

9 AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 150 personnel strong 9th Air Support Operations Squadron is the integration and control of decisive airpower supporting the 1st Cavalry Division and subordinate ground commanders worldwide.

LINEAGE

9 Communications Squadron, Air Support constituted, 10 Aug 1942
Activated 21 Aug 1942
Redesignated 9 Air Support Communications Squadron, 11 Jan 1943
Redesignated 9 Air Support Control Squadron. 20 Aug 1943
Redesignated 9 Tactical Air Communications Squadron, 1 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 28 Nov 1945
Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948
Reconstituted and redesignated 9 Air Support Operations Squadron, 24 Jun 1994
Activated, 1 Jul 1994

STATIONS

Mitchel Fld, NY, 21 Aug 1942
Morris Fld, NC, 7 Nov 1942
Esler Fld, LA, 24 Jan 1943
Northern Fld, TN, c. 2 Apr 1943
Lebanon, TN, 8 Apr 1943
Morris Fld, NC, 10 Jun-22 Oct 1943
Sydney, Australia, 21 Nov 1943

Brisbane, Australia, 27 Nov 1943
Nadzab, New Guinea, 17 Mar 1944
Clark Fld, Luzon, 1 Apr-28 Nov 1945
Ft Hood, TX, 1 Jul 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

I Ground Air Support Command (later, I Air Support Command; I Tactical Air Division), 21 Aug 1942
Fifth Air Force, Nov 1943
V Fighter Command, 25 Jul 1945
XIII Bomber Command, 20 Oct-28 Nov 1945
3 Air Support Operations Group, 1 Jul 1994

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Larry James

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
New Guinea (with Arrowhead)
Leyte (with Arrowhead)
Luzon (with Arrowhead)

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2004

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1994-31 May 1996
1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

EMBLEM

In the first element, the significance of the ultramarine/reflex blue, red dovetailed divider and green is representative of the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) crest, colors and missions. The significance of the yellow and black diagonal cavalry bandoleer is representative of the crest,

colors and mission of the 1st Cavalry Division. Combined, the background of the emblem represents the joint cooperation and interoperability between the U.S. Air Force's TACP and the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division. The two are bound together by a black border representing the formidable strength of a joint common element. In the second element, the five white stars in the ultramarine/reflex blue area represents the constellation "Southern Cross". The 9th ASOS's and the 1st Cavalry Division's combat lineage dates back to the war in the Pacific Theater during World War II when both units fought in similar campaigns "under The Southern Cross". In the third element, the foreground displays a mounted cavalry soldier leading the charge into battle with saber drawn and lightning flashes extended from the end of the saber in two directions, towards the sky and towards the ground. This signifies speed, agility, swiftness and courage of the TACP to provide detailed, integrated Close Air Support through ground to air communications by directing air strikes against hostile targets in support of the 1st Cavalry Division. (Approved, 18 Apr 1997)

MOTTO

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OPERATIONS

The roots of the 9th Air Support Operations Squadron can be traced back to 10 August 1942, when its predecessor, the 9th Communications Squadron was constituted. In a little more than a week later, on 21 August 1942, the unit was activated at Mitchell Field, New York. Following two reorganizations, the squadron was redesignated as the 9th Air Support Control on 20 August 1943 and deployed to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

With a six months training and orientation in Australia, the unit moved on to Nadzab, New Guinea where they were assigned to combat operations, supporting Army forces and directing air support operations and missions. Moving on to Leyte and Luzon they supported numerous assault landings.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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