

114th RANGE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

To provide survivable and reliable satellite voice and data communications for command control and logistics in support of United States Air Force, Air Combat Command, and NATO communications requirements. They support launch range operation tracking of the Space Transportation System, Atlas, Delta, and Titan launches.

Due to US Air Force structure changes announced in March 2012, the 114 ROPS was scheduled for inactivation on 1 October 2012.[1] However, this decision was reversed and instead the unit assumed a new mission as the 114th Space Operations Squadron in April 2014.[2]

LINEAGE

114th Communications Squadron
Redesignated 114th Combat Communications Squadron
Redesignated 114th Range Operations Squadron
Redesignated 114th Space Control Squadron, Apr 2014

STATIONS

Patrick AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Robert E. Chandler, 15 May 1989
Maj David H. Barnhart, 13 Jan 1991
Maj Michele M. Agee, 8 Aug 1994
Maj Daniel P. Bates, 10 Jan 1998
LTC Rembert N. Schofield, 1 Dec 2003

LTC Todd M. Oller 17 Aug 2007
LTC Johnny Malpass, 2012-2017
LTC Kyle Beatty, 2017-2020
LTC Scott McGuire 2020-Present

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 114th Combat Communications Squadron mission is to provide rapid, ready aerospace communications and space support for worldwide engagement. Their secondary mission is to promote public safety for the citizens of Florida and provide community service for local and statewide needs. The 114th Communications Squadron was officially born 20 May 1989. Originally conceived to provide manning for pre-positioned NATO satellite communications terminals in the event of war against the Soviet Union, the unit mission was labeled NABS, or NATO Air Base Satellite. At the time it was equipped with only one TSC-85B terminal for training and 35 members, and there were only two career fields offered to traditional guard members, satellite communications and electrical power production.

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located at Patrick and could provide training and mentorship. The level of highly technical industries in the local area also factored to place the 114th in sunny Cocoa Beach, Florida.

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The 114th has, in addition to the Combat Communications mission, nine members dedicated to a Space Launch mission. These members are co-located with the 45th RANS at Cape Canaveral and serve in missile launch operations.

The 114th Florida Air National Guard squadron was federally recognized on May 15, 1989. Since that time, the 114th has transformed from a secure communications capable entity, supporting NATO for use during the Cold War era, into a futuristic combined space mission flight control and mobile range safety component. Operating from Patrick Air Force Base on the central east coast of Florida, the strategic location next to Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Kennedy Space Center further enabled the 114th to provide these vital functions. This is the latest metamorphosis the unit is undertaking, living the tenets of its motto "Sure and Swift" while maintaining the same team environment that has ensured mission success all over the world.

As the mission of the 114th has changed, so has the squadron's leadership. The first commander of the 114th Communications Squadron, Lt. Col. Robert Chandler took the lead from its inception until January 1991, driving the recruiting and organizational efforts. This was when the worldwide legacy began, with support of operations in Turkey and Saudi Arabia, including Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Next on scene was Col. David Barnhart, current commander of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. Col. Barnhart led the 114th from January 1991 to September 1994. During Col. Barnhart's tenure, the team's experience grew exponentially: not only were operational missions conducted in Spain, Germany, Italy, Honduras, Saudi Arabia, Canada and Columbia, but now humanitarian efforts drew members to hurricane relief efforts in Jamaica and south Florida. Additionally, various stateside exercises, including Coronet Stroke and Combat Challenge, tested the fiber of the already mature unit. During this time, the squadron moved operating locations twice on Patrick AFB to its present setting and refocused the mission and became the 114th Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS) in 1993.

Captain Rembert Schofield arrived as the first FLANG space officer, tasked to develop a role for Florida Air National Guard personnel in space launch operations. As the 114th CBCS, the mission developed into providing quick reaction tactical communications services. Squadron members also started the tradition of supporting the annual local Vietnam Veteran's Moving Wall Memorial.

