

SPECTRE IMPORTANT DATES CALENDER

Note: We still need dates for Operations in Somoloia and Bosina. Also any operations which may have occurred since then.

JANUARY

3 Jan 91 - "Operation Eastern Exit" Africa

17 Jan 91 - "Operation Gable Shark"

28 Jan 73 - End of Spectre Operations in Vietnam

31 Jan 91 - "Spirit" 03 shot down, ACFT 567 and 14 crewmembers lost

FEBURARY

22 Feb 73 - Operations in Laos ended

MARCH

14 Mar 94 - "Jockey 14" ACFT 576 and 8 crewmembers lost

29 Mar 72 - ACFT 044 and 14 crewmembers lost

30 Mar 72 - ACFT 571 lost.

31 Mar 72 - 105mm first used in combat

APRIL

12 Apr 75 - "Operation Eagle Pull" Phnom Penh Evacuation

21 April 70 - ACFT 625 and 10 crewmembers lost

24 Apr 80 - 16 SOS Crews deployed for Desert One Support in Iran

29 Apr 75 - "Operation Frequent Wind" Saigon Evacuation

MAY

8 May 69 - Spectre shot down an enemy helicopter

24 May 69 - Spectre lost it's first gunship, ACFT 629 and 2 crewmembers

1990 - Spectre assigned to Special Operations Command

JUNE

18 Jun 72 - ACFT 043 and 12 crewmembers lost

JULY

22 Jul 74 - 16th SOS moved to Korat RTB

AUGUST

15 August 73 - All combat operations in SEA ended

29 August 1995 – The last H-Model in to finally see combat, Acft 69-6568, FINALLY fired its guns in anger over Sarajevo, Bosnia

SEPTEMBER

6 Sep 90 - 16th SOS deployed in Support of “Operation Desert Shield”

21 Sep 67 – First Gunship arrives in South Vietnam

26 Sep 68 - Spectre took first AAA hit

27 Sep 67 - First combat mission flown by AC-130

28 Sep 95 - Last AC-130A Live Fire Mission Flown

OCTOBER

24 Oct 97 – 2 AC-130Us flew 36.0 hrs non-stop to Teagu, South Korea

25 Oct 71 - First AC130E arrived at Ubon

25 Oct 83 - “Operation Urgent Fury” Grenada

30 Oct 1968 - The 16th SOS was activated at Ubon RTAB

NOVEMBER

9 Nov 67 - First “truck busting” mission flown by AC-130

13-15 November 1979: The rapid deployment capability of the gunship was demonstrated. In response to a real world crisis 4 air-refuelable AC-130s assigned to the 16th SOS (there were only 4 air-refuelable AC-130s in the inventory) were launched on this unprecedented deployment. Two 2 ship formations took off from Hurlburt Field, 24hrs apart, and flew to Anderson AB Guam. Each flight logged a world record 29.7 hours from takeoff to touchdown. Four inflight refuelings were required for each formation. To my knowledge the record still stands for a formation of 4.

As an aside, we could not have crewed a 5th aircraft even if there had been one. We trained and qualified pilots navigators and engineers enroute to Guam. We needed more qualified crew members in some positions to be legally augmented.

Until these flights, again to my knowledge, no AC-130 had taken on a full load of fuel.

DECEMBER

12 Dec 75 - 16th SOS arrived PCS to Hurlburt Field

20 Dec 89 - "Operation Just Cause" Panama

21 Dec 72 - ACFT 490 and 14 crewmembers lost

NOTE FROM "PAPPY"

GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU.

I was doing what old men do. I was going through my "I Love Me Book". That led me to our first, last and only Spectre Year book. What a great walk down memory lane. For those who were there during 1982 and maybe a couple of years earlier, we sowed the wind and reaped the whirlwind.

The 16th SOS, the only AC-130 Squadron on active duty, was to be deactivated in 1980. In late Summer or Fall of 1979 the 1st SOW CC (Dick Dunwoody) directed me to start working with MPC to find assignments for all who wanted or needed help. Thanks to the Ayatollahs in Iran the old four engine fighter was resuscitated and given a new life in 1980.

When the rescue attempt in April 1980 failed in Iran, the Air Force Special Ops community (specifically) as well as the AF (less specifically) had no idea what to do with the aircraft. 16th SOS CC (Florin White) and I were given unfettered freedom to fine tune the most capable close air support package ever developed. We did not squander this opportunity.

From 1982 till 1999 Seven of 10 squadron CC had worked for me in the Squadron or with me in some staff relationship. A certain degree of consistency from one commander to another is expected. Strengths enhanced and weaknesses eliminated.

I knew these young officers. We flew together, developed tactics together, redefined capabilities, and created a new gunship persona. Each have been massaged, updated, and/or perfected, but they were created on our watch. Eagle Claw, Rice Bowl, and Honey badger, were fertile soil.

Back to the year book. The White/Gallagher years of 1979-1980 followed by the

1 1/2 year covered by the Spectre Annual are the bedrock for the training, tactics, and techniques for today's gunships. Those of you who are in the book, have proof that you have been there, done that. It is your history.

Very Respectfully,

Pappy