

22d EXPEDITIONARY WEATHER SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE¹

22d Weather Squadron constituted, 28 Jun 1943

Activated, 13 Jul 1943

Inactivated, 5 Feb 1946

Activated, 4 Sep 1948

Inactivated, 23 Jun 1951

Redesignated 22d Expeditionary Weather Squadron and converted to provisional status, 12 Feb 2009

STATIONS

Natal, Brazil

Los Angeles, CA, 4 Sep 1948

March AFB, CA, 26 Sep 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

South Atlantic Wing, Air Transport Command

Army Air Forces Weather Wing, 6 Dec 1943

Army Air Forces Weather Service, 2 Jul 1945-5 Feb 1946

2101st Air Weather Group, 4 Sep 1948

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama. Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Fourth Air Force, 3 Jun 1949

Air Weather Service, 26 Sep 1949-23 Jun 1951

Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time on or after 12 Feb 2009

COMMANDERS

Lt Col James B. Baker, 1 Jul 1943

Lt Col Arthur A. McCartan, 11 Oct 1944

Lt Col John H. Eberly, 23 Apr 1945

Maj Harvey W. Smith, 13 Oct 1945

Unknown, 4 Sep 1948

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decoration

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

A pilot sits in his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter on the airfield at Joint Base Balad, Iraq, and calls in for a preflight weather check. The staff weather officer (SWO) tells him a dust storm is en route and there will be zero visibility at Camp Taji. Flying there is not recommended. The pilot heeds the SWO's warning and goes into a holding area until the weather clears, possibly saving his own

life and the lives of his crew and passengers. Several Airmen from the California Air National Guard are deployed to Iraq to support the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade and other air and ground assets in the country with just that type of information.

“The Army needs to know what’s going on with the weather throughout its area of operations,” said Master Sgt. Hilario Flores of the 22nd Expeditionary Weather Squadron (EWXS) out of March Air Reserve Base, Calif., which is currently deployed to Camp Taji and Joint Base Balad. “If something pops up, we have to let them know immediately so they can adjust fire accordingly and go from there.” The weather plays a big factor in all military operations, in the air and on the ground. From when a mission starts to when it is finished, the weather may change two or more times.

A change in the weather can make a smooth operation grind to a screeching halt in a matter of seconds. “The weather here in Iraq can change drastically in an instant,” said Flores. “We always have to stay vigilant when we’re at our post and we’re always on our toes looking to ensure our forecasts stay accurate.” The 22nd EWXS uses a vast array of techniques to gather information. “We use satellite imagery and live feeds; we have automated sensors out at different locations that gather information; we send people up to the roof every hour to physically look at and feel the weather; plus, we use intel that we get from Soldiers out in the field,” said Maj. Jeffery Johnson, staff weather officer in charge for the 22nd EWXS.

“We by no means have a lack of intel to forecast the weather accurately up to four to seven days in advance.” The 22nd EWXS also makes sure the troops benefit from their forecasts. “We brief the pilots before takeoff, during takeoff, when they’re en route and before they land on the most current, up-to-date weather conditions,” said Master Sgt. Carlos Coronado, staff weather noncommissioned officer in charge for the 22nd. “We also brief the command on what is going on and what’s about to happen so they can disseminate it to the troops.”