

Approved Emblems
For the
1st Special Operations Wing



1st Special Operations Group



1st Special Operations Support Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The sphere in the center of the emblem represents the unit's worldwide commitment to support special operations. The lightning bolt surrounding the sphere alludes to unit's rapid response mission to employ forces anywhere around the world. The lightning bolt also represents the unit's responsibility in pursuit of excellence in providing command and control, planning, communications, intelligence, weather, airfield operations, and medical support in maintenance of AF Special Operations Forces. The dagger reflects the commitment by the unit to uphold the proud heritage of the air commandos.

Emblem Approved: 16 September 1994

4th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue background represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The black disc with crescent suggests a night sky in which the unit is especially adapted to operate. The ghost specter reflects the unit's history and the aircraft named "Spooky." It further alludes to the squadron's ability to appear and disappear. The flames spewing from the ghost's arm denotes the firepower of the unit's aircraft from high altitude. (The ghost represented on the unit emblem was originally portrayed on nose art on the first gunship (AC-47). The AC-47 was universally called "Spooky" and inclusion of the "Spooky" ghost on the patch ties the AC-130U gunship to its original ancestor.)

Emblem Approved: 20 June 1995

6th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The disc bearing an annulet alludes to a globe and reflects the unit's round-the-clock, worldwide mission capabilities. The six-pointed star denotes the squadron's numerical designation and honors the memory of all previous "commandos." The lightning bolts reflect WW II Campaign credits. The winged dagger symbolizes the special operation mission of the unit and the dedication and skills of unit personnel.

Emblem Approved: 22 March 1966

8th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The stylized blackbird conveys movement and flight. The flight direction is indicative of the squadron's low-level mission. The body of the stylized blackbird reinforces the squadron's unconventional warfare role and the operations during darkness. The wings symbolize the squadron's unique CV-22 mission and the twin prop-rotors of the Osprey's tilt-rotor design.

Emblem Approved: 15 June 2007

9th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

The blue of the disc, the crescent moon, and the night sky represent the unit's primary theater of operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The owl is symbolic of the unit's aircraft and its ability to operate in the night low-level flight regime. The wisdom associated with the owl represents the knowledge and expertise each squadron member possesses to perform the mission. The commando knife clutched by the owl in its talons represents the special operations legacy with which the unit has been entrusted.

Emblem Approved: 7 July 1988

15th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe reflects the worldwide scope of special operations. The winged dagger is symbolic of the squadron's ability to deliver precision operations anywhere and anytime. The flames allude to bomb blasts and recall the squadron's predecessor unit (15th Bombardment Squadron). They also signify the five theater commands to which the squadron provides support and point out the specialized nature of most special operations missions.

Emblem Approved: 27 November 1992

16th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Spectre has been a symbol of the 16th Special Operations Squadron and the AC-130 gunship since inception in the late 1960's. The Spectre appearing at night in a "covert" manner represents the unit's special operations mission. It also represents the unit's gunship nighttime mission, to attack quickly and precisely and then vanish; much like the phantoms of folklore do. The unit's motto "Spectre" represents the nickname of the aircraft the squadron has flown since the Vietnam War and the "Spectre" symbol.

Emblem Approved: 19 December 2007

19th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The divided background stands for dusk and night and represents the unit's primary night-flight work environment. The wing and book symbolize the unit's flying training mission. The sword with its point down reflects peace and identifies the instructors, students, and personnel of the unit as active parts of the command mission.

Emblem Approved: 23 August 1996

20th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue background represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The black disc denotes the night sky, which is the theater of operations of special operations units. The band represents the unit's heritage when organized in 1976 in tri-service support of an unconventional warfare mission. The stars reflect the nine primary functions of the unit and the nine aerospace employment principles of war. The red star signifies the unit's participation in Operation J-CATCH. The green hornet symbolizes the hovering capabilities of the rotary wing aircraft that the unit utilizes in a low-level environment. The hornet's "stinger" denotes the gunship weaponry.

