

9th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

39th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 28 Mar 1944
Activated, 1 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 18 Oct 1948
Redesignated 39th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 20 Dec 1950
Activated, 2 Jan 1951
Redesignated 39th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 16 Jun 1952
Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Sep 1963

9th Air Commando Squadron (Psychological Operations) constituted and activated, 9 Jan 1967
Organized, 25 Jan 1967
Redesignated 9th Special Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 1968
Inactivated, 29 Feb 1972

39th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy and 9th Special Operations Squadron consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retained 9th Special Operations Squadron designation.
Activated, 1 Mar 1988

STATIONS

Dalhart AAFld, TX, 1 Apr 1944
Grand Island AAFld, NE, 26 May–18 Nov 1944
North Field, Tinian, 28 Dec 1944
Clark Field, Luzon, 13 Mar 1946
Kadena AB, Okinawa, 1 Jun 1947–18 Oct 1948
Walker AFB, NM, 2 Jan 1951–15 Sep 1963
Pleiku AB, South Vietnam, 25 Jan 1967
Nha Trang AB, South Vietnam, 1 Sep 1967
Tuy Hoa AB, South Vietnam, 5 Sep 1969

Phan Rang AB, South Vietnam, 15 Aug 1970–29 Feb 1972
Eglin AFB, FL, 1 Mar 1988

ASSIGNMENTS

6th Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944–18 Oct 1948
6th Bombardment Group, 2 Jan 1951
6th Bombardment (later, 6th Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 16 Jun 1952–15 Sep 1963
Pacific Air Forces, 9 Jan 1967
14th Air Commando (later, 14th Special Operations) Wing, 25 Jan 1967
315th Tactical Airlift Wing, 30 Sep 1971–29 Feb 1972
39th Special Operations Wing, 1 Mar 1988
1st Special Operations Wing, 18 Apr 1989
1st Special Operations (later, 16th Operations) Group, 22 Sep 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B–17, 1944
B–29, 1944–1947
B–29, 1951–1952
B–36, 1952–1957
B–52, 1957–1963
C–47, 1967–1972
U–10, 1967
O–2, 1967–1972
HC–130, 1988

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

None (unmanned), 1 Apr–22 May 1944
LTC John W. Osborn, 23 May 1944
Maj Eugene T. White, 15 Oct 1945
1Lt Robert C. Zott, 20 May 1946
Cpt Willie C. Kennerly, 15 Aug 1946
Maj David I. Liebman, 8 Jan 1947
None (unmanned), 25 Apr 1947–18 Oct 1948
None (unmanned), 2 Jan–12 Apr 1951
LTC William E. Riggs, 13 Apr 1951
LTC Reuben A. Baxter, 28 Apr 1952
LTC Frank N. Yochem Jr., 20 Nov 1952
LTC Melvin H. Slate, c. 12 Jul 1954
LTC Roy F. Claytor, Feb 1956
Maj Burrell B. Gambel, May 1957 (temporary)

Maj Benjamin L. Parkinson, Jul 1957 (temporaty)
Maj James M. Pearson, Aug 1957 (temporary)
LTC Roy F. Claytor, Dec 1957
LTC Jonathan S. Hughes, 15 Dec 1958
LTC William R. Northon, 1 Jun 1959
LTC Lee McClendon, Jun 1961-15 Sep 1963
None (unmanned), 9 Jan-28 Feb 1967
LTC Theobold G. Remaklus, 1 Mar 1967
LTC R. L. Wood, 1 Aug 1967
LTC Loren D. Clark, 15 Mar 1968
LTC Robert E. Coates, Sep 1968
LTC Fred E. Kuhlengel, Sep 1969
LTC Sims H. Reeves, May 1970
LTC David K. Keeler, 30 Sep 1970
LTC Roy A. Gill, Mar 1971
LTC Alvin D. Aaronson, Jun 1971
LTC Felix R. Csorosz, Dec 1971-9 Jan 1972
None (unmanned), 10 Jan-29 Feb 1972
LTC Arthur A. Jistel, 1 Mar 1988
LTC E. A. Oti II, 1 Jun 1990
LTC Robert W. Scott, 6 Jun 1991
LTC Joe E. Tyner, 16 Jun 1993
LTC Monty D. Sexton, 30 Jun 1995
LTC Billy W. Montgomery, 25 Nov 1996
LTC William C. Hoffman, 20 Jul 1998
LTC Henry Sanders, 9 Jun 2000
LTC Eric Kivi, 25 Jul 2001
LTC Gary P. Morrison, 19 Jul 2002

HONORS

Honors

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

Air Offensive, Japan

Vietnam

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969
Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989–1990

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Tokyo, Japan, 25 May 1945
Japanese Empire, 9–19 Jul 1945

Presidential Unit Citations

Vietnam, 1–7 Mar 1967
Vietnam, 21 Jun 1968–30 Jun 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" device