In 1993 the unit added specialty technical fields such as Computer Operations, Radio Maintenance and Electronic Switching Systems. Since inception world events have conspired to adjust the mission statement of the 114th. The concept of an Air Expeditionary Force has led us to support several different missions on a federal level, and we have provided relief in the event of natural disasters as part of our state humanitarian role. We have over a hundred slots on our manning document and 11 members to support the unit full time. Our members have supported contingencies in areas such as Morocco, Cairo, Turkey, Bosnia, Columbia, Honduras, Spain, and Italy, to name a few. Presently we have the capability to provide voice and data to any location on the planet.

In January 1994, the 114th received its first Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

Lt. Col. Michele Agee assumed command in September 1994. She lead the unit through further expansion with missions in Haiti, Panama, Egypt, Croatia, Morocco and Bosnia along with numerous events in Florida, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Utah. During this time, the unit selected its initial first sergeant, Master Sgt. Kelly Rich.

In 1995 the squadron began building up Space Launch Operations personnel to support the 45th Space Wing launch operations.

In January 1998, Maj. Daniel Bates took command, with personnel already deployed to Bosnia

and later to Italy. In 1999 a partnership with the Air Force Research Lab was established to develop the Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) system. The 114th CBCS personnel were commissioned to provide support to the program.

In January 2001, Lt. Col. Schofield and the 114th CBCS team deployed to Kodiak, Alaska, to demonstrate the BMRST system's ability to rapidly deploy, set up and support a rocket launch with the Quick Reaction Launch Vehicle (QRLV) rocket launching from this site.

After Sept. 11, 2001, large elements of the squadron deployed to Qatar and MacDill Air Force Base in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Additionally, the 114th CBCS received its second Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The unit deployed to Kodiak again in May 2002 for a second QRLV launch.

January 2003 saw the latest and current commander, Lt. Col. Schofield, take the unit's expectations into the future. As a Space Operations Officer with the unit since 1994, Lt. Col. Schofield grasped the opportunity to reshape the unit's direction and ultimately, its destiny. As a "blended" unit, space and launch tracking support became the norm. Working with elements of the 114th Range Flight and technicians from the combat communications squadron, the unit is on the cusp of becoming one squadron supporting Air Force Space Command with individuals directly providing range operations as mission flight control and range operations officers, in addition to supplying downrange expertise with the BMRST and Defensive Counter Space.

The 114th Combat Communications Squadron will roll in with the 114th Range Flight and become the 114th Range Operations Squadron (ROPS) during the fall of 2005. The new threefold mission mandates sustaining 1st Range Operations Squadron launch operations, providing AFSPC with BMRST mobile range safety and telemetry tracking, and supporting Defensive Counter Space using the Satellite Communications Interference Response System.

By Senior Airman Thomas Kielbasa Florida National Guard Public Affairs CLEARWATER, Fla. (5/7/2004) — For nearly half a century Florida has been at the forefront of space-launch technology, and recently the state's Air National Guard acquired new equipment to help maintain that distinction. On April 30 members of the Florida Air National Guard received a state-of-the-art mobile system designed to monitor space-vehicle launches from Cape Canaveral. The Ballistic Missile Range Safety Technology (BMRST) system will enable the citizen-airmen to track – and if necessary assist in destroying – rockets or launch vehicles after liftoff. This BMRST system was built by defense contractor Honeywell, and was the second of its type manufactured and delivered to the U.S. Air Force. During a presentation at the Honeywell plant in Clearwater, Fla., Adjutant General of Florida Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett accepted the ceremonial keys to the system from BMRST acquisition manager for the U.S. Air Force Dr. Sam Kuennen. The general in turn presented the keys to members of the 114th Combat Communications Squadron and 114th Range Flight – the two Florida Air National Guard units that will use the new system. "We're very happy to have this, and we know it will perform the job it was created for very well," Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Rep. C.W. Bill Young said as a guest speaker during the ceremony. Rep. Young's office, which represents

