

## 609 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

349 Night Fighter Squadron constituted, 1 Oct 1942

Activated, 4 Oct 1942

Disbanded, 31 Mar 1944

329 Transport Squadron (Cargo & Mail), Light constituted, 12 May 1944

Activated, 31 May 1944

Inactivated, 9 Sep 1945

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

609 Air Commando Squadron constituted and activated, 22 Aug 1967

Organized, 15 Sep 1967

Redesignated 609 Special Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 1968

Inactivated, 1 Dec 1969

349 Night Fighter Squadron and 329<sup>th</sup> Transport Squadron (Cargo & Mail), Light reconstituted and consolidated with 609 Special Operations Squadron, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated organization remains inactive.

#### STATIONS

Orlando AB, FL, 4 Oct 1942

Kissimmee AAFld, FL, 1 Jan 1943

Hammer Field, CA, 16 Jan-31 Mar 1944

Capodichino Airport, Naples, Italy, 31 May 1944 - 9 Sep 1945

Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Navy Base, Thailand, 15 Sep 1967 - 1 Dec 1969

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Fighter Command School, 4 Oct 1942

AAF School of Applied Tactics, 21 Jan 1943

Air Defense Department, AAFSAT, 18 Feb 1943

Night Fighter Division, AAFSAT, 1Apr 1943

481 Night Fighter Operational Training Group, 26 Ju1 1943-31 Mar 1944

Fourth Air Force, 15 Jan 1944 – 31 Mar 1944

Mediterranean Air Transport Service, 31 May 1944 – 9 Sep 1945

56 Air Commando Wing (later 56 Special Operations Wing), 15 Sep 1967 - 1 Dec 1969

### **ATTACHMENTS**

481 Night Fighter Operational Training Group, 17 Jul 1943

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

A-20/DB-7 1942-1943

P-70, 1942-1944

P-70A

B-25

C-72

P-61

B-17

C-47

C-53

A-26

### **COMMANDERS**

None, Not manned, 4 Oct 1942-Jan 1943

LTC William R. Yancey, Jan 1943-31 Mar 1944

Maj James E. Scoggins Jr., 31 May 1944

Capt William E. Gedecke, Jun 1944

Capt Bernard J. Weist, 24 Aug 1944 - unknown

Lt Col Allen F. Learmonth, 15 Sep 1967

Lt Col Robert E. Brumm, 31 Mar 1968

Lt Col John J. Shippey, 30 Sep 1968

Lt Col Robert L. Schultz, 31 Dec 1968

Lt Col Robert W. Stout, 30 Sep 1969

Lt Col Jackie R. Douglas, 30 Oct 1969 – 1 Dec 1969

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

American Theater

## **Campaign Streamers**

American Campaign Streamer  
European-African-Middle Eastern  
Rome-Arno  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II  
Vietnam Air/Ground  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III  
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV  
Tet 1969/Counteroffensive  
Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969  
Vietnam Winter-Spring

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citation  
1 Oct 1967–30 Apr 1968  
1 Nov 1968-1 May 1969  
1 Oct 1969-1 Dec 1969

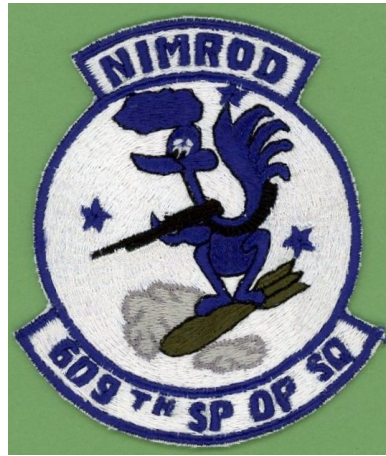
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device  
1 Jul 1968–1 Dec 1969

Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm  
15 Sep 1967-1 Dec 1969

## **EMBLEM**



On a grayed light blue disc, thin border black, a caricatured black vulture, neck feathers white, feet, neck, and head light red, beak yellow orange, perched on the horn of a light yellow decrescent moon, wearing gray headphones, and holding a gray cannon lighted at the fuse proper, in the crotch of the left wing; two yellow orange lightning flashes emanating from the eyes. (Approved, 18 Jan 1944)



Approved, 30 Oct 1968

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Operational training unit, Jan 1943-Mar 1944.

5 Feb 1943, A-20, 39-735, modified as prototype Douglas XP-70 night fighter, assigned to the 349th Night Fighter Squadron, 50th Fighter Group (Special), crashes on takeoff from Kissimmee Army Airfield, Florida, coming down 1/2 mile NW of the field, killing pilot James H. Toal. The Army Air Force decides at the end of Mar that the airframe is beyond repair and scraps it.

609th Special Operations Squadron Known as the Nimrods, the pilots and airmen flew the A-26A Counter Invader aircraft on air interdiction missions above the Ho Chi Minh Trail to stem the flow of North Vietnamese troops and supplies into South Vietnam. The 609th flew the A-26 aircraft from NKP during the years of 1966-1969.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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## **Sources**

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.