

291st COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

March 6, 1967

STATIONS

Keaukaha Military-Reservation, Hilo, Hawaii

ASSIGNMENTS

201st Combat Communications Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Johnnie G. Mah

LTC Roy A. Cornella

LTC William Wright

LTC Richard Nishimura

LTC David Howard

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
January 1, 1993 to July 31, 1994

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The federal mission of the 291 CBCS is to provide Command and Control communications services for the USAF wartime contingency requirements. To accomplish this mission, the organization is presently-assigned 32 mission capable packages. Packages consist of 90 wartime tasked manning positions. The total military strength is 143 personnel with 25 full-time Air Technician or Active Guard/Reserve positions.

The 291 CBCS maintains a constant readiness posture to provide timely USAF communications support to worldwide missions. The unit provides training for its personnel and equipment in both exercise scenarios and real world contingency operations.

291st Combat Communications Squadron (291 CBCS) is located at the Keaukaha Military Reservation, Hilo, Hawaii. Activated into federal service March 6, 1967 at Hickam Air Force Base, Oahu, Hawaii, the organization relocated to temporary World War II vintage quarters on the island of Hawaii, March 1976. In October 1982, the unit moved to its current facilities.

During the 1979 volcanic eruption, the unit provided UHF/VHF/HF mobile radio communications, generators, and personnel to the County of Hawaii Civil Defense assisting in evacuating endangered residents.

After the devastation of Hurricane Iwa in November 1982, personnel and generators were deployed to Kauai. In 1983, the 291 CBCS provided needed generators and support personnel to the County of Hawaii to the water pumping stations during extreme drought conditions.

The squadron annually supports major Joint Chief of Staff (JCS) exercises in the Pacific Theater including Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (Republic of Korea), Cobra Gold (Kingdom of Thailand), Ulchi Focus Uens (Republic of Korea), Tandem Thrust (Guam), Northern Edge (Alaska), Cope North (Japan), and Foal Eagle (Republic of Korea). The unit also supports a number of real contingencies as Operation Restore Hope in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Operation Prompt Return in Wake Island. During the years of 1986-1989 and 1990, the 291 CBCS supported the JCS exercise of Team Spirit in the Republic of Korea. Team Spirit combined United States' Air Force, Army, and Marine units along with the host country's armed

forces. Besides providing communication capabilities in the Korean theater, the 291 CBCS impacted the community with charitable donations of food, clothing and manpower to support local orphanages.

In the afternoon of September 11, 1992, Hurricane Iniki, a category four hurricane, shattered the island of Kauai. By 7:30 the following morning, a HIANG C-130 aircraft loaded with 23 personnel, generators and radio equipment from the 291 CBCS landed on Kauai and began relief efforts for 50,000 residents. Volunteers from the unit fed over 130 hurricane victims with donated foods and equipment.

Every January since 1993, the unit provided several instructors and aggressors for the 201st Combat Communications Group's Mobility Survival Training School. This school teaches the newest members of the group how to survive in various combat situations. Active in the community, the 291 CBCS yearly supports the fund raiser SuperKids for the American Lung Association. The unit supplies group leaders for activities and soliciting donations for auction. Always prepared to serve, the 291 CBCS sent two personnel from August to October 1993 to Operation Support Justice IV in Colombia. The personnel brought expertise in satellite communication and generator support, often under hostile conditions, to support the federally funded drug interdiction operation. In June 1993, volunteers participated in the 1st Annual Moonlight Madness Run/Walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The team won first place for Best Campsite and third place for Most Money Raised by a team. During Cobra Gold 1994, the 291 CBCS became the lead unit for communications in Thailand. Unit personnel on their off duty time taught English classes for Thai military personnel and worked with the chaplain in community service activities.

In support of Cope Tiger, a joint allied exercise in Thailand, three personnel provided satellite communications to the 18th Tactical Fighter Squadron from Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan, Thailand and Singapore in May 1995. When June 1995 rolled around, the unit sent evaluators to Hammer Eagle to train the 242 CBCS from Washington on the SB-3865, Unit Level Circuit Switch. The 291 CBCS continues to support Federal Drug Enforcement (Steady State) and local Drug Enforcement operations with personnel and equipment. Duty called July 1995 for Operation Prompt Return on Wake Island, a repatriation program for Chinese illegal aliens, and the unit answered. Volunteers from the 291 CBCS assisted active duty forces in humanitarian relief, land mobile radio, and generator support. December 1995 and 1996 saw the unit participating in Balikatan. This joint exercise located at Ft. Magsaysay, Philippines, involving over 2,000 Philippine and US troops. During the Mt. Pinatubo volcanic eruption, troops participated in relief operations in areas devastated by the eruption.



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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