Emblem Approved: 9 December 1993

319th Special Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The dragon represents valiant defender, valor and protection. The horse is symbolic of the unit's readiness for all employments. The stylized globe symbolizes the squadron's area of operation being global in nature.

Emblem Approved: 21 June 2006

1st Special Operations Maintenance Group



1st Special Operations Aircraft Maintenance Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The gear divided black and blue has sixteen teeth. It alludes to day and night support provided by the Squadron to its parent unit. The bow armed with a dagger reflects the combat readiness and precision with which the unit handles special operations assets. The dagger denotes the unit's heritage. The four arrows represent the combat support provided by the unit and also the four original aircraft maintenance units.

Emblem Approved: 11 July 1996

1st Special Operations Maintenance Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The owl, a night predator, reflects the unit's mission of supporting covert operation units. The shield denotes the Air Force mission of defending the peace. The wrench and dagger symbolize the interdependence between operations and maintenance.

Emblem Approved: 25 April 1996

1st Special Operations Component Maintenance Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of AF personnel. The dagger symbolizes the link with AFSOC. The day and night symbolism represents the 24 hour readiness and capability which the unit's support ensures.

Emblem Approved: 26 October 1993

1st Special Operations Equipment Maintenance Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The gray fist of iron depicts the strength of the unit to perform its worldwide maintenance functions in all conditions. The wrench and munitions symbolize the expertise of squadron personnel in maintaining equipment.

Emblem Approved: 13 October 1993

1st Special Operations Helicopter Maintenance Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe indicates world-wide service and reflects the night and day maintenance. The eagle represents freedom. The wrench represents the maintenance mission of the squadron. The lightning bolt signifies the speed with which the mission is performed.

Emblem Approved: 8 August 1996

1st Special Operations Maintenance Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The aircraft flight symbol denotes the unit's logistics support to maintenance and wing deployments. The dagger signifies the cutting edge of support provided by the unit. The eagle head reflects the strength and determination of the unit's personnel.

Emblem Approved: 27 July 1993

1st Special Operations
Mission Support Group



1st Special Operations Civil Engineer Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The bull is a traditional Air Force Civil Engineer symbol representing “Prime BEEF” (Prime Base Engineer Emergency Forces) the basic description for all civil engineer career fields. The wings of the bull are also a traditional Air Force symbol representing the global reach of Air Force Civil Engineers. The dagger is derived from the AFSOC patch and is emblematic of the unit’s “commando engineer” heritage in the support of the Air Force and Department of Defense special operations worldwide. The background supports the squadron’s unique role in special operations, which are often conducted under the cover of night and of a covert nature.

Emblem Approved: 6 March 2008

1st Special Operations Communications Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The four quarters represent the four corners of the globe and emphasize the importance of worldwide communication. The lightning bolts represent speed and accuracy which are necessary for the success of the mission of providing communication. The chain embodies security and strength. The dagger represents Special Operations Forces and ties the unit to 1st SOW and AFSOC. The motto, “SCIENTIA CELERITAS VALENS” translates in English to “Science Swiftens Strength.”

Emblem Approved: 22 January 2008

1st Special Operations Comptroller Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The wings with legs grasping currency suggests the unit's control of spending funds to provide for the needs of its parent Wing. The sword and "S" allude to a dollar sign, and with the globe, symbolize the Squadron's involvement with financial resources that provide for a worldwide defense.

Emblem Approved: 22 August 1997

1st Special Operations Contracting Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The ink quill and paper scroll represent the essential tools of the contracting function; the mission of the unit. The dagger represents the support of the unit's primary customers, Air Force Special Operations Command and the 1st Special Operations Wing.

Emblem Approved: 14 March 1994

1st Special Operations Force Support Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. Red refers to high threat missions supported by the unit. The star symbolizes Air Force Special Operations Command, the squadron's parent unit. The fist holding the scales shows the balance the unit must meet in supporting both the mission and serving the people. The colors of the hand denote the covert operations of Commando Special Operations.

