



# FACT SHEET

## 9TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet

### Mission

Conduct clandestine operations in support of infiltration, exfiltration, resupply and refueling missions for special operations forces in politically sensitive or hostile territories.

### Background

Constituted 39th Bombardment Squadron, on 28 Mar 1944. Discontinued and inactivated on 15 Sep 1963. Consolidated on 19 Sep 1985 with the 9th Air Commando Squadron (Psychological Operations), which had been constituted, and activated, on 9 Jan 1967. Organized on 25 Jan 1967. Redesignated the 9th Special Operations Squadron on 1 Aug 1968. Inactivated on 29 Feb 1972. Activated on 1 Mar 1988.



In 2007, the 522nd Tactical Fighter Squadron at Cannon AFB was inactivated when its parent wing converted from the fighter to the special operations mission—subsequently, that squadron was reactivated in 2012 as a special operations unit, but was deactivated in 2014—its mission, personnel and equipment were transferred to the 9th Special Operations Squadron. On 9 December 2014, the 522nd SOS was re-flagged as the 9th SOS, at Cannon AFB, NM.

### Assignemnts

6th Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944-18 Oct 1948. 6th Bombardment Group, 2 Jan 1951; 6th Bombardment (later, 6th Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 16 Jun 1952-15 Sep 1963. Pacific Air Forces, 9 Jan 1967; 14th Air Commando (later, 14th Special Operations) Wing, 25 Jan 1967; 315th Tactical Airlift Wing, 30 Sep 1971-29 Feb 1972. 39th Special Operations Wing, 1 Mar 1988; 1st Special Operations Wing, 18 Apr 1989; 1st Special Operations (later, 16th Operations) Group, 22 Sep 1992-15 Nov 2006. 1st Special Operations Group, 16 Nov 2006 - 8 Dec 2014. 27th Special Operations Group 9 Dec 2014- present.

### Stations

Dalhart Army Airfield, TX, 1 Apr 1944; Grand Island Army Airfield, 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 1988-2011. Cannon AFB, September 2011- present.

## **Aircraft**

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, 1988-1995; MC-130P, 1996-2014; MC-130J, 2014-Present.

## **Operations**

Combat in Western Pacific, 27 Jan-14 Aug 1945. 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. Performed special operations, day and night aerial refueling, infiltration/exfiltration and resupply missions using modified C-130 aircraft, 1988- Present. Combat in Panama, 20 Dec 1989-14 Jan 1990 and Southwest Asia, 16 Jan-5 Apr 1991. After the 11 Sep 2001 terrorist attack on the US, served on the forefront of Global War on Terrorism in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa.

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations: Tokyo, Japan, 25 May 1945; Japanese Empire, 9-19 Jul 1945

Presidential Unit Citations: (Vietnam), 1-7 Mar 1967; 21 Jun 1968-30 Jun 1969

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

Gallant Unit Citation: 6 Oct 2001-30 May 2003

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

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device: 16 Jun 1967-20 Jun 1968; 1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971; 1 Jun 1997-31 May 1999; 1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2005; 1 Sep 2006-30 Jun 2007

Meritorious Unit Awards: 1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009; 1 Oct 2009-30 Sep 2011; 1 Oct 2011-30 Sep 2013; 1 Oct 2013-30 Sep 2015; 1 Oct 2015-30 Sep 2017