

# 231<sup>st</sup> COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

231<sup>st</sup> Airways and Air Communications Squadron (Mobile), 26 Aug 1952  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Communications Squadron (Mobile), 1 Jul 1961  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron (Bare Base), 1 Jun 1966  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron, 16 Mar 1968  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base), 1 Feb 1974  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base)  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron 1 Oct 1986

## STATIONS

Andrews AFB, MD

## ASSIGNMENTS

253<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Group

## COMMANDERS

Lt. Robert G. Tuckerman  
Maj. Milton  
LTC Donald B. O'Rourke, 1 Sep 1970  
Maj John F. Williams 26 Mar 1974  
LTC Raymond  
Maj Sherman P. McKenney 16 Mar 1985  
LTC Robert J. Spermo 1 Aug 1993,  
Maj Donald N. Edmands, Jr. 4 Dec 1993

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

By Dec 1995, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

## **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 231st Combat Communications Squadron can provide a broad range of communications capabilities to customers located in even the most hostile environments. Our systems are secure, reliable, and easy to use. We can connect you with other tactical locations supported by combat communications elements similar to ours, or to traditional military communications systems such as the Defense Switch Network (DSN), the Automated Digital Network (AUTODIN), and Defense Massaging System (DMS) or to commercial communications systems worldwide. We can provide computer data connections, secure voice, and record communications to support many specialized customer needs. The 231<sup>st</sup> CBCS provides our deployed commanders with the ability to communicate using voice, Teletype, e-mail, imagery, and video teleconferencing. Our voice switching system provides secure and non-secure service and is interoperable with all the other military branches. It is also compatible with most commercial office and DSN switches. Our Teletype systems can operate in point-to-point modes or may operate in large networks to include AUTODIN and/or DMS. Our data communications equipment can provide secure and non-secure LAN and WAN connectivity. As with our Teletype systems our data system may operate in a point-to-point mode or in large networks. Our technical control facility and our standard alone multiplexes are capable of passing various communications mediums to include those mentioned above. Our HF radios can be used for engineering nets or larger C2 nets. The communications connectivity and services provided by our systems is the key to controlling large operations.

The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron traces its beginnings to 26 Aug 1952 when the 231<sup>st</sup> Airways and Air Communications Squadron (Mobile) was granted federal recognition at Camp Simms, Washington, D.C. with an authorized strength of one officer and 25 airmen. Its mission was to attain and maintain an optimum effective capability to install, operate and maintain mobile communications, air traffic control and navigational facilities, in support of Air

Force operations according to gaining command plans for utilization in a national emergency.

The 8205<sup>th</sup> Air Base Squadron of the DC ANG which was formed on 1 Feb 1952. The 8205<sup>th</sup> was composed of one officer and eight airmen. Its mission was to receive, maintain and store authorized equipment and provide a nucleus of trained personnel to the 231<sup>st</sup>.

The 231<sup>st</sup> Airways and Air Communications Squadron (Mobile) became the 231<sup>st</sup> Communications Squadron (Mobile) on 1 Jul 1961. It consisted of nine officers and 157 enlisted.

On 1 Jun 1966, the 231<sup>st</sup> Communications Squadron (Mobile) was reorganized to better delineate the air traffic control function. The parent unit was named the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron (Bare Base) with a separate 231<sup>st</sup> Flight Facilities Flight taking over the responsibility for air traffic control operations. The squadron consisted of six officers and 118 enlisted, and the flight consisted of three officers and 45 enlisted.

On 16 Mar 1968, the phrase "Bare Base" was removed from the title of the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron. At this time, the squadron consisted of nine officers and 167 enlisted, and the flight consisted of three officers and 47 enlisted. In April, the strength of the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobil Communications Squadron and the 231<sup>st</sup> Flight Facilities Flight increased to 12 officers and 205 airmen. The 231<sup>st</sup> and Headquarters, DCANG were also activated on 6 Apr, but they were relieved from active duty on 17 Apr 1968.

Headquarters, DCANG held its annual training at Andrews from 13-27 Jul 1968. At the same time, the 231<sup>st</sup> had members at camp at Alpena, MI and at Camp Simms.

On 1 Sep 1970, the 231<sup>st</sup> had its second command change when Maj. Milton went on active duty at the National Guard Bureau and LTC Donald B. O'Rourke assumed command. In Oct 1970, the 113<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering Flight erected a Butler Building in the civil engineer storage yard at Andrews. During the following month, the unit constructed a bridge deck to the small arms range, also at Andrews.

In 1972, the air traffic control function was absorbed from the 231<sup>st</sup> Flight Facilities Flight into the parent unit, the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron. The Flight Facilities Flight then moved to Louisiana.

On 1 Feb 1974, the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron was redesignated the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base). The new title reflected the squadron's "stand alone" configuration. At this time, the squadron consisted of 11 officers and 172 enlisted. During 1974, the 231<sup>st</sup> provided their TS W-7 control tower to Langley AFB, VA and to Tipton Army Air Field, Ft. Meade, MD while their towers were rehabilitated.

