

220th ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron is to provide highly skilled Guardsmen who, in peacetime and in war, adapt and respond to the communications information needs of our community, state, and nation. Our goal is to be the first choice of our customers, providing cutting edge communications information systems delivered by confident, competent, and diverse team members who are dedicated to sustaining, and when necessary, fighting to defend America's way of life.

LINEAGE

220th Electronics Installation Squadron constituted and federally recognized, 6 Nov 1971
Redesignated 220th Engineering Installation Squadron

STATIONS

Zanesville, OH

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Jon M. McMahan, 1 May 1977
LTC Robert Panian Apr 2008–Current

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1983-31 Dec 1984

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 220th Electronic Installation Squadron at Zanesville Municipal Airport was federally recognized on 6 November 1971, with Lt Col James C. Shields as Commander. The unit had previously been Detachment 1, 269 Mobile Communication Squadron.

The mission of the 220th electronic installation squadron is to train and provide teams of skilled technicians to install wire, radio and navigational aid equipment. In addition, individual airmen may be assigned to augment active air force installation teams and to perform depot level maintenance on electronic equipment. Assignments are in support of live projects at air force bases throughout the world.

The 220th is divided into four branches, each with a unique function. The Quality Assurance,

Engineering and Installations Branches perform the unit mission with personnel who are technically competent in the areas of outside wire, radio maintenance, cable splicing, central office, and flight facilities. The Support Branch includes administration, material control, motor vehicle and food service functions in support of the entire unit.

The 220th Engineering Installation Squadron (EIS), located in Zanesville, provides the Air Force Communications Systems Center with fully-trained technicians capable of engineering, installing and sustaining communications systems and services.

The 220th EIS installs and maintains electronics and cable communications systems using teams of three to 10 personnel deployed under the supervision of a team chief. During FYOO, the 220th's wartime requirements were increased by 25 percent due to the deactivation of two active-duty EI squadrons. Part of the tasking this year was the direct support of the 9th Air Force in Southwest Asia. The unit deployed personnel to Shaw AFB, S.C., to sustain and maintain an ET Small Management Team, which was responsible for the total management of approximately 70 communications projects throughout the area of operation. More than 25 unit personnel deployed to Southwest Asia, either in AEF or direct support of the communications projects.

During Unit Training Assemblies, 220th personnel travel to locations throughout the state to perform mission skills or practice these skills doing training schemes at home station. Unit personnel accomplish annual training on a year-round basis at world-wide locations, but primarily in Conus and Europe. They may work alone or augment guard and active duty units in performing these tasks.

In 1979, the 220th EIS traveled more than 5,000 miles to lend a hand to the 2113th Communications Squadron at San Vito Air Station, Italy. The help needed by the 2113th was the expansion of the cable system at their base.

The first unit members arrived in Italy in January 1979 with others arriving at different times in order to complete their two week training plus cover the 45 days necessary to do the job. Construction team members dug more than a mile of trenches for the laying of the new cable. Cable splicers did their job of splicing more than 1,500 pairs of cable. Some of the cables replaced were up to forty years old. The new cable provided the base with expanded communications capabilities; increased the use of security mea-s. as well as fire protection measures; improved reliability of the system with more alternate lines; and will last for more than 20 years

On July 6, 1981, AFCC requested an AN/FPS-77 Weather Tower be dismantled and packed up for a new destination and use. The first two teams spent a summer UTA weekend starting the tiled and time consuming job of equipment and tower removal. For the next two training weekends and one 15-day annual training period, teams attacked the 73 foot tower and radome. In all, a total of 559 man-hours went into its removal. By October 30, 1981, the job was completed. The one million dollar tower was used by the 2032nd Communications Squadron at Rickenbacker ANGB for weather information. An interesting twist to this job involved high winds, which hindered the removal of the fragile eight foot radome at the top during the day. The team

elected to remove it at it. Lights were installed and a 100 foot boom crane was brought in. Six hours later, the radome was down and the tower was in two pieces on the ground. The electronics were dismantled from the tower and placed in a vacant hangar to be packaged for shipping and reuse. Also that year, the 220th IS was recognized as the winner of the Ohio Air National Guard Outstanding Unit Recruiting and Retention Award.

On October 7, 1984, the 220th Engineering Installation Squadron garnered national recognition, walking away with the honors from the 5th annual AFCC EI Shootout competition, amid sunburns, equipment breakdowns and smoke grenades. The team overcame the heat, frustration and simulated chemical warfare attack to clinch the title. Each year six teams, two from active duty and four Air National Guard units compete. Each team installed a communications system that required them to use the same equipment and skills they used in the day-to-day work, such as construction, cable splicing and electronic skills. The competition lasted two days. Several areas were judged, including AFR 35-10, safety and chemical warfare techniques. The 220th's team of 12 members started practicing in September of 1983 for this competition.

The 1984 EI Shootout Champ team members were: MSgt Gary L. Smith (Team Chief), TSgt Jeffrey B. Hickman, TSgt John H. Lawter, TSgt Elmer E. Spotti, TSgt Dale T. Williams, SSgt Keith J. Black, SSgt Steven C. Jones, SSgt Kenneth R. Smith, SSgt Lewis A. Stevens, SSgt Eric V. Wasson, SRA Daniel J. Daley and SRA Stephen J. Lemons.

In June, 1985, the 220th EIS participated in exercise "Healthy Comet VI," its first ever overseas exercise deployment. The exercise tested engineering installation troops in their wartime role in the European theater and their ability to deploy, work under wartime conditions and re-deploy. Arriving at Sembach AB, Germany the 220th went right to work deploying Ready-Teams throughout Europe to work on scenario and taskings which included erecting antennas, trenching, laying cable and installing other needed equipment.

Major General John B. Conaway, Director of the Air National Guard, lauded the men and women of the 220th, stating that "the unit can justifiably be proud of its outstanding performance in this year's 'Healthy Comet' deployment to Europe. The tangible results of the Guard men and women from the 220th will be apparent for years to come."

In October, 1985, the 220th was selected for the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 220th EIS, an Air Force Communications Command gained unit, is one of 19 ANG EI Squadrons in the United States.

In the last year, the 220th was involved in and headed several Combat Information Transport System installations, Base Cable Replacement projects, High Frequency Antenna and Radio Installation jobs and other workload opportunities stateside and overseas. Likewise, the 220th ambitiously served as the lead unit for all Federal Emergency Management Agency communications workload for the Air National Guard.

14 Sep 2005 The 220th Engineering & Installation Squadron, Ohio ANG, deployed three personnel

in SAD to Camp Shelby, Mississippi to help establish initial communications capability.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 6 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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