

116 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

116 Communications Squadron
Redesignated 116 Communications Flight

STATIONS

Robins AFB, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

116 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Debra D. Brooks
Cpt Thomas Grabowski

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 116th Communications Flight was to support the Wing with base communications, telephone operations, intra-base radio systems, public address systems and a ground-to-air radio system.

On 3 Jun 1966, the 116th Communications Flight was activated to provide the support for the 116th Military Airlift Wing. Command of the Flight was assumed by Maj Marcus L. Winchester with advisory support provided by the 2157th Communications Squadron, Dobbins AFB, GA.

In 1967, the 116th Communications Flight was awarded the Outstanding Reserve Forces Unit Award. This award was presented by the Eastern Communications Flight Region, a subordinate command of the Air Force Communications Command located at Griffiss AFB, NY. This award was given to units which best supported the host base in its varied communications support role. The 116th Communications Flight also received an "Excellent" rating during a Management Effectiveness Inspection for the same time frame.

In 1974, the 116th Communications Flight assumed a mobility mission. This entailed training and proficiency in worldwide deployment of personnel and equipment to a bare base environment to provide essential communications. Mobile generators as well as KWM-2A HF point-to-point radios and tactical SB-86 intra-base telephone systems were kept on a ready status. In 1975, Maj Michael J. Bowers assumed command of the 116th Communication Flight following the retirement of Lt Col Winchester.

1976 was the year that the 116 CF participated in GATOR GUARD II, a joint service exercise held at Gulfport, MS. This was the first time that Digital Subscriber Terminal Equipment was used in a configuration in conjunction with an AN/TRC-97 Van (Troopscatter Wideband Radio System) for radio record communications. Command and control was extended over a seven-state area, supporting approximately 500 personnel from varied commands.

In 1977, the unit deployed to Baden Soellingen Air Base, Germany to provide communications during a NATO exercise dubbed CORONET FLUSH. The unit provided support for the 12th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, an active duty flying unit from Bergstrom AFB, TX.

In February of 1978, Capt Gene A. Blakley assumed command of the 116th Communications Flight following the promotion and reassignment of Maj Bowers as commander of the 129th Tactical Control Squadron.

In 1982, the Flight supported a major Joint Chief of Staff Exercise, SIDEWINDER II at Camp New Amsterdam, The Netherlands. The 116 CF provided the total communications support

for the exercise.

In April 1983, flight personnel augmented a combat communications unit which provided support during FLINTLOCK 83, a NATO exercise conducted in the United Kingdom.

From the period of 1978 through 1990, Major Gene A. Blakley, Lt Col Charles Bailey, and Maj Charles K. Janney, Jr commanded the Communications Flight.

In May 1993, Maj John R. Scoggins assumed command following the reassignment of Maj Janney. At this time the Flight was reorganized to include three new branches that previously made up the Mission Support Flight: Plans & Implementation Branch, Visual Information and Information Systems. A new fourth branch, Systems Maintenance, was comprised of the previous Communications Flight skill specialties.

In April of 1994, Maj Debra D. Brooks assumed command of the 116th Communications Flight. During this period the CF's focus changed from a global tasking to a more concentrated effort on Base Support. The 116 CF led the Wing through what is now commonly referred to as the "Information Super Highway". The Wing underwent basic desktop software, as well as local area network training and became connected to the world via the World Wide Web. Along with the extensive training of unit personnel, several miles of fiber optic cable were installed and more than 700 personal computers purchased; and, In April of 1996, the unit reached another major tasking for Base Support, the monumental tasking of relocation of all communication services to the Wing's new location with no interruption of services to our customers. The entire communications package to include network infrastructure, base trucking system, inside/outside plant personnel, with the assistance of our GSU, 202 EIS. The unit also deployed personnel from Guard units throughout the country to Robins to assist with the initial installation. The professional knowledge, technical competence, and true dedication of the unit's personnel allowed for a very smooth transition from Dobbins to Robins.

In 1997, The Multimedia Branch was added to the Communications Flight providing the Wing with upgraded capabilities by acquiring digital imagery, computer graphics and nonlinear digital video editing equipment. Additionally, the Multimedia Branch supported numerous exercises and deployments including AMALGAM WARRIOR, GLOBAL PATRIOT, and two Operational Readiness Exercises.

Also in 1997, the Communications Flight went through another reorganization nationwide by incorporating the Information Management career field into the Information Systems Support Branch. The newly revamped Information Systems Branch provided advances in the arena of networking services to include a World Wide Web Service, Electronic Mail Services, Computer Based Training via the web, and Networked Printers and File Servers.

Some of the other services provided by the CF since its inception at Robins are: Cellular Phones, Beepers, dial-up networking and inside/outside telephone plant, LAN and video

cabling.

From July 97 - Jun 98, Maj Stephen G. Edwards was appointed acting commander of the 116th Communications Flight while Maj Brooks' attended Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL.

In Jun 99, Capt Thomas G. Grabowski assumed command of the 116th Communications Flight, following the reassignment and promotion of Lt Col Brooks.

In the 2000, the focus of the 116th Communications Flight shifted back to global support. The 116CF participated in the Air Expeditionary Force deployments to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Italy mobilizing over 11 enlisted personnel as well as the commander, Captain Thomas Grabowski. These deployments were accomplished in a three month window, providing our active duty hosts with technical knowledge and assistance in support of Operations SOUTHERN and NORTHERN WATCH while still providing quality services to its customers back at the 116 BW.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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