

908 SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

908 Weapon Systems Security Flight constituted, 18 Oct 1971

Activated in the Reserve, 15 Dec 1971

Redesignated 908 Security Police Flight, 15 Aug 1988

Redesignated 908 Security Police Squadron, 1 Oct 1992

Redesignated 908 Security Forces Squadron, 1 Jul 1997

STATIONS

Maxwell AFB, AL, 15 Dec 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

908 Combat Support (later, 908 Mission Support) Squadron, 15 Dec 1971

908 Support (later, Mission Support) Group, 1 Aug 1992

COMMANDERS

Maj George S. King

Capt Hugh O. Bryant

1Lt Edward B. Hughes

2Lt Don R. Roberts, 24 Apr 1980

Maj Mack R. Atkinson, 1 Nov 1980

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1972-15 Mar 1974

1 Feb 1980-31 Jan 1982

1 Sep 1986-31 Aug 1988

1 Sep 1991-31 Aug 1993

1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005

1 Jan 2011-31 Dec 2011

1 Jan 2014-31 Dec 2015

EMBLEM



On a disc per pale Vert and Azure, to dexter a dagger point to base Sable winged Or. To sinister a lightning bolt Silver Gray surmounted by a lamp of knowledge of the fourth detailed of the second enflamed Gules, all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Green scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "TENEBRAS EXPELLIT ET HOSTES" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Green scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "908TH SECURITY FORCES SQ" in Black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The divided background represents day and night. The winged dagger represents the close flight and also symbolizes the capabilities and lethality of security forces. The lamp of knowledge with a flame represents the wisdom, knowledge and skills of the organization and casts light onto the darkness of ignorance, which provides the unit an advantage over its foes. The lightning bolt symbolizes professionalism and dedication to duty. (Approved, 24 Jun 2005)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

AFRES provided a C-130 to deploy the 908th WSS Flight to Langley AFB, Virginia on 30 July. Our

people augmented the 4500 WSS Flight at Langley, working alongside of regular Air Force personnel on three shifts. The 908 WSS Flight Commander, Captain Bryant, served as Acting Commander of the 4500 WSS Flight in the absence of that unit's regular commander. 908 personnel were assigned as flight chiefs of units guarding TAC alert aircraft, TAC weapons storage area, and world-wide alert aircraft. The flight was returned to Maxwell AFB on 7 August. 1974

During the summer encampment. Major General Thomas M. Sadler, Chief of Security Police, USAF, visited the 908 WSSF. General Sadler and his staff received a briefing by Lt Hughes on the status of the WSSF manning, training, equipment, and facilities. General Sadler toured the 908 TAG facilities with Lt Col Gardner. Accompanying General Sadler was Lt Col Albert Zuber, Chief of Security Police, Hq AFRES. Further training needs were discussed with Lt Col Zuber and plans were formulated for the 1976 summer encampment.

The 908 WSSF deployed to Charleston AFB SC for its annual tour of active duty. The host unit was the 437th Security Police Squadron. All overhead personnel worked in various supervisory positions, including guardmount inspections, no-notice flightline post checks and review of all pertinent regulations and manuals.

The NCOIC of Training was briefed and worked with the preparation and maintenance of AF Form 623 and various MAC training requirements.

"A" and "B" Flights manned security posts on base and participated in exercises which included Helping Hands, Covered Wagons and Broken Arrows. Captain Hughes, WSSF Commander, did not deploy with the Flight. Instead, he attended the Security Police Staff Officers' Course at Lackland AFB TX from 19-30 July. 1976

During the second quarter of 1978, the 908th Weapon Systems Security Flight averaged approximately 22 personnel available for duty. The primary training during this period included exercises in security operations. Emergency security was exercised in conjunction with the April deployment of aircraft to Savannah, Ga., for Green Tiger II. During this exercise personnel posted included the security response team, two entry controllers, two comm-plotters, and two flight chiefs. There were also three boundary guards. The flights demonstrated 24-hour capability of security operations. Other exercises during the quarter included anti-hijacking, stop alert, and simulated helping hands on the flightline.

The unit's mobilization capability was enhanced by the receipt of four hand portable radios, in replacement of the older oversized radios, and receipt of new 38 caliber and .223 caliber ammunition.

New ropes, extensions, and restricted area signs were constructed. The new equipment, being more portable, enables the flight to implement emergency security operations in a more timely manner.

Annual tour for the 908 WSSF came during the period from 12 - 26 April, when the unit deployed

to Rhein Main Air Base, Germany. Training was conducted by active duty Air Force personnel, with emphasis on air base ground defense.



Because of the deployment in mid-April, the unit accomplished that month's UTA on 3 - 4 May, getting equipment set back up from the trip. Members worked on increasing speed and efficiency in setting up flight line security and maintaining the secured area. In May the unit also set up its own physical conditioning program, which includes a daily aerobics run.

May's regular UTA included extra training on controlling anti-hijack situations, with classroom involvement by the members. After classes, personnel in this unit went out and worked on actual situations on the flight line, including duress situations.