Florida's 10th Congressional District, assisted in providing funding for the BMRST system delivery. The BMRST system consists of a control center van and two trailer-mounted tracking antennas. All data processing and range safety displays are housed in the control center; the antennas are designed to receive data from launched rockets and space vehicles and transmit the information back to the control center. From the control center the airmen will also be able to assist in destroying an off-course rocket or launch vehicle for safety reasons. The manpower of the 114th Range Flight and the 114th Combat Communications Squadron will be combined into the first-ever Air National Guard Range Operations Support Squadron (ROSS), and utilize the BMRST system during future missions. Lt. Col. Rembert Schofield, who will command the ROSS, noted the mobile BMRST would be tested at Cape Canaveral during upcoming rocket launches, as well as in "various launch tracking sites along the East Coast." Schofield explained the Florida Air National Guard units – which are able to work hand-in-hand with the active duty Air Force's 45th Space Wing during launches – are now even more invaluable to the space program with the addition of the BMRST. "It has a lot of potential uses from the 45th Space Wing's perspective," Schofield said. "As opposed to keeping a seldom-used tracking site opened and manned year-round, you can use this (mobile) system in place of that and only use it and pay for it when you need it. So you have a potential savings of \$50 or 60 million per year for the 45th Space Wing, and that is significant." Schofield's units are able to track and assist in a variety of space launches from Cape Canaveral, and past missions have included the Delta II rocket and even the space shuttle. "We can track anything you want. It doesn't matter what it is," Schofield said. "There is absolutely no other National Guard that has the type of mission we do, or even does space-launch tracking. So this is the only space unit in the National Guard." The 114th Range Flight has been working with a prototype of the BMRST, and last year participated in a joint exercise with the U.S. Air Force in Alaska, where they successfully tracked a rocket launch using the BMRST system. According to Schofield, the addition of the new launch-tracking system to the Air National Guard's capabilities is not only important to Florida, but has a great potential for other state National Guards. "This obviously means a lot to Florida, but it also has a far-reaching potential for more of the country," Schofield explained. "A lot of the launches coming out of the eastern range go either up the coast or down the coast, and if your (launch) is going up the coast you could have one of these (BMRST systems) stationed in another state. And another Air National Guard unit could simply pull it out and set it up, participate in a launch, and then shut it down. You wouldn't have to transport it up there, and you don't have to pay a large upkeep." This is a big responsibility," he added. "But this is the perfect mission for the Guard." According to Schofield, the 114th could be ready to track rocket launches using the new BMRST system as early as mid-May.

Operations:

Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Mostar Bosnia (97-98)

Split, Croatia (96)

Hurricane Opal (95)

Det 3/4, Colombia(93-94)

Taif/Riyahd, Saudi Arabia(92-93)

Hurricane Andrew(92)

Tabuk, Saudi Arabia(90-91)

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (April 10, 2014) – One of the Florida Air National Guard’s most cutting-edge units was reincarnated this past weekend during a ceremony which predicted a bright future for its citizen-Airmen. More than 60 Airmen and family members attended the morning event to witness the 114th Range Operations Squadron’s (ROPS) redesignation as the 114th Space Control Squadron. As part of the military ceremony Commander of the Florida Air National Guard Brig. Gen. Robert Branyon exchanged unit guidons with 114th Commander Lt. Col. John Malpass, symbolically closing the 114th ROPS’ mission to the Florida Air National Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Since 2006 the 114th ROPS has provided critical space launch range safety and instrumentation support for launches from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and the Kennedy Space Center. The missions were often high-profile and gained national attention, including support to the final Space Shuttle launch in 2011. In 2012 the unit faced possible deactivation as part of proposed force structure changes, but was saved from elimination and chosen for redesignation as a space control squadron.

As the 114th Space Control Squadron, the unit will be responsible for “delivering defensive and offensive counterspace and space situational awareness” in support of global and theater campaigns.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.