Emblem Approved: 4 August 1995

1st Special Operations Logistics Readiness Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The gear cog represents the unit's logistics functions. The winged dagger signifies the unit's support to Air Force Special Operations mission. The globe denotes the support the unit provides to the command's worldwide mission.

Emblem Approved: 15 June 1994

1st Special Operations Security Forces Squadron



Emblem Significance

Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The white winged dagger depicts the prime wartime function of the Security Forces, air base ground defense. The charge also represents the unit's historical association with Special Operations. The yellow lightning bolts symbolize the dual functions of home station and deployed locations service to the parent organization. The olive branch denotes the peacekeeping function of all Security Forces.

Emblem Approved: 30 June 1994

1st Special Operations Medical Group



1st Special Operations Aerospace Medicine Squadron

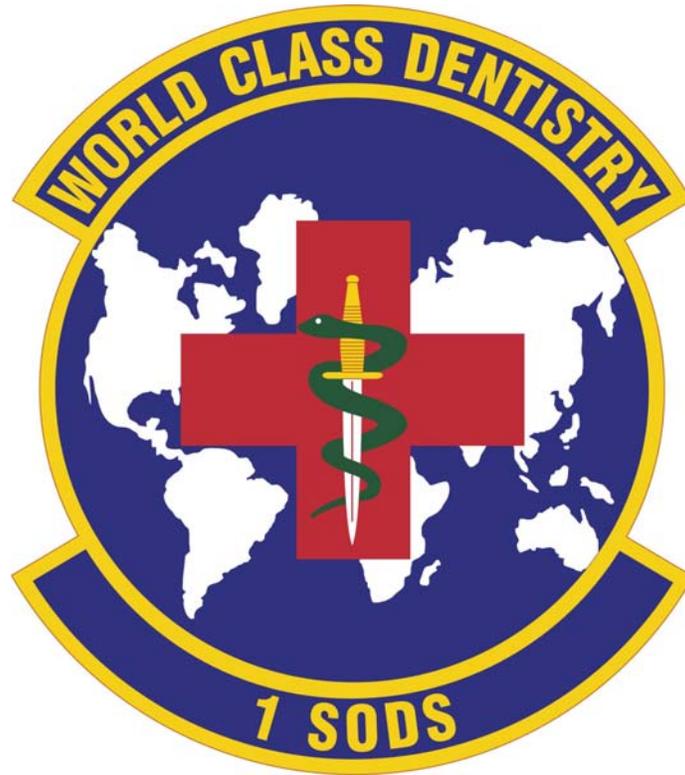


Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe indicates the world-wide reach of the unit. The division of the globe into night and day hemispheres depicts service at all hours. The dagger represents the Air Force Special Operations Command. The Greek cross, also known as the “*crux immissa quadrata*,” represents urgent medical care. The cross combined with the dagger signifies medical support of the military units. The serpent entwined around the dagger is a reference to the Rod of Aesculapius, the ancient Greek symbol associated with the healing aspect of the medical arts. The motto, “DEFENDO SALUS AD VITAM” means “Defending Health for Life.”

Emblem Approved: 6 May 2008

1st Special Operations Dental Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The map of the world signifies support of the United States Air Force operations around the world. The dagger represents the primary organizations of the dental unit. The snake, dagger, and red cross represent the civilian and military personnel and their dedication to healing with dentistry.

Emblem Approved: 15 January 2008

1st Special Operations Medical Operations Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The dagger represents the AFSOC's ability to deliver special operations capability globally through airpower. The snake wrapped around the winged dagger resembles the caduceus and emphasizes the medical squadron's role in AFSOC's delivery of special operations capability. The cross is the time-honored symbol of the combat medic. The squadron motto emphasizes the commitment to the mission and the goal to keep the planes in the air, bringing the fight to the enemy.

Emblem Approved: 21 March 2008

1st Special Operations Medical Support Squadron



Emblem Significance

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The winged dagger attached to a disc with the red cross represents the medical support the 1 SOMDSS provides to AFSOC for delivery of special operations globally.

Emblem Approved: 21 March 2008