Part of June's UTA was devoted to a visit by Major Harris from 94th Tactical Airlift Wing, Dobbins Air Force Base, GA. His staff assistance visit helped to increase the effectiveness of the unit and to prepare for the upcoming practice ORI. 1980

The forest seemed peaceful enough, at first. Then, without warning, the enemy soldiers found themselves caught in a withering crossfire. The barrage came from automatic weapons held by unseen defenders of the small airbase they were trying to infiltrate. They were stopped cold, as they had been on every attempt they would make in the last two nights. No doubt about it, the defenders were very good. The forest was in Arkansas; the "attackers" were Little Rock AFB

security forces who knew every nook and cranny of their objective. Still, they were fought off successfully for two days in May by a force of Air Base Ground Defense specialists from the 908th Weapons Systems Security Flight participating in a training exercise called Volant Scorpion.

What are blue light and whistle people doing practicing fire team tactics in a combat situation? They are learning a new business. They've turned in their blue lights and whistles for a different primary mission. It's called Air Base Ground Defense and it means that Air Force security people are now responsible for protecting a combat air base from its perimeter out to 15 kilometers. Protecting it from whatever an enemy can throw against them.

"It's a role the Army used to have," said Maj. M.R. "Mac" Atkinson, 908th WSSF commander. About two years ago the Air Force started training its own Army to protect bases and particularly forward operating locations. "Most bases would have both kinds of people assigned," Major Atkinson explained, meaning both law enforcement specialists and air base ground defenders. "We have air base defense as a primary role, and law enforcement as a secondary mission. In wartime we could be tasked to support the 908th; a deployment or some other unit, we might be tasked to stay and protect Maxwell while its people go somewhere. It depends on the situation," the major added. They might also go along with a Prime Beef team of civil engineers, for example, to protect that group while they readied a forward operating location.

It has meant a big change for the weapons security people here. "It's not like walking the flightline," Major Atkinson explained. He said, "Now we really have something to sink our teeth into. We have to be able to handle new kinds of weapons; we have to be in better physical shape than ever before. We have to know how to read a compass and go from point to point, even at night. We have to know fire team tactics: how to move through a hostile area; how to approach and clear an area for the people coming up behind; how to set up a defensive perimeter." They also have to know the capabilities of the enemy's weapons.

In addition to physical test and 'confidence courses, combat versions of obstacle courses, Scorpion put the 908th's forces through a number of combat situations. Like the 72-hour defense of a simulated base.

"We set up a defensive perimeter around a simulated forward operating location and were to defend it for three days and three nights. After two days and nights of repelling attack after attack, 27 in all, the umpires called it off. Not one man got by us," Major Atkinson said. He added, "We'd pick them up coming in and block them with a fire team so they couldn't move, either in or out. The second night out they called it off because they could see they weren't going to get past us. That's the first time a reserve unit has been able to do that." Volant Scorpion showed the 908th WSSF that what they had been learning for a couple of years would really work for them in combat. It also proved something that most members of the WSSF knew already: that the 908th TAG has one of the Air Force's most effective defensive combat units, a credible force that can protect it or some other unit deployed in a hostile environment.

The Civil Engineering Flight held their bivouac exercise for training in Expedient Methods, Rapid Runway Repair and Security (Phase II) during the April UTA at the base lake. 908 Weapons System Security Flight assisted in this exercise. Areas where more planning for supplies, equipment, training personnel, etc. were discovered. Even though problems were evident, the overall of the exercise was informative and acceptable.

Weapons System Security Flight joined Civil Engineering in their bivouac exercise as attack forces. This afforded Weapons Security the opportunity of using the training they had received in cover and concealment and night vision. Leaders were able to plan and carry out battle field instructions. A three-phase attack was carried out as planned on designated times. Flight deployed to Charleston AFB South Carolina for two weeks of training in flightline and Air Base Ground Defense. An all-night exercise was held during the last week giving the flight its first training in the ABGD concept of the mission.

The 908 Weapon System s Security Flight (WSSF) was challenged with training of all types during this period. During the January UTA, 33 member s deployed to Camp Shelby , Mississippi for tactical training with the Army and Marines. Training consisted of tactical assault, deploying from armored personnel carriers , search and clear missions and troop movement under the cover of darkness. From 26 Apr - 9 May 1986 , the entire unit deployed to Little Rock AFB, Arkansas for exercise VOLANT SCORPION at HQ MAC's Air Base Ground Defense Training School. This training consisted of compass and map reading, patrolling, command and control operations and many other combat related training.



Lt Col Billie H. Parker, 908th TAG commander, learns what happens to an "intruder" when apprehended by a Security Alert Team [SAT] on the C-7 parking ramp. The colonel assumed the "intruder" role during a security exercise conducted by the 908th Weapon System Security Flight. SAT members are: [L-R] SSgt. Louie A. Boyd, Jr., Amn. Caled D. Vickery, TSgt. Ronald W. Patterson and SSgt. Thrasher Jones. (USAF photo)

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 1 Dec 2010
Updated: 15 Nov 2021

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