On 1 Apr 1976, the "combat ready" nature of the mission of the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base) surfaced more visibly when the unit was redesignated the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base). The unit consisted of 11 officers and 172 enlisted. There was no change in gaining command. During 1976, the 231<sup>st</sup> provided its TS W-7 tower to Dover AFB, DE. while their tower was rehabilitated.

A major renovation of Wing Headquarters (Building 325) began on 6 May 1976, and by the Aug training assembly, the first floor of the south wing was overhauled. The work was done by 113<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineering personnel. The second floor renovation was handled by a civilian contractor. At the same time, Wing officials expected a new operations building to be completed by Mar. Construction was estimated at \$750,000 for the building, to be erected between the avionics and aircraft shops. Scheduled for relocation to Andrews in 1977 was the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron. Construction began in July on two buildings behind Wing Headquarters which would house the 231<sup>st</sup>.

On 10 Aug 1976, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base) was reorganized. The unit consisted of nine officers and 208 enlisted.

During 2-23 Oct 1976, 85 members of 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron participated in the Joint Air Force-Army exercise Brave Shield XV. This involved both active and reserve forces at Eglin AFB, FL. It provided training in air superiority, airborne operations, electronic warfare, and integrated air defense operations.

The 231<sup>st</sup> performed its annual training on a rotational basis at the Tipton Army Aviation Field, MD. from 1 Mar to 31 Jul 1977, and later performed its primary annual training at Otis ANGB, MA from 9-23 Jul 1977.

During 1978, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated in exercise Solid Shield-78 in May. Also during 1978, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated in the Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise Empire Glacier, as well as in exercise Coronet Swallow.

The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base), which transferred from Camp Simms in Jul 1978, reestablished in the two one-story structures behind the Wing Administration and unit Supply Buildings. The 231<sup>st</sup>, which had 201 officers and enlisted, was at the 25-acre Camp Simms in southeast Washington sharing the camp with the D.C. Army National Guard.

During 1978, the 231<sup>st</sup> again provided its TS W-7 tower to Martinsburg, WVA while their tower was rehabilitated.

In May 1979, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron participated in Operation Solid Shield-79, in the Carolinas, as part of more than 19,000 airmen, soldiers, sailors and Marines.

Solid Shield-79 was a multi-service exercise directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to test the combined abilities of American forces under simulated combat conditions. The 231<sup>st</sup> deployed 91 people to Shaw and Pope Air Force Bases, and the Fort Bragg Army Post (Aberdeen site), during 19 Apr to 26 May 1979.

On 14 Aug 1979, the reins of command of the 231<sup>st</sup> changed again when LTC Williams moved from the area and LTC Lawrence A. Raymond assumed command.

In 1979, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base) started ongoing air traffic control operations in Martinsburg, WV. The ground controlled approach operation allowed

the unit to train its controllers to vector incoming aircraft. During 1979 and 1980, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated in exercise Coronet Mil.

The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron undertook a new challenge as a substantial number of the unit's personnel participated in overseas exercises for the first time when the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed to England for exercise Flintlock-81. This was part of a three-phase operation beginning April 14, 1981. The DCANG members operated from fixed facilities at RAF Sculthorpe and RAF Wethersfield, north of London, and also at Skyrdstrup, Denmark.

During 1982, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated in the Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise Ocean Venture at Shaw AFB, SC in April and May.

In 1982, selected units of the DCANG participated in the nationwide mobility exercise, Proud Saber. This measured the Air Force's capability to pull units together in a national or global emergency. Participating in the exercise was the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, the 113<sup>th</sup> Communications Flight, the 113<sup>th</sup> Civil Engineers, and the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing Headquarters.

In 1983, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base) was upgraded further when the squadron began radar approach control operations. The 231<sup>st</sup> operated the first year-round approach control in the Air Guard. On 1 Oct, the 231<sup>st</sup> went on the air with an operational MPN-14 radar. Radar operations at Martinsburg, WVA began 4 Oct, operating two days a week and the first weekend of the month.

On 4-16 Mar 1984, 16 members of the 231<sup>st</sup> left for exercise Team Spirit in Korea. From 14-15 Apr, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated in exercise Sentry Showers. During 1984, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (Tactical Air Base) achieved another first when it provided air space surveillance for the presidential facilities at Camp David, MD.

From 16 Sep to 9 Oct 1984, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed four members to RAF Abingdon in the United Kingdom in support of Volant Partner.

From 27-28 Oct 1984, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed four members and a TRC-97 in support of the Army exercise Celtic Defender at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA.

The 231<sup>st</sup> participated in exercise Solid Shield-85 at Camp Geiger, NC in Apr and May 1985.

On 25 Mar 1988, the 231<sup>st</sup> received an excellent rating on a Headquarters Air Force Communications Command/MEI. In Apr and May, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated in the overseas Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise Coronet Javelin in Morin, Spain.

