

101st COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

MISSION

The Communications Flight's primary mission is to maintain an organizational readiness status in order to be an effective organization upon mobilization. The assigned mission of the 101st Comm Flight is to provide trained operations and maintenance personnel in support of the 101st Air Refueling Wing during peacetime and to the Air Force Communications Command during wartime.

LINEAGE

101st Communications Flight

STATIONS

Bangor, ME

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Bruce M. Crowley, #1987

Maj Gerard F. Bolduc, May 1996-Jun 1997

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Communications Flight got its start in 1956 when John J. Hennessey was hired as an Air Technician to repair mobile radios. Since then the Flight has grown to include data processing, telephone and radio repair, ground radio operations, a message processing center with a complement of twenty-five members.

Partially as a result of the Vietnam War, the Guard began to attract prior service personnel and those that chose the Guard as an alternative to the draft. About 1965, the National Guard Bureau authorized five weekend positions in the Communications element. The makeup of these five positions was three radio maintenance personnel and two communications equipment operators. 1966 brought the communication section's first officer, Captain Thomas Gibbs.

During the period of mid 1960 to 1972, the Comm element performed the functions of ground radio maintenance, operated the base switchboard (weekends) and operated an in-house teletype circuit. During this period, the maintenance and the teletype machines were located on the second floor of the hangar in the first two rooms on the right (adjacent to the coffee shop). The switchboard was located just inside the front entrance of Building 487.

In 1972, the base opened a new Communications Center in building 487. It contained Univac equipment and cryptographic gear hooked to a Western Union circuit, which allowed the base to send and receive messages to and from any base in the world. The switchboard was moved from building 487 and installed in the hangar building. In April, Clarence Elden was hired as a technician in charge of Autodin Communications/Crypto operations. In December, Otis Small and Richard Merlino were charged with the maintenance of the old radios and the new crypto equipment.

In 1976 the Comm section left the Air Defense Command and was officially named the 101st Communications Flight (SPT) under the command of the Air Force Communications Command (AFCC).

1Lt Bruce M. Crowley (now Major) assumed command of the 101st Communications Flight, following a heart attack suffered by Major Thomas Gibbs and subsequent retirement.

Since 1985, there have been many changes to the Comm Flight mission at Bangor Air National Guard Base. With the new Over-the-Horizon Backscatter building and the manning of the communications center being handled by Air Force personnel, the Comm Flight has had many new adjustments to make. The operation of the Comm Center is now a joint venture between the regular Air Force and the Air National Guard stationed at Bangor ANGB.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

Unit yearbook. *Maine Air National Guard, Forty Years of Service, 1947-1987*. Maine ANG. 1987.