

# 152 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

152 Intelligence Squadron activated, 6 Jun 1994

## STATIONS

Reno, NV

## ASSIGNMENTS

152 Operations Group

## COMMANDERS

LTC Leslie Gonzalez

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



## 152 Intelligence Squadron emblem

152 Intelligence Squadron emblem: On a disc Celeste, issuant from base a demi-globe Azure, displaying a polar ice cap Argent, in dexter flank a dexter gauntlet dorsed Proper and winged of the third (White) grasping a magnifying glass fesswise Proper, hafted Sable, lens open of the second, highlighted of the third and emitting six rays extending to base chevronwise three and three Or, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached above the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "152D INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "DOING MORE WITH LESS" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The winged gauntlet reflects the speed, power and might of the unit. The magnifying glass signifies the intelligence profession. The globe refers to the worldwide mission of the Squadron.

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 152<sup>nd</sup> Intelligence Squadron mission is to organize, train, equip and present assigned forces and capabilities to conduct intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance for combatant commanders and the nation.

The 152nd Intelligence Squadron was formed by combining personnel from the Sensors Maintenance Section of the 152nd Avionics Branch into the Photo Processing and Interpretation Facility of the 192nd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron to provide dedicated support to the collection, exploitation, and dissemination of the unit's newly acquired RC-130E Pacer Coin mission.

Following the attacks of 11 September 2001, the squadron was alerted for a yearlong activation in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE. 152 IS personnel deployed to Beale AFB and a forward operating location to support Global Hawk missions in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. During Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, the unit continued its support to Global Hawk operations, this time from Reno. The squadron was deactivated on 29 October 2003 at the end of two years of high intensity activity as the lead squadron for Global Hawk Exploitation, Production, and Dissemination.

The 152nd Intelligence Squadron mobilized November 6, 2001, and deployed to various locations throughout the world. The squadron's airmen analyzed and exploited imagery from U-2s and unmanned aerial vehicles over Afghanistan and other southwest Asia areas and also performed targeting missions. In Sept. 2002, the unit was retained for another year of

activation.

Operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom (October 2001-March 2003) The events of September 11, 2001, led to the mobilization of numerous military units around the world, including two Nevada Air National Guard units. The 152nd Intelligence Squadron and mobilized and deployed within a matter of weeks after the tragic events of Sept. 11.

2 Sep The 152<sup>d</sup> Intelligence Squadron, Nevada ANG, deployed two Imagery Analysts to McEntire Air National Guard Base (ANGB), South Carolina to support Commercial Satellite Imagery operations related to hurricane relief efforts.

2007 The 152nd Intelligence Squadron will soon have a new building to call home –more than 36,000 square feet of new building to be exact. Completion of the \$16 million facility, with the help of congressional funding, will house all intel squadron functions including command, administration, mission support, operations and training, is scheduled to be completed next summer. It wasn't easy, though.

Nevada's entire Congressional delegation fought long and hard for the facility to be included as a line item in the 2006 Congressional session. Adding in anything is tough but pushing through a facility with such a high cost is nearly unheard of. The Reno air base has a number of construction projects on going and office space is at a premium. The intel squadron is currently split among four separate locations.

With 24-hour operations supporting both deployed and in-garrison missions, operating from four locations has created somewhat of a logistical nightmare but the airmen are used to it. The new state-of-the-art building will bring the squadron family together under one roof for the first time since the unit stood-up in 1994. "Since we're in three different buildings at the moment, it hasn't been the best set up for us," said Senior Master Sgt Bill Sexton.

"This new building will give us more room to work more efficiently without being spread out in the different areas on base." The building will house the latest technology and security systems, allowing the squadron to increase its capability to take the fight to the bad guy through their distributed operations. "I wouldn't say this is a lifelong dream," joked Lt. Col. Les Gonzalez, the 152nd Intel Squadron commander, "but it's pretty high up there."