From May 5 to 22, 1988, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed two members to exercise Dragon Hammer.

Forty men and women of the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron returned on 18 Jun 1988 from the two-week training exercise Sentry Readiness, conducted at Westover AFB, MA. From June through October, the 231<sup>st</sup> participated again in exercise Sentry Vigilance at Alpena and

Volk Field.

On 11 Sep 1988, Senior Airman Flemens of the 231<sup>st</sup> was awarded the AFCC Reserve Airman of the Year Award by BG Keith, the Air National Guard Special Assistant to the Commander of Headquarters, AFCC. From 19 Sep to 18 Oct, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed personnel and equipment to the Joint Chiefs of Staff exercise Coronet Javelin in Turkey.

As of 30 Sep 1990, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron had an authorized strength of 209, with 213 assigned.

Operation Desert Storm The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron deployed six specialists, along with radio equipment, a mobile tactical air navigation facility, a satellite dish antenna, and a mobilizer.

Between May and Oct 1991, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron deployed to Martinsburg to support the flight operations of the 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Group, West Virginia Air Guard, during contract upgrade/console replacement at the fixed control tower.

During Jun 1991, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron deployed to Patuxent Naval Air Station, Md. for Sentry Readiness '91, a full-scale 253<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Group mobility exercise providing an opportunity to package, convoy, setup and take down a combat communications site. From Jun to Oct, air traffic control personnel from the 231<sup>st</sup> again participated in Sentry Vigilance at Alpena.

In Oct 1991, 23 airmen and equipment deployed to Turkey from the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron during Display Determination.

Between Dec 1991 and Mar 1992, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron participated in exercise Fuertes Caminos '92, a Central American humanitarian road building project, where they supported the 251<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Group and Task Force 105.

During 1991, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron received the Air National Guard Outstanding Air Traffic Control Complex of the Year Award for the second consecutive year.

Between Apr and May 1992, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communication Squadron deployed to Italy for exercise Dragon Hammer. The communications specialists augmented the 253<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Group European.

In Aug 1992, The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron deployed five air traffic controllers to Key West Naval Air Station, FL to meet the demand, due to the temporary basing of Florida Air Guard F-16s.

During Jun 1993, the 231<sup>st</sup> conducted an Operational Readiness Exercise at Alpena. Personnel from the unit also performed annual field training at Martinsburg, WVA at various times.

From 19-25 Mar 1994, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed to the Bethany Beach, DE. Army National Guard

Training Center for an Operational Readiness Exercise in preparation for the upcoming OKI. Later, from 8-17 Jun, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed personnel and equipment to Bethany Beach and Dover AFB for the Operational Readiness Inspection.

The 121<sup>st</sup> Weather Flight provided weather support for the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron in support of their ORI at Bethany Beach and Dover AFB, DE during 4-19 Jun 1994. The weather support was well received by the 231<sup>st</sup> and the ORI Inspector General Team.

From 6-15 Sep 15, 1994, personnel from the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed to Oceana Naval Air Station, VA along with equipment for a Joint Services Training Exercise supporting the Navy.

From May 6 to 21, 1995, the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron deployed to Bethany Beach, DE for an ORI retake of its June 1994 inspection. The highest rating the unit could receive, however, was satisfactory due to its previous marginal rating, but the 231<sup>st</sup> set an Air Force record for activation of all circuits according to the Inspector General team.

The District of Columbia Air National Guard now occupies 30 buildings covering 500,057 square ft. and 116 acres at Andrews Air Force Base, MD. These structures include 21 buildings for the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing, four buildings for the 201<sup>st</sup> Airlift Squadron, two buildings for the 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, and three buildings for the Air National Guard Support Center

From November 19 to 20, 1994, the 231<sup>st</sup> deployed personnel and equipment to Grooms, MD. for a weekend ORE.

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The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), stationed at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, retired its colors Nov. 4 after 55 years of service. CBCS began as the 8205<sup>th</sup> Air Base Squadron located at Camp Simms in the District of Columbia Feb. 1, 1952. Its mission was to receive, maintain and store equipment and train personnel. Over the course of its history, CBCS underwent many changes. 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron Inactivates In 1981, for example, the squadron accomplished its first overseas deployment in participation of Exercise Flintlock 81 in England. From 1985 to 1993 it conducted the Air National Guard's first radar approach operations at Martinsburg, WV. At the end of the Cold War the squadron transitioned to a mobile combat force, ready to deploy in support of the national interest. During the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, CBCS implemented static ground communication systems to support the 113<sup>th</sup> Wing's air patrol mission over the Capital Region. CBCS has also deployed in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom

**2005 4 Sep** The 231<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, Maryland ANG, deployed thirty-five personnel in SAD to Camp Beauregard, Louisiana to provide SATCOM communications for hurricane relief operations.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources