



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet 27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

Cannon Air Force Base, home of the 27th Special Operations Wing, lies in the high plains of eastern New Mexico, near the Texas Panhandle. The base is eight miles west of Clovis, New Mexico, and is 4,295 feet above sea level. The base itself sits on 3,789 acres of land.

The Melrose Air Force Range training area, located approximately 25 miles west of the base, is approximately 70,000 acres. Operations on Melrose Range also cover an area of 2,500 square miles of airspace. Melrose is used for training such as air to ground, small arms, and electronic combat.

Currently, approximately 5,800 military and civilian personnel make up the work force at Cannon.



27TH SOW MISSION

Develop, sustain and employ professional Air Commandos who execute specialized airpower and combat support to achieve the nation's security objectives

COMMANDERS INTENT

Own the fight forward, build Airmen in a lethal and relevant force, and foster a thriving Air Commando family

27TH SOW HISTORY

The history of the base began in the late 1920s, when a civilian passenger facility, Portair Field, was established on the site. In the 1930s, Portair was renamed Clovis Municipal Airport.

During World War II Clovis Municipal Airport became Clovis Army Air Field.

Cannon is named in honor of the late Gen. John K. Cannon, former commander of the Tactical Air Command. The base was officially named Cannon on June 8, 1957.

On Feb. 18, 1959, Cannon Air Force Base entered into a relationship with the 27th Fighter Wing that continues to this day, albeit, with a new mission--that of special operations. As a result of Cannon's transition from Air Combat Command to Air Force Special Operations Command on Oct. 1, 2007, the 27th Fighter Wing was re-designated the 27th SOW.

27TH SOW ORGANIZATIONS

There are 2 squadrons assigned directly to the wing level

- 27th Special Operations Air Operations Squadron, provides command & control and range operations
- 27th Special Operations Comptroller Squadron, provide financial management and budgetary support

The 27th Special Operations Group

The 27th Special Operations Group, located at Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, is one of four groups assigned to the 27th Special Operations Wing. The group accomplishes global special operations taskings as an Air Force component member of the United States Special Operations Command.

It conducts infiltration/exfiltration, combat support, tilt-rotor operations, helicopter aerial refueling, close air support, unmanned aerial vehicle operations, non-standard aviation, and other special missions. It directs the deployment, employment, training, and planning for squadrons that operate the AC-130W, MC-130J, CV-22B, C-146A, U-28A, MQ-9 and provides operational support to flying operations.

Organization:

There are ten squadrons within the group:

- 27th Special Operations Support Squadron, provides operational support to flight operations
- 3rd Special Operations Squadron, MQ-9 Reaper
- 9th Special Operations Squadron, MC-130J Commando II
- 12th Special Operations Squadron, provides remotely piloted aircraft launch and recovery operations
- 16th Special Operations Squadron, AC-130W Stinger II
- 20th Special Operations Squadron, CV-22B Osprey
- 33rd Special Operations Squadron, MQ-9 Reaper
- 56th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron, provides specialized intelligence support
- 318th Special Operations Squadron, U-28A

The 27th Special Operations Maintenance Group

The 27th Special Operations Maintenance Group executes global special operations taskings as an Air Force component member of USSOCOM.

Responsible for all flight line and back shop maintenance in support of assigned AC-130W, MC-130J, CV-22B and MQ-1/9 aircraft, the group provides contract oversight of civilian maintenance on three Non-Standard Aviation program aircraft types. Additionally, it manages over 90 facilities and an annual budget in excess of \$30M.

The 27th SOMXG enforces quality maintenance across four squadrons and among seven defense contractors, while it organizes, trains and equips 1,400 personnel in support of special operations forces and COCOMs.

