with beautiful beaches, trips to San Juan, and generally enjoying the warm tropical weather. We finished 1990 with another trip to Nellis AFB, anxiously waiting for 1991. As 1991 began, so did Desert Shield/Storm. With information gathered from various sources, it became apparent that we were going to be activated. On 8 February 1991, it happened.

Combat Arms and Maintenance Section has undergone a series of changes in the last decade, probably the most important of which was a command change by which the unit was absorbed by the Security Police Flight. Initially several concerns were expressed by members of the section regarding future role assignments within that new mission; the transition has gone smoothly, and the primary responsibilities have remained clearly defined to the mutual satisfaction of all.

The CATM section grew from a two-person to a five person function over the last ten years. This was due to the increased demand for the instructor's time in instruction as well as range dedicated time for many new and different weapons systems now in place. The section now has primary responsibility for coordinating training for over 1100 troops, many which are required to be multi-qualified.

Also with the annual two-week deployments all other sections find themselves involved in, our program has grown. A case in point follows: recently we were tasked with basic instruction and qualification of the Fort Dodge Air Guard unit and a local U.S. Army Reserve command on the M-60 machine gun, a request we generally welcome as it helps keep the instructors sharp.

The entire 44-man Security Police Flight was called to active duty in support of Operation Desert Storm, and provided weapons system security for aircraft in Des Moines, Savannah, GA, and Kingsley Field, OR.

If Security and Law Enforcement personnel have provided security for a host of VIPs, including Congressmen, Senators, and other high-ranking government officials and politicians, including Presidents Carter, Reagan, and Bush.

Law Enforcement personnel provide thousands of military members and their dependents with services which include; ID cards, vehicle registrations, security clearances, and accident investigations.

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Sources