The 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is an operational unit of the United States Army Special Forces activated on 20 May 1960.

In 1953, as the 10th Special Forces Group moved to Germany, it split into two with half the group staying at Fort Bragg, NC, initially named the 77th Special Forces Group (SFG). In 1960, the 77th SFG was redesignated the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) it began with operations in Laos and Vietnam then Panama. In the 1980’s the 7th SFG(A) began advising and operating in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. 7th SFG(A) contributed to operations in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela. Since 2002, the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) became one of the U.S. military's most committed forces, spearheading coalition efforts to bring down the Taliban in Afghanistan. Before and on relocating to Florida, the unit has spent as much of its time in not only Afghanistan and Iraq but South Korea as well as trained and deployed for operations in its assigned AOR.

In 2011, the unit moved from Ft Bragg, to it’s new home at Eglin Air Force Base, FL. The unit’s purpose is to conduct guerrilla operations and train friendly governments’ armed forces in South, Central, and North America as well as the Caribbean.

The 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Area of Responsibility (AOR) includes the land mass of Latin America south of Mexico; the waters adjacent to Central America and South America; the Caribbean Sea, its 13 island nations, European and U.S. territories; the Gulf of Mexico; and a portion of the Atlantic Ocean. It encompasses 32 countries (19 in Central and South America and 13 in the Caribbean) and covers about 15.6 million square miles. The region represents about one-sixth of the landmass of the world assigned to regional unified commands. The 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) also supports the missions in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For more history and the official lineage of the 7th SFG(A) see: https://www.soc.mil/ARSOF_History/branch_special_forces.html and https://history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/sf/007sgp1sf.htm

The 7th SFG(A) trains and conducts the Special Operations Forces nine doctrinal missions:

- Unconventional Warfare
- Foreign Internal Defense
- Direct Action
- Counterinsurgency
- Special Reconnaissance
- Counter Terrorism
- Information Operations
Counter-proliferation
Security Force Assistance

These missions make Special Forces unique in the U.S. military, because they are employed throughout the three stages of the operational continuum: peacetime, conflict and war. Special Forces Soldiers are renowned for their ability to deploy in small teams, operate independently, and conduct their mission in austere environments. Whatever situation may arise, be assured the men of the Special Forces stand ready to answer the Nation's call to duty - De Oppresso Liber, or “To Free the Oppressed.”

For more, see—https://www.linkedin.com/company/7thspecialforcesgroup airborne-usarmy/about/

The 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) is similar to the other four active duty and two national guard groups made up of four special forces battalions, a support battalion and a headquarters company totaling about 1400 Soldiers or Green Berets.

In July 2019, at the group’s compound near Crestview, named Camp Arthur D. “Bull” Simons, Col. John W. Sannes took command of the group. COL Sannes brought experience from the 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne). Sannes began his military career in 1992 as an enlisted soldier with the South Dakota National Guard and the Minnesota National Guard before being commissioned as a second lieutenant through the Army ROTC program. In January of 2020, Command Sergeant Major Alexis Ortiz joined the unit in a Change of Responsibility ceremony held in the Liberty Chapel on Camp Simons. For more, see—https://twitter.com/7thforces?lang=en

The selfless warrior culture, deployments and competition are a lifestyle in the Red Empire, the nickname for the group. In January, Soldiers assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) were honored in an awards ceremony at Liberty Chapel, Jan. 9, for valorous actions while supporting Operation Resolute Support, earring 3 silver stars, 7 bronze star medals with valor devices and 17 Army commendation medals with valor devices.
See this video of 7th SFG(A) Soldiers in action as it highlights contestants competing for a coveted spot to represent the Red Empire for Fuerzas Comando 2020. Fuerzas Comando is an annual multinational Special Operations Forces skills competition sponsored by U.S. Southern Command and executed by SOCSOUTH. Fuerzas Comando demonstrates enduring partnership and robust engagement in the region. The competition will be held in Colombia this year.

For the video by SPC Jose Vargas see—https://twitter.com/i/status/1218259960284532737

Soldiers from 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) (7 SFG (A)) are suspended by a CH-47 Chinook helicopter during a training event at Eglin Base Air Force Base, FL, Feb. 5, 2013. Green Berets from 7SFG (A) participated in a training event in which they practiced Special Purpose Insertion Extraction (SPIE). Spies are used to rapidly insert or extract soldiers from terrain that does not allow helicopters to land. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Steven Young/Released)

Green Berets from the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) review the performance of Honduran TIGRES and provide guidance to improve their movement and marksmanship while clearing rooms inside a shoot-house during Close Quarters Battle Training Feb. 25, 2015, on Eglin Air Force Base. The TIGRES, a counter-narcotic and counter-trafficking force, traveled from Honduras to the United States for the first time to train with their Special Forces partners in Northwest Florida. (Photo by Capt. Thomas Cieslak)

This year, the Red Empire Dining Facility was officially recognized as a finalist in the 52nd annual Phillip A. Connelly awards program. In August 2019, this dining facility was first in the United States Special Operations Command, now the competition is at the national and final Department of the Army level.
Soldiers and Family members preparing to PCS to the 7th SFG(A) have homework to do and choices to make as the group cantonment area, or Camp Simons, is located in the middle of the Eglin base near to the Ranger training camp called Camp Rudder.

For more, see—https://twitter.com/i/status/1218259960284532737