



FACT SHEET

20TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

Mission

Provide flexible vertical lift for USSOCOM.

Background

Constituted as 20 Observation Squadron (Light) on 5 Feb 1942. Activated on 2 Mar 1942. Redesignated as: 20 Observation Squadron on 4 Jul 1942; 20 Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter) on 2 Apr 1943; 20 Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron on 11 Aug 1943. Inactivated on 27 Nov 1945. Consolidated (19 Sep 1985) with the 20 Helicopter Squadron, which was constituted on 24 Feb 1956. Activated on 9 Jul 1956. Discontinued, and inactivated, on 8 Mar 1960. Activated on 24 Sep 1965. Organized on 8 Oct 1965. Redesignated as 20 Special Operations Squadron on 1 Aug 1968. Inactivated on 1 Apr 1972. Activated on 1 Jan 1976.



Assignments

Air Force Combat Command, 2 Mar 1942; Army Air Forces, 9 Mar 1942; 76 Observation (later, 76 Reconnaissance; 76 Tactical Reconnaissance) Group, 12 Mar 1942; III Reconnaissance Command, 23 Aug 1943; Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, 26 Dec 1943 (attached to 5306 Photographic and Reconnaissance Group [Provisional], 26 Dec 1943–17 Jan 1944, and to Tenth Air Force, 17 Jan–7 Mar 1944); Tenth Air Force, 7 Mar 1944 (attached to 5320 Air Defense Wing [Provisional], Mar–May 1944); 8 Photographic (later, 8 Reconnaissance) Group, 25 Apr 1944; Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, Oct–27 Nov 1945. Eighteenth Air Force, 9 Jul 1956 (attached to 314 Troop Carrier Wing, 9 Jul 1956–); Ninth Air Force, 1 Sep 1957–8 Mar 1960 (remained attached to 314 Troop Carrier Wing to 16 Jul 1959; attached to 354 Tactical Fighter Wing, 16 Jul 1959–8 Mar 1960). Pacific Air Forces, 24 Sep 1965; 2 Air Division, 8 Oct 1965 (attached to 6250 Combat Support Group, c. 10 Dec 1965–8 Mar 1966); 14 Air Commando (later, 14 Special Operations) Wing, 8 Mar 1966; 483 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Sep 1971–1 Apr 1972. 1 Special Operations Wing, 1 Jan 1976; 1 Special Operations (later, 16 Operations; 1 Special Operations) Group, 22 Sep 1992; 27 Special Operations Group, 1 Dec 2009–.

Stations

Savannah AB, GA, 2 Mar 1942; Pope Field, NC, 28 Mar 1942; Vichy AAFld, MO, 14 Dec 1942; Morris Field, NC, 8 May 1943; Key Field, MS, 31 Aug–8 Nov 1943; Camp Anza, CA, 11–c. 17 Nov 1943; Bombay, India, 26 Dec 1943; Camp Deolali, India, 28 Dec 1943; Gushkara, India, 5 Jan 1944 (flight operated from Kisselbari, India, 6–25 Mar 1944); Kisselbari, India, 26 Mar 1944 (operated from Dinjan, India, 1 May–20 Jun 1944; detachment at Tingkawk Sakan, Burma, 21 May–20 Jun 1944; Tingkawk Sakan, Burma, 21 Jun–c. 10 Nov 1944; detachment at Myitkyina, Burma, 10 Jul–c. 25 Aug 1944); Myitkyina, Burma, c. 9 Nov 1944 (flight operated from Akyab, Burma, 12 Apr–22 May 1945); Nagaghuli, India, c. 20 Apr 1945; Dergaon, India, 6 Jul 1945; Piardoba, India, Sep–4 Nov 1945; Camp Kilmer, NJ, 26–27 Nov 1945. Sewart AFB, TN, 9 Jul 1956; Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, 16 Jul 1959–8 Mar 1960. Tan Son Nhut AB, South Vietnam, 8 Oct 1965; Nha Trang AB, South Vietnam, 15 Jun 1966; Tuy Hoa AB, South Vietnam, 5 Sep 1969; Cam Ranh Bay AB, South Vietnam, 25 Sep 1970–1 Apr 1972. Eglin AF Auxiliary Field No. 9 (Hurlburt Field), FL, 1 Jan 1976; Cannon AFB, NM, 1 Dec 2009 –.

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citations: (Southeast Asia), 8 Mar 1966–7 Mar 1967; 1 Jun 1967–31 Mar 1972; 21 Jun 1968–30 Jun 1969. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device: 10 Jan–12 Mar 1966; 1 Nov 1966–1 Apr 1967; 16 Jun 1967–20 Jun 1968; 1 Jul 1967–30 Jun 1968; 1 Jul 1970–30 Jun 1971; 1 Sep 1971–31 Dec 1971; 1 May 1982–30 Apr 1984; 1 Jun 1997–31 May 1999; 1 Jul 2003–30 Jun 2005; 1 Sep 2006–30 Jun 2007. Gallant Unit Citation: 6 Oct 2001–30 May 2003. Meritorious Unit Awards: 1 Jul 2007–31 Mar 2009; 1 Oct 2009–30 Sep 2011; 1 Oct 2011–30 Sep 2013; 1 Oct 2013–30 Sep 2015. Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Jan 1976–31 Mar 1977; 6 Nov 1978–2 Mar 1979; 15 Jul 1979–15 May 1980; 16 May 1980–30 Apr 1982; 1 May 1985–30 Apr 1987; 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: 1 Jan–30 Aug 1968; 16 Jun 1967–1 Apr 1972.