

9 SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

39 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 28 Mar 1944

Activated, 1 Apr 1944

Inactivated, 18 Oct 1948

Redesignated 39 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 20 Dec 1950

Activated, 2 Jan 1951

Redesignated 39 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 16 Jun 1952

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Sep 1963

9 Air Commando Squadron (Psychological Operations) constituted and activated, 9 Jan 1967

Organized, 25 Jan 1967

Redesignated 9 Special Operations Squadron, 1 Aug 1968

Inactivated, 29 Feb 1972

39 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy and 9 Special Operations Squadron consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retained 9 Special Operations Squadron designation. Unit remained inactive.

9 Special Operations Squadron 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

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

COMMANDERS

None (unmanned), 1 Apr-22 May 1944
Lt Col John W. Osborn, 23 May 1944
Maj Eugene T. White, 15 Oct 1945
1Lt Robert C. Zott, 20 May 1946
Capt 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
Lt Col William E. Riggs, 13 Apr 1951
Lt Col Reuben A. Baxter, 28 Apr 1952
Lt Col Frank N. Yochem Jr., 20 Nov 1952

Lt Col Melvin H. Slate, c. 12 Jul 1954
Lt Col Roy F. Claytor, Feb 1956
Maj Burrell B. Gambel, May 1957 (temporary)
Maj Benjamin L. Parkinson, Jul 1957 (temporary)
Maj James M. Pearson, Aug 1957 (temporary)
Lt Col Roy F. Claytor, Dec 1957
Lt Col Jonathan S. Hughes, 15 Dec 1958
Lt Col William R. Northon, 1 Jun 1959
Lt Col Lee McClendon, Jun 1961-15 Sep 1963
None (unmanned), 9 Jan-28 Feb 1967
Lt Col Theobald G. Remaklus, 1 Mar 1967
Lt Col R. L. Wood, 1 Aug 1967
Lt Col Loren D. Clark, 15 Mar 1968
Lt Col Robert E. Coates, Sep 1968
Lt Col Fred E. Kuhlengel, Sep 1969
Lt Col Sims H. Reeves, May 1970
Lt Col David K. Keeler, 30 Sep 1970
Lt Col Roy A. Gill, Mar 1971
Lt Col Alvin D. Aaronson, Jun 1971
Lt Col Felix R. Csorosz, Dec 1971-9 Jan 1972
None (unmanned), 10 Jan-29 Feb 1972
Lt Col Arthur A. Jistel, 1 Mar 1988
Lt Col E. A. Oti II, 1 Jun 1990
Lt Col Robert W. Scott, 6 Jun 1991
Lt Col Joe E. Tyner, 16 Jun 1993
Lt Col Monty D. Sexton, 30 Jun 1995
Lt Col Billy W. Montgomery, 25 Nov 1996
Lt Col William C. Hoffman, 20 Jul 1998
Lt Col Henry Sanders, 9 Jun 2000
Lt Col Eric Kivi, 25 Jul 2001
Lt Col Gary P. Morrison, 19 Jul 2002

HONORS

Service Streamers

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 Squadron
[Bat out of Hell]**



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, both 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. (Approved, 11 Apr 1961)

39 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)



9 Special Operations Squadron emblem: CHIEU HOI--Open Hand



9 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

PER TARTARUM AD METAM--Through Hell Against the Target
NIGHT WINGS

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.



Lt Col Melvin H. Slate

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 1 Jan 2025

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *6 Bombardment Wing (H)*, 1954.