

352 SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING



MISSION

The 352 SOG's mission is the infiltration, exfiltration, resupply, and aerial refueling of special forces assets. The Group is the air component for the Commander, Special Operations Europe, and provides air assets to the U.S. Special Operations Command through the Air Force Special Operations Command. Principal units assigned to the Group include the 7th, 21st and 67th Special Operations Squadrons; the 321st Special Tactics Squadron, the 352 Maintenance Squadron and the 352 Operations Support Squadron. The group is comprised of more than 700 dedicated men and women from not only the Air Force, but also includes personnel from the U.S. Army and Navy assigned to the unit from Special Operations Command Europe.

LINEAGE

2 Air Commando Group established, 11 Apr 1944

Activated, 22 Apr 1944

Inactivated, 12 Nov 1945

Disestablished, 8 Oct 1948

702 Strategic Missile Wing (ICM-Snark) established, 17 Jun 1958

Activated, 1 Jan 1959

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1961

39 Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Wing established, 20 Oct 1969

Activated, 1 Jan 1970

Redesignated 39 Special Operations Wing, 1 Mar 1988

Inactivated, 1 Dec 1992

2 Air Commando Group re-established and consolidated with the 702 Strategic Missile Wing (ICM-Snark), Consolidated unit redesignated 352 Special Operations Wing, 31 Jul 1985

Redesignated 352 Special Operations Group, 21 Sep 1992

Activated on 1 Dec 1992

352 Special Operations Group and 39 Special Operations Wing consolidated, 17 Aug 1998.

Consolidated organization retains designation of 352 Special Operations Group

Redesignated 352 Special Operations Wing, 23 Mar 2015

STATIONS

Drew Field, FL, 22 Apr 1944

Lakeland AAFld, FL, 3 May 1944

Alachua AAFld, FL, 9 Jun 1944

Drew Field, FL, 17 Aug 1944

Lakeland AAFld, FL, 22 Aug 1944

Drew Field, FL, 23-28 Oct 1944

Kalaikunda, India, 16 Dec 1944

Karachi, India, 5-21 Oct 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 11-12 Nov 1945

Presque Isle AFB, ME, 1 Jan 1959-25 Jun 1961

Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, 1 Jan 1970

Eglin AFB, FL, 25 Jun 1971-May 1989

Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 1 Jun 1989

RAF Alconbury, England, 1 Jan 1992

RAF Mildenhall, England, 17 Feb 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

III Fighter Command, 22 Apr 1944

Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, 12 Nov 1944

Tenth Air Force, 10 Jul 1945

Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, 18 Aug-Oct 1945

45 Air Division, 1 Jan 1959-25 Jun 1961

Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service, 1 Jan 1970

Twenty-Third Air Force (later, Air Force Special Operations Command), 1 Oct 1983

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-51, 1944, 1945

L-5, 1944, 1945

C-64, 1944, 1945

C-47, 1944-1945

CG4 gliders, 1944, 1945

F-6, 1945
L-1, 1945
L-4, 1945
C-46, 1945
Snark, 1959-1961
CH/HH-3, 1970-c.1988
CH/HH-53, 1970-1988
HC-130, 1970
HH-43, 1970-1973
UH-1, 1970-1988
HH-1, 1978-1988
TH-1, 1978-1988
UH-60, 1982-1988
MC-130, 1987
MH-53, 1989
C-130, 1994

COMMANDERS

Cpt L. H. Couch (acting), 22 Apr 1944
Col Arthur R. DeBolt, 1 May 1944
Col Alfred J. Ball Jr., 15 May 1945-unkn
Lt Col Harry W. Robb, 1 Jan 1959
Col Richard W. Beck, 15 Apr 1959
Col Roger A. Stevenson, 22 May-25 Jun 1961
Col Ritchie H. Belser Jr., 2 Jan 1970
Col Lawrence N. Gordon, 23 Jul 1970
Col James E. Dalton, 25 May 1973
Col William E. Moore, 18 Feb 1975
Col Billy R. McGee, 16 Jun 1977
Col Philip S. Prince, 25 Jul 1977
Col Edsel R. Field, 28 Apr 1980
Col James P. Scarff Jr., 24 Feb 1981
Col Albert L. Waters, 25 Jul 1983
Col Edward N. Byra, 6 Aug 1985
Col James L. Hobson Jr., 20 Mar 1987
Col Byron R. Hooten Jr., 5 May 1989
Col Eugene J. Ronsick, 11 Jul 1991
Col Bennie D. Orrell, 1 Dec 1992
Col Stephen R. Connelly, 13 Jul 1994
Col Michael F. Planert, 7 May 1996
Col John W. Zahrt, 15 May 1998
Col Jeffrey W. Walls, 9 May 2000
Col Otis G. Mannon, 14 Jul 2002
Col Dennis M. Jones, 20 Oct 2003

Col Marshall B. Webb, 23 Jun 2005
Col Brian P. Cutts, 29 Jun 2007
Col Lewis E. Jordan Jr., 23 Jul 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
India-Burma
Central Burma
Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Gallant Unit Citations
15 Oct 2001-15 Apr 2002
12 Feb-12 May 2003

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Oct 2005-30 Sep 2007

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the Combat "V" Device
14 Jan-23 Mar 1991
1 Aug 1998-31 Jul 1999
1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2002
1 Aug 2003-31 Jul 2005

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1974
1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978
20-29 Nov 1978
2 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988
24 Mar 1991-31 Jul 1992
1 Dec 1992-30 Jul 1993
1 Aug 1994-31 Jul 1996
1 Aug 1996-31 Jul 1998
1 Aug 1999-31 Jul 2000

EMBLEM



2 Air Commando Group emblem: On a white disc bordered blue an exclamation point flanked by two lightning flashes, all blue.



702 Strategic Missile Wing emblem: Azure, in base a demi-sphere light blue segmented by six arcs throughout argent, saltirewise overall issuant from sinister base a missile of the last with jet trail gules and from dexter base arras-wise a cubit arm proper grasping a sword of the third; in center chief a mullet of the like, all within a diminished bordure or. (Approved, 15 Feb 1961)

Azure, in base a demi-sphere light blue segmented by six arcs throughout argent, saltirewise overall issuant from sinister base a missile of the last with jet trails gules and from dexter base arras-wise a cubit arm proper grasping a sword of the third; in center chief a mullet of the like, all within a diminished bordure or. Motto: READY, ABLE. Significance: Against a background divided by the northern horizon into a deep blue area (representing a void, space, darkness, mystery and the enemy) and a lighter blue area (representing the peaceful, calm homeland), a missile streaking across the shield indicates the tactical weapon, while a powerful hand

brandishing a sword (symbolic of ancient knighthood) represents each member of the personnel carrying out in a fine tradition his part of the wing's mission. The white arcs rising from the base of the emblem indicate lines of force emanating from the individual and expanding through organization to an infinite application. Over all rises the North Star, the guiding light of faith and hope. (Approved, 15 February 1961)



39 Special Operations Wing emblem



352 Special Operations Group emblem: approved, 28 Feb 1995



MOTTO

Ready, Able

OPERATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 19 Nov 2010

Updated: 15 Jul 2015

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 history. *2 Air Commandos History of Operations, 1945.*