

## 72 FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

72 Air Base Squadron (Special) constituted and activated, 1 Aug 1941  
Redesignated 72 Base Headquarters and Air Base Squadron, 13 Jun 1942  
Disbanded, 30 Apr 1944  
Reconstituted and redesignated 72 Air Base Squadron, 3 Jan 1952  
Activated, 1 Feb 1952  
Inactivated, 16 Feb 1953  
Redesignated, 72 Mission Support Squadron, 16 Sep 1994  
Activated, 1 Oct 1994  
Redesignated 72 Force Support Squadron, 8 Jul 2008

#### STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 1 Aug 1941  
Columbus, MS, 15 Dec 1941-30 Apr 1944  
Minneapolis-St Paul IAP, MN, 1 Feb 1952-16 Feb 1953  
Tinker AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1994

#### ASSIGNMENTS

52 Air Base Group, 1 Aug 1941  
Southeast Air Corps Training Center (later, Army Air Forces Southeast Training Center, later, Army Air Forces Eastern Flying Training Command), 1 Oct 1942-30 Apr 1944  
Central Air Defense Force, 1 Feb 1952  
31 Air Division, 6 Feb 1952-16 Feb 1953

72 Support (later, 72 Mission Support) Group, 1 Oct 1994

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1995-31 Dec 1996

1 Jan 1997-31 Dec 1998

1 Jan 2005-31 Dec 2006

1 Jul 2012-30 Jun 2014

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc Azure, a dexter hand Argent holding aloft a torch Or, flame of three Gules, issuant from dexter flame a contrail of the like arcing from dexter base wise to sinister behind the hand and terminating in a flight symbol, in base a bendwise olive branch conjoined to a bend sinisterwise lightning bolt of the second, all within a narrow border of the third. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "72D FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON" in Yellow 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 torch is historically symbolic of the Olympic Games. It symbolizes excellence and captures the heart of the unit mission consisting of strength, vigilance, spirit and camaraderie. The olive branch represents peace and is a common symbol used by the U.S. Government. The lightning bolt represents combat strength and readiness. Together, the olive branch and the lightning bolt depict the responsibility to operate effectively during peacetime and in combat.

Emblems that adorn military uniforms are a time-honored tradition dating back to WWI. With a strong desire to be a registered part of Air Force history, the newly-formed 72nd Force Support Squadron set out in July 2008 to develop an official emblem. The emblem design was the Force Support Squadron Director, Dan Bell's inspiration to combine the torch and flames of the Services occupational badge with the airplane in flight from the 72nd Mission Support Squadron organizational badge. "When we merged the squadron back in July, we wanted to develop a new chant that best identified our squadron. What we came up with was "One Team...One Fight!" Building upon our chant, it was pretty easy to bring the best of both Services and MSS organizational emblems into one that we could be proud of.

I can remember when we use to wear out squadron patches on our "fatigues." We were proud

to show our squadron patch to others and I wanted to make sure that legacy of having a squadron emblem would continue. We no longer wear them on our ABU's but the squadron emblem will symbolize our unit heritage and history for generations to come," said Mr. Bell. The FSS emblem is a unique representation of the men and women from Services and Mission Support Squadrons who have now merged as a united Force Support Squadron. The olive branch historically represents peace and is often seen on many US Government seals and emblems. Similarly, military organizations often use the lightning bolt to represent combat strength and readiness.

Together, the olive branch and the bolt of lightning depict the responsibility of the Force Support Squadron to operate effectively during peacetime and in combat. The placement of the olive branch and lightning bolt as one element on opposite sides of the torch, with a plane circling the globe, highlights the Force Support Squadron's continuous responsibilities; From peacetime operations to combat, and in bringing troops home. The torch is a historic symbol of the Olympic Games and has long represented excellence.

The new emblem captures the attributes of strength, vigilance, spirit, and camaraderie that are the center of the Force Support Squadron mission. The process of forwarding the emblem package to the Air Force Heraldry Office is a long and arduous one. Kimberly Woodruff, FSS Marketing and Advertising Specialist, started the package on its way along with the assistance of Chris Wright, Archivist with the OC-ALC History Office. During the process, the package was reviewed by MAJCOM, approved by the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Ala., and finally rendered by the Army Institute of Heraldry at Fort Belvoir, Va. There were a few changes made along the way but six months later, the long wait is now over and the Force Support Squadron has an official emblem.

"Acquiring a new emblem takes time because there is a thorough review process which works to guarantee adherence to established heraldic standards outlined in the governing instruction for emblem design, AFI 84-105, Organizational Lineage, Honors and Heraldry. This is necessary to ensure that an organization has an enduring symbol of their mission which promotes camaraderie and morale among its personnel and establishes a sense of tradition for all who follow," said Mr. Wright. "This new unit emblem clearly demonstrates the mission of the new FSS across the entire spectrum of manpower, personnel and services support. It's exciting to be at the forefront of the dynamic changes the Air Force is undertaking in the 21st century," said Mr Bell.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

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USAF Unit Histories  
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### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.