

582nd HELICOPTER GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

582nd Helicopter Group

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

MISSION EQUIPMENT

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

CALL SIGN

OPERATIONS

The newly-formed 20th Air Force helicopter operations group plants its roots at F.E. Warren Air Force Base Aug. 1. The group assumes control of the helicopter squadrons across 20th Air Force sometime next year after it ends its provisional status, said Col. Dave Smith, the helicopter operations group commander. "The mission of the (group), while in provisional status, is to identify, prioritize and create the facility, personnel, communication and process infrastructure

required to transfer control of the three helicopter squadrons to the helicopter operations group," Smith said.

The helicopter operations group was formed as a result of a recommendation made during the Air Force Global Strike Command Force Improvement Program, or FIP. Command officials initiated the program as a means for Airmen to take ownership of their mission through grass-roots recommendations to improve mission effectiveness and morale, said Maj. Gen. Jack Weinstein, the Task Force 214 and 20th Air Force commander. "We are making wholesale changes to better empower our Airmen and ensure they have the resources they need," Weinstein said. "This is an unprecedented direction we're taking; normally commanders look for inputs and guidance from senior leaders, but with FIP, we went to the young Airmen who work at the tactical level and got their inputs. We collected roughly 350 recommendations from the folks in the field and the creation of the helicopter operations group is one of the recommendations that we're implementing. It's a very exciting time to be in 20th Air Force."

The plan is to improve mission effectiveness and standardization at all missile wings. "The main request from the helicopter community was for an aviation-focused chain of command equipped to meet the unique needs of flight operations, all leading to providing the best helicopter support to the (intercontinental ballistic missile) mission," said Bart Beisner, the 20th Air Force FIP coordinator. "This new structure also gives the Airmen in the helicopter community a new avenue to grow professionally through a defined career path." Though Smith wasn't part of the initial planning process, he said admires those who got the group to its current status.

"The bottom line is that this change in organizational structure is about providing the best possible helicopter support," Smith said. "The project officers at Global Strike, 20th Air Force and the three wings have all done an outstanding job getting us to provisional status. We will continue to work through provisional status until we are ready to take control of the helicopter squadrons." The new group assumes control of the 37th Helicopter Squadron, 40th HS and the 54th HS along with a newly-formed operations support squadron tailored for the three helicopter squadrons next year, Smith said. "Getting it done right is more important than getting it done quickly," Smith emphasized.

The 582nd Helicopter Group-the first helicopter group in the Air Force-officially stood up March 27 during a ceremony at F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo., according to a base release. The group will take over the 37th, 40th, and 54th Helicopter Squadrons, as well as the newly established 582nd Operations Support Squadron. It was recommended as part of Air Force Global Strike Command's Force Improvement Program to standardize the helicopter mission at all three missile wings. "One of the major reasons for this change was to put helicopter leadership over the helicopter operators," said Lt. Col. James Blanchard, 582nd OSS commander, in the release. Before the helicopter squadrons, and their respective wings, were managed by the operations groups at each of the missile bases. "It's difficult when you have organizations that are in three different locations and [have] no organization that really provided the standardizing between the three units," said Blanchard. 582nd HG Commander Col. Dave Smith said discipline, stewardship, and collaboration with carrying the group forward. "The Discipline I'm referring to is the discipline to commit to the warrior ethos . We are not crewmembers temporarily assigned to the ICBM mission, we are nuclear security experts and we will accomplish our mission more effectively and

more efficiently while reducing risk," said Smith. "Additionally, we must continue to break out of our stove pipes and integrate with our security forces teammates that we support."
2015

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 26 Feb 2019

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Yearbook. Traux AAF, WI. 1944.