16 Jun 1967–20 Jun 1968
1 Jul 1970–30 Jun 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 May 1960–31 May 1962
1 May 1988–30 Apr 1990
16 Apr 1992–15 Apr 1994
1 Jun 1995–31 May 1997
1 Jul 1999–30 Jun 2001
1 Jul 2001–30 Jun 2003
1 Sep 2004–31 Aug 2006

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm

[Mar] 1967–1 Aug 1968
16 Jun 1967–[9 Jan] 1972
1 Jan–30 Aug 1968
5 Oct 1971–[9] Jan 1972

EMBLEM

39th Bombardment Squadron emblem: On a disc per pale azure and white, a red pile between an Air Force golden yellow lightning bolt issuing from dexter and a SAC ribbon, light blue spattered with white stars issuing from sinister, bath diminishing and terminating at base honor point; over all a black silhouetted bat in flight upward, speed lines black, highlights white below a black and white target issuing from chief; all within an Air Force golden yellow border. Motto: On a white scroll edged and inscribed Air Force blue, PER TARTARUM AD METAM, Through Hell Against the Target. (Approved, 11 Apr 1961)

9th Special Operations Squadron emblem: On an Ultramarine Azure disc bordered with Air Force Or, an Argent snow owl clutches a Gules commando knife. An Argent crescent moon on the sinister side of the disc is in the background. (Approved, 7 Jul 1988)

MOTTO
NIGHT WINGS

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Combat in Western Pacific, 27 Jan–14 Aug 1945. No personnel assigned, 25 Apr 1947–18 Oct 1948.

While retaining combat capability, trained B–52 crews for Strategic Air Command 15 Jul 1959–Sep 1963.

Combat in Southeast Asia, Mar 1967–Jan 1972.

Trained for special operations, refueling and resupply missions using modified C–130s, 1988–

Combat in Panama, 20 Dec 1989–14 Jan 1990 and Southwest Asia, 16 Jan–5 Apr 1991.

On 11 February 2005, at 0953 PST, an MC-130P Combat Shadow, S/N 66-0225, was conducting a required engine run near the intersection of Taxiways F and B at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nevada, when a strong blast of air driven by the aircraft's propellers (commonly referred to as "prop wash" or "prop blast") blew the doors off of a small hangar approximately 400 feet behind the aircraft. The mishap aircraft (MA), Call Sign Salon 56, assigned to the 9th Special Operations Squadron, Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, was conducting multilateral helicopter aerial refueling training with special operations rotary wing units. Damage was limited to the hangar facility and to civilian aircraft and vehicles in or near the building. No injuries were sustained by the mishap aircrew or civilian ground personnel. The MA was preparing to depart on a redeployment flight to Eglin AFB. The MA was taxiing to the runway when the crew advised ground control they would need a delay prior to departure to conduct an engine run. Ground control acknowledged and directed the MA to allow following traffic access to the runway while the engine run was accomplished. The MA maneuvered as directed and made an initial engine run attempt. This attempt was immediately aborted when the mishap loadmaster noted the prop wash was buffeting a small helicopter parked in front of the hangar. After coordinating with his crew, the mishap pilot repositioned the aircraft to direct the prop

wash in what he thought was a safe direction. Shortly after initiating a second attempt, the mishap occurred. The Board President found by clear and convincing evidence that the two primary causes of the mishap were: 1) the mishap aircrew misjudged the actual distance between themselves and the mishap hanger prior to conducting their engine runs; and 2) actions by McCarran ground control personnel exacerbated an already congested area of the airfield where the mishap occurred. The unusually close proximity of the mishap hangar to the taxiway centerline was a contributing factor to the first primary cause, while the physical airfield layout in the mishap area, the actions of ground control personnel, and volume of arriving traffic at the time of the mishap were contributing factors to the second primary cause.

The 9th Special Operations Squadron transferred from Hurlburt Field, Fla., to Cannon AFB, N.M., as it prepares to retire its MC-130Ps in exchange for MC-130Js. "It's sad to see an aircraft retire, but we will retain the best of what the Shadow community has done for Air Force Special Operations Command and our nation, and move that to the next aircraft," said CMSgt. Matt Caruso, AFSOC's command chief, during a ceremony at Hurlburt on Oct. 3. "It means AFSOC is making progress in meeting the Air Force's vision of modernizing our aging fleet," he added. Officials activated a stay-behind detachment—1st Special Operations Group, Det. 1—at Hurlburt to see the unit's MC-130Ps to retirement in May 2015. Until then, the detachment "will continue to provide aerial refueling to SOF vertical-lift assets as well as support infiltration and exfiltration operations," said 1st SOG Commander Col. Shawn Cameron.2014



**39th Squadron
[Bat out of Hell]**

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 19 Nov 2010
Updated: 7 Mar 2014

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
USAF Accident Investigation Board Reports.