



NEWS RELEASE

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16th SPECIAL OPERATIONS SQUADRON TO MOVE TO CANNON AFB

HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. – Air Force Special Operations Command has received the green light to continue its plans to move the 16th Special Operations Squadron from Hurlburt Field, Fla., to Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.

U.S. Air Force Headquarters authorized the plan May 12, which will move approximately 600 positions and eight AC-130H aircraft to the New Mexico base. The positions include maintenance personnel who support the aircraft.

A small number of the initial cadre from the 16th SOS will arrive at Cannon this summer, with a majority of the squadron to begin moving in April 2009. The transfer of people and aircraft should be completed by November 2009.

The move will increase the size of the special operations footprint that started when AFSOC took ownership of the base from Air Combat Command in October 2007.

The primary missions of the AC-130 gunship, which has 40 mm and 105 mm cannons, are close air support, air interdiction and force protection. The New Mexico-based gunships will have the ability to train with Western-based special operations units, utilize the Melrose Range and train in high altitude conditions similar to those of

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16th SOS
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deployed locations.

For more information, contact the Air Force Special Operations Command public affairs office at (850) 884-5515.