

Cannon Air Force Base originally named Portair Field, was founded as a civilian passenger facility in the 1920s. While it has existed in one form or another since then, the airfield was redesignated as Cannon Air Force Base in September 1947 with the establishment of the United States Air Force.

In February of 1959, Cannon Air Force Base assumed the designation of the 27<sup>th</sup>, and in 2006 became home to the 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing, Air Force Special Operations Command's premier readiness wing.

While Cannon Air Force Base has more than 100 years of notable historical achievements, the 27<sup>th</sup> designator has a distinguished history of its own.

The 27<sup>th</sup> was forged in combat when the 27<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group became the only aviation unit in the history of the Army Air Corps to become an infantry ground unit.

**Mary May, Author of ‘The Steadfast Line: The Story of the 27th Bombardment Group in World War II’:** “In November of 1941 we left the West Coast as pilots, aircraft maintenance and support personnel of the 27<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group – and while we arrived in the Philippines, our aircraft were diverted. Within three months, we found ourselves under attack, and without aircraft were converted to infantry. Along with thousands of American and Philippines troops we were charged with holding the front lines. We held our position steadfast-- from January until we were surrendered in April of 1942.”

Much like the Air Commandos of today – the soldiers and Airmen of the 27<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group were multi-capable pathfinders. They forged our legacy. We are honored to carry on their lineage as Airmen who adapt and overcome, ----- and who hold the steadfast line for our Nation and for our heritage.

With readiness remaining at our core, the 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing delivers unconventional

airpower, anytime, anywhere. Our Air Commandos operate specialized airframes and weapons systems unique to AFSOC—enabling the joint force by delivering Special Operations Forces Mobility, Strike, ISR and Air-to-ground capabilities. While our hardware enables us to do our mission, it is our Airmen who give us the competitive advantage—who hold the steadfast line and honor the promise made by the members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group.

We are not only aircrew and maintainers...we are engineers, defenders, personnelists, logisticians, medical technicians, and financiers. We are range control, vehicle operations, intelligence, chaplains, linguists, communications, and munitions specialists.

Countering violent extremism led the 27<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Wing to be one of the most deployed wings in the Air Force. The Air Commandos of Cannon packed their bags in 2007 and continue to be

deployed around the world. They've participated in operations like Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Freedom's Sentinel and some missions that cannot be talked about even to this day. Our Air Commandos continue to fight for freedom and justice; and the sacrifices made by not only our Airmen, but our families is palpable ----- and it is not forgotten.

Today, just as it was for the service members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Bombardment group, America requires yet another transformation from us – this time, into the Air Commandos we WILL need.

We are strengthening relationships with our partners and allies and leveraging our unique special operations capabilities to enable the joint force to deter, compete, and win. The threats and operating environment have shifted, and today's challenge is to remain a step ahead of our peer competitors and adversaries, anytime, any place, anywhere.

Steadfast is not just an ode to our history, it is a promise to our future. We are Air Commandos, holding the steadfast line.

**Col. Jeremy Bergin, 27th Special Operations Wing Commander:** “I believe in empowered Airmen, I believe in empowering supervisors and commanders and chiefs to get after the problem sets that are challenging. I believe in innovation, I believe in pushing the limits. But I also believe that Air Commandos across the nation must be held to a high standard, because...I think our nation is going to ask us to do impossible things, and make it look easy. We WILL hold the line.