

176 COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT



MISSION

Encompassing communications operations, communications maintenance, customer support, multimedia support, and plans and information management for our local users, three flying squadrons and nine geographically separate units.

LINEAGE

176 Communications Squadron
176 Communications Flight

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK
Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

176 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Richard Johnson
Maj Kay Spear-Budd, #2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

176 CF The 176 Communications Flight (CF) is a unique organization within the Alaska Air National Guard. The CF currently supports a tactical fighter unit on a collocated operating base in the NATO theater.

The Communications Flight is composed of a wide variety of communications Air Force Specialty Codes. These include telecommunications operators, radio operators, cryptographic maintenance, teletype maintenance, radio maintenance, telephone maintenance, computer maintenance, generator maintenance, and information management. Not only are members required to be proficient in their assigned specialty, but each member is required to master various mobility and combat skills necessary to survive in a combat environment.

During the past four years, the unit deployed to several specialized training facilities to hone their communications and combat skills. The unit participated in formal training at George AFB in May 1987, deployed to Prince William Sound to support the Exxon Valdez oil spill in March 1989, traveled to Nordholz Naval Air Station in the Federal Republic of Germany supporting NATO exercise Coronet Indigo in September 1989, deployed to Bergstrom AFB for an operational readiness inspection in September 1991, deployed to Hurlburt Field to support the 176 Security Police in an air base defense exercise in March 1992, and returned to Bergstrom AFB in April 1992 to prototype enhanced operational readiness inspection criteria for future tactical communications inspections. Each deployment surpassed previous ones in levels of personnel proficiency and team work.

The unit has grown from its infancy into a cohesive, oriented, communications team. In March of 1992 a select team supported the 176 Security Police Flight at Hurlburt Field. New operational communications concepts for the unit were field tested, proving greater flexibility for the communications flight and the flying units we supported. Two weeks after the Florida trip the entire organization deployed to Bergstrom AFB. This exercise integrated units from the Delaware ANG Communications Flight, an active duty Communication Contingency Response Cell from the 3rd Communications Squadron from Elmendorf AFB, along with the 176th Communications Flight. With the 176 CF providing the command and control element, the exercise was conducted under realistic combat conditions utilizing small arms and pyrotechnics. Aggressor forces were provided by the Bergstrom AFB 67 Security Police Air Base Defense Team. This event thoroughly tested the ability of the unit's command and control while integrating dissimilar personnel and equipment under extreme conditions.

With the rapidly changing world situation and military restructuring the unit is shifting focus to the Pacific and PACAF. In the fall of 1992 the unit is expected to be remissioned as a Combat Communications Flight assigned to support the 11 AF during deployed wartime missions.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.