The Scathe View section will gain much needed space for training and maintaining the sensors used for the C-130 reconnaissance mission. A six-week turnaround for a simple Scathe View repair? When there are adequate facilities maintainers will be able to turn those repairs around in less than half the time. "This building is built specifically for us," said Gonzalez. "Our folks won't be working out of a flight simulator, or a finance building, or a maintenance facility that's been dubbed an intel building. It's designed specifically for our missions." The 152nd IS was the first in the Guard to take on the Distributed Common Ground System mission, excelling where many thought there could be only failure. It is also the only unit in existence with the Scathe View capabilities. This facility is just another example of the 152nd Intelligence Squadron leading the way for the old and the newly formed intel units around the country. A formal groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled this fall.

The 152nd Intelligence Squadron maintained a feverish operations tempo during fiscal years

2009 and 2010. With approximately 100 Airmen working across two mission sets, the 152nd spearheaded efforts to maintain operational capacity within the Distributed Common Ground System. Also, the 152nd IS Scathe View Flight was requested by the Air Combat Command to establish and maintain a field training unit for sensor operators assigned to Project Liberty, the Secretary of Defense's high-priority mission to provide full-motion video to combat forces, especially in southwest Asia. Having recently completed a two-year involuntary mobilization, the DGS section of the squadron volunteered to continue operations and recorded nearly 6,000 mission hours in conjunction with 430 combat missions in 2009 and about 1,700 mission hours in 164 combat missions in 2010.

Those hours provided near-real-time intelligence to combat forces that enabled the capture of numerous combatants in Iraq and Afghanistan. The DGS Airmen also trained several Guardsmen from other Air Guard units during the biennium and they entered a mission-sharing arrangement with the Arkansas DGS squadron. Personnel from the DGS section also supported processing, exploitation and dissemination for the Defense Intelligence Agency's mission named Shadow Harvest both domestically and internationally. During 2010 and into 2011, the DGS section also sent Airmen to Iraq to support processing, exploitation and dissemination operations for Project Liberty.

The Scathe View flight was equally as busy during 2009. Having identified a 25,000-hour shortfall in full-motion video to fielded forces, the Secretary of Defense commissioned defense contractors to outfit C-12 aircraft with sensors for a program called Project Liberty. Air Combat Command requested the 152nd Scathe View Flight to voluntarily mobilize and establish a training unit using its airborne imagery analysts and sensor maintainers to train enlisted aviators from various Air Force squadrons in the Guard and active-duty Air Force and immediately deploy to southwest Asia. Scathe View personnel worked around the clock to teach and demonstrate sensor capabilities and provide ground teams with scenarios commonly observed in combat.

Not only did Scathe View satisfy the training requirements for 14 classes of deploying Airmen, but they also trained and certified the initial cadre of instructors from Meridian, Miss., to increase the pool of qualified operators and relieve pressure on frequently deployed Airmen and their families. Scathe View was also involved with the Shadow Harvest test program in 2009 and the operational demonstration in 2010 by providing airborne analysts to operate sensors and provide initial phase exploitation of collected imagery.

Also during 2009 and 2010, Scathe View completed all of the integration, testing, and acceptance of satellite communication capability to greatly enhance the overall Scathe View capability in terms of secure and non-secure communications spanning a variety of media. Finally, the 152nd IS sent its only personnel specialist to Afghanistan in 2010 to do her part assisting Airman at Bagram Air Base. Her squadron responsibilities were absorbed by others on the staff during that period, a particularly arduous task because of the constant arrivals and departures of Airmen in Reno due to Project Liberty and DGS training.

The Nevada Air National Guard's first exposure to the Pacer Coin reconnaissance mission was during the summer of 1994 during the Rwandan Crisis. The 152d Intelligence Squadron provided photo processing and intelligence interpretation during this humanitarian effort. Less than a year later, the 152d was given the Pacer Coin mission from the USAF. In July 1995, aerial

observer training got under way. By October, C -130 Super ES (tail numbers 62-1819 & 62-1822) were officially turned over to the Nevada Air National Guard; though they did not arrive in Reno until the following year. Despite the fact that the Pacer Coin system maintainers began training in November 1995, the NVANG deployed to Panama that same month for recon missions. In July 1996 an upgraded Pacer Coin aircraft (tail number 62-1828) arrived in Reno. This aircraft was capable of sending single-frame imagery through commercial satellites in a method known as Photo-Telesis.

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USAF Unit Histories

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#### Sources

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