Organization:

There are three squadrons within the group:

- 27th Special Operations Maintenance Squadron, Accessories, AGE, Armament, Avionics, CV-22 Phase, Fabrication, Hydraulics, Maintenance Flight and Munitions
- 27th Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 9th AMU and 16th AMU
- 727th Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 3rd AMU and 20th AMU

The 27th Special Operations Mission Support Group

The primary mission of the 27th Special Operations Mission Support Group is to provide combat support and base sustainment services to ensure the mission readiness of the 27th Special Operations Wing. These support services and activities include providing housing, facilities/infrastructure, fire protection, environmental management, explosive ordnance disposal, disaster preparedness, food service, law enforcement and security, communications, personnel support and other base services as well as recreation activities for a base populace of more than 6,500 military personnel, civilian employees, their families and 4,000 retirees for all units and associate organizations on Cannon Air Force Base.

Organization:

There are six squadrons within the group:

- 27th Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron
- 27th Special Operations Communications Squadron
- 27th Special Operations Contracting Squadron
- 27th Special Operations Force Support Squadron
- 27th Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron
- 27th Special Operations Security Forces Squadron

The 27th Special Operations Medical Group

The mission of the 27th Special Operations Medical Group is: "We keep Air Commandos in the Fight...the best warrior health support anytime, anywhere." In doing so, the unit supports commanders in ensuring a healthy, fit and deployable active duty force, as well as safeguarding families and "keeping the promise" to retirees.

As an ambulatory care facility, the 27th SOMDG provides a wide range of services to include: family practice, pediatrics, women's health, optometry, flight medicine, human performance training, dental, public health, allergy/immunizations, mental health, family advocacy, bioenvironmental engineering, laboratory services, pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy and health and wellness.

Organization:

There are two squadrons within the group:

- 27th Special Operations Medical Operations Squadron
- 27th Special Operations Medical Support Squadron

AIRCRAFT

AC-130W Stinger II

The AC-130W Stinger II primary missions are close air support and air interdiction. Close air support missions include troops in contact, convoy escort and point air defense. Air interdiction missions are conducted against preplanned targets or targets of opportunity and include strike coordination and reconnaissance.



MC-130J Commando II

The Commando II flies clandestine, or low visibility, single or multiship, low-level air refueling missions for special operations helicopters and tiltrotor aircraft, and infiltration, exfiltration, and resupply of special operations forces (SOF) by airdrop or airland intruding politically sensitive or hostile territories. The MC-130J primarily flies missions at night to reduce probability of visual acquisition and intercept by airborne threats. Its secondary mission includes the airdrop of leaflets.



CV-22 Osprey

The CV-22 Osprey is a tiltrotor aircraft that combines the vertical takeoff, hover and vertical landing qualities of a helicopter with the long-range, fuel efficiency and speed characteristics of a turboprop aircraft. Its mission is to conduct long-range infiltration, exfiltration and resupply missions for special operations forces.



MQ-9 Reaper

The MQ-9 Reaper is an armed, multi-mission, medium-altitude, long-endurance remotely piloted aircraft that is employed primarily against dynamic execution targets and secondarily as an intelligence collection asset. Given its significant loiter time, wide-range sensors, multi-mode communications suite, and precision weapons -- it provides a unique capability to perform strike, coordination, and reconnaissance against high-value, fleeting, and time-sensitive targets.



Reapers can also perform the following missions and tasks: intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, close air support, combat search and rescue, precision strike, buddy-lase, convoy/raid overwatch, target development, and terminal air guidance. The MQ-9's capabilities make it uniquely qualified to conduct irregular warfare operations in support of combatant commander objectives.

U-28A

The U-28A provides a manned fixed wing, on-call/surge capability for improved tactical airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) in support of special operations forces.



The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 that operates worldwide. The initial block of U-28 aircraft were procured and modified for use in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. The U-28A fleet evolved from commercially available aircraft that were purchased and then modified with communications gear, aircraft survivability equipment, electro-optical sensors, and advanced navigation systems. The advanced radio-communications suite is capable of establishing DOD/NATO data-links, full-motion video, data, and voice communications. The U-28A has outstanding reliability and performance, and is certified to operate from short and semi-prepared airfields.