CANNON
AIR FORCE BASE
NEW MEXICO

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING
FACT SHEET

ABOUT THE BASE

Cannon Air Force Base, home of the 27th Special Operations Wing, lies in the high plains of easter New Mexico, near the Texas Pandhandle. The base is eight miles west of Clovis on 3,789 acres of land at 4,295 feet above sea level. Specialized aircraft assigned to CAFB include the AC-130W Stinger II, AC-130J Ghostrider, MC-130J Commando II, CV-22 B Osprey, U-28A Draco and the MQ-9 Reaper.

The Melrose Air Force Range training area, 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 aircraft air to ground engagement, small arms shooting ranges, electronic warfare, and specific tactics exercises. Currently, approximately 7,800 military and civilian personnel make up the workforce at Cannon and Melrose.

MISSION

Develop, sustain and employ professional Air Commandos executing and supporting specialized airpower to achieve the nation's security objectives.

VISION

Relentless acceleration toward the AFSOC we will need.

PRIORITIES

Airmen: Develop and unleash the power of our human capital.

Installation: Enhance mission focus by improving the Cannon experience and quality of life.

Mission: Provide a combat-capable force that is ready today and relevant tomorrow.

HISTORY OF CANNON AIR FORCE BASE

Cannon began in the late 1920s, as a civilian passenger facility, Portair Field, a terminal for early commercial transcontinental flights. In the 1930s, Portair was renamed Clovis Municipal Airport.

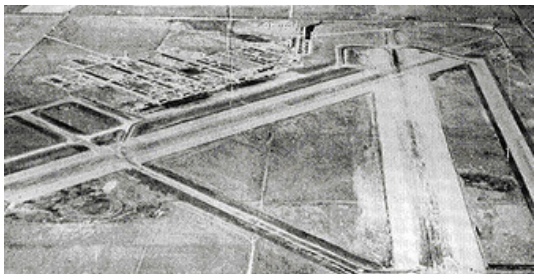
In August 1942, Clovis Municipal Airport was selected as one of three sites for a "super-aerodrome"; Salina, Kansas and Ephrata, Washington were the others. Construction for Clovis Army Air Base began on 3 September 1942, and would eventually train B-24, B-17, and later B-29 air crews in support of WWII efforts. In December 1944, the base was renamed Clovis Army Air Field. Following the war by May 28, 1947, Clovis Army Air Field (AAF) was officially inactivated.

Strategic Air Command (SAC) took control of Clovis AAF on 1 August 1947 and its' name changed to Clovis AFB on 13 January 1948. Then on 1 April 1950, Air Training Command (ATC) assumed control until 23 July 1951, when the Tactical Air Command assumed ownership, reopening Cannon as the 140th Fighter-Bomber Wing, an Air National Guard unit called to active duty for the Korean War.

By June 8, 1957, it was officially named Cannon Air Force Base after late Gen. John K. Cannon, a former commander of the Tactical Air Command. On Feb. 18, 1959, Cannon AFB entered into a relationship with the 27th Fighter Wing under Air Combat Command.

The men and women of the 27th Special Operations Wing continue to lead with specialized airpower and the innovative mindset needed to remain competitive on the global stage.

Colonel Terence G. Taylor
Commander, 27th Special Operations Wing



HISTORY OF THE 27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING

Since 1940, the 27th designation has been assigned to a myriad of locations. The unit was initially activated on 1 February 1940, as the 27th Bombardment Group (Light) at Barksdale Field, Louisiana.

It was later transferred to Hunter Field, Georgia in October 1940 and by November 1941, was transferred to Fort McKinley, Philippines. Following the Japanese attack on the Philippines on 9 December 1941, the unit would take part in limited operations in the early stages of the war in the Pacific, and later in 1942, it was redesignated as the 27th Fighter-Bomber Group and be transferred to North Africa to participate in operations in the European Theater of Operations as a fighter wing until the end of the war.

It would finish the war receiving five Distinguished Unit Citations and a Philippine Presidential Unit Citation, among the most decorated units in Europe.

On 7 November 1945, the 27th Fighter Group was inactivated. In August of 1946, the unit was reactivated at Fritzlar Air Base (AB), Germany and remained there until being transferred to Andrews Field, Maryland in June 1947.

In June 1947, the 27th Fighter Wing would be equipped with the F-82 Twin Mustang at Kearney Airfield, Nebraska. Then in March 1949, the unit was assigned to Bergstrom AFB, Texas and given its first jet aircraft, the F-84 Thunderjet.

Throughout the remaining 20th Century, the 27th Fighter Wing would be assigned a variety of different fighter aircraft (F-84E, F-100, F-111, and F-16) and in 2007, was given a new mission of special operations equipped with the AC-130W, MC-130J, U-28, CV-22, and MQ-9.

The 27 SOW continues to execute the legacy of excellence that the organization has been known for over the past 70 years.

COLONEL TERENCE TAYLOR

27th Special Operations Wing Commander

Col. Terence G. Taylor is the Commander, 27th Special Operations Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. The 27 SOW plans, postures and executes precision strike, specialized mobility, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions with special operations forces. The wing is organized into four groups and 25 squadrons equipped with specialized aircraft that include the AC-130W Stinger II, AC-130J Ghostrider, MC-130J Commando II, CV-22B Osprey, U-28A Draco and the MQ-9 Reaper.

Col. Taylor attended the University of Virginia and received his commission through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) in 1997. His prior assignments include an Air Force Fellowship where he was assigned to the Project on National Security Reform in Washington, D.C. Colonel Taylor commanded a selectively manned flying squadron within the Air Force Special Operations Command. The Colonel was also assigned as the Sensitive Activities Division Chief in the office of the Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-terrorism, J-37, Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

Colonel Taylor has served in the State Department's Counterterrorism Bureau, where he was responsible for directing and coordinating political and operational responses to international terrorism, and implementing America's global counterterrorism policies through coordination with numerous U.S. Government departments and agencies. The Colonel has served as a United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) liaison officer at the Federal Bureau of Investigations, where he worked policy and response options in the Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate. Colonel Taylor also served as the deployed Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component Commander, Afghanistan (CJSOAC-A) on two occasions. Prior to his current position, the Colonel was the Commander, 1st Special Operations Group at Hurlburt Field, Florida.

COLONEL JONATHAN GRAHAM

27th Special Operations Wing Vice Commander

Col. Jonathan Graham was born in Midwest City, OK, and received his commission from the United States Air Force Academy in 1999. He has served as an MH-53 instructor pilot, CV-22 evaluator pilot, MQ-1 aircraft commander, and MQ-9 evaluator pilot, with combat experience supporting multiple contingency operations.

Col. Graham's prior staff experience was as a Compartmented Planner in the Aviation Tactics Evaluation Group, Joint Special Operations Command; as a planner in the Joint Operational War Plans Division, Joint Staff J-5; and as a Division Chief in the Deputy Directorate for Special Operations and Counterterrorism, Joint Staff J-3. His previous command experience was as the commander, 3rd Special Operations Squadron, during which time the squadron was awarded the 2016 General Atomics Trophy as the most outstanding MQ-1/MQ-9 squadron in the United States Air Force.

Col. Graham is a graduate of the US Air Force Weapons School and the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. He received Distinguished Graduate honors from Undergraduate Pilot Training, MH-53 initial qualification training, the US Air Force Weapons School, and Air Command and Staff College. Col. Graham is the recipient of the 2008 Colonel James Jabara Award for Airmanship. Col. Graham is a Command Pilot with more than 1700 hours.

CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT KRISTINA MONTGOMERY

27th Special Operations Wing Command Chief

Chief Master Sergeant Kristina B. Montgomery is the Command Chief Master Sergeant, 27th Special Operations Wing, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico. She serves as principal advisor to the commander on all matters regarding the morale, welfare, professional development, and combat readiness of over 5,700 Air Commandos and their families. Her wing provides specialized airpower and agile combat support personnel to operational commanders conducting special operations missions around the world, including direct action, unconventional warfare, special reconnaissance, counter-terrorism, personnel recovery, psychological operations, and information operations.

Chief Master Sgt. Montgomery enlisted in the Air Force in June of 1998. She graduated from the personnel apprentice course at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., in October 1998. She has held leadership positions at the Squadron, Group, Wing and Major Command levels. Her previous assignments include bases in Colorado, Florida, and Texas. Chief Master Sgt. Montgomery also served overseas in Japan, Saudi Arabia, and Germany. She has taken part in various humanitarian operations and deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, International Security Assistance Force/Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan, and the Combined Joint Special Operations Air Component Afghanistan for Operations FREEDOM SENTINAL/ RESOLUTE SUPPORT MISSION.

27 SOW ORGANIZATIONS

HYPERLINKS NAVIGATE TO MORE INFO

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

- 27th Special Operations Support Squadron provides operations 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-22 Osprey
- 33rd Special Operations Squadron, MQ-9 Reaper
- 56th Special Operations Intelligence Squadron provides specialized intelligence support
- 318th Special Operations Squadron, U-28A Draco
- 310th Special Operations Squadron, U-28A Draco
- 17th Special Operations Squadron, AC-130J Ghostrider

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE GROUP

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

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

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

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS MEDICAL GROUP

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

27TH SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING STAFF AGENCIES

- 27th Special Operations Air Operations Squadron provides command & control and range support
- 27th Special Operations Comptroller Squadron provides financial management and budgetary support
- Various other wing agencies: Public Affairs, Staff Judge Advocate, Equal Opportunity, Inspector General, etc.

TENANT UNITS

- 26th Special Tactics Squadron
- 43rd Intelligence Squadron

OPERATIONS

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 Stinger II, AC-130J Ghostrider, MC-130J Commando II, CV-22B Osprey, U-28A Draco and the MQ-9 Reaper.

MISSION SUPPORT

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 recreational activities for a base populace of more than 7,800 military personnel, civilian employees, their families and 4,000 retirees for all units and associate organizations on Cannon Air Force Base.

MEDICAL

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 27 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.

MAINTENANCE

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

Responsible for all flight line and back shop maintenance in support of assigned AC-130W, AC-130J, MC-130J, CV-22B, MQ-9 and U-28A 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 $30 million.

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

AIRCRAFT

MQ-9 Reaper more info

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.

CV-22 Osprey more info

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.

MC-130J Commando II more info

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.

AC-130W Stinger II more info

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.

AC-130J Ghostrider more info

The AC-130J Ghostrider's primary missions are close air support, air interdiction and armed reconnaissance. 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 and overwatch mission sets. The AC-130J provides ground forces an expeditionary, direct-fire platform that is persistent, ideally suited for urban operations delivering precision low-yield munitions against ground targets.

U-28A Draco more info

The U-28A is a modified, single-engine Pilatus PC-12 aircraft and is part of the Air Force Special Operations Command manned, airborne intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance fleet. Operational squadrons include the 319th, 34th and 318th Special Operations Squadrons, and the 5th and 19th SOS conduct the airframe's formal training. The U-28A provides manned fixed-wing tactical airborne ISR support to humanitarian operations, search and rescue and conventional and special operation missions.

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