

688 CYBERSPACE WING



MISSION

The 688 Cyberspace Wing delivers proven information operations and engineering infrastructure capabilities integrated across air, space, and cyberspace. This wing boasts two groups, the 38th Cyberspace Engineering Installation Group and the 318th Cyberspace Operations Group, creating a multi-disciplined organization. Mission is to deliver proven information operations, engineering and infrastructure capabilities integrated across air, space and cyberspace domains.

The 688 CW encompasses 1,388 military and civilian members, assigned to seven locations worldwide and deployed to an additional 14 global locations, to perform the 688th CW mission. In addition, more than 1,900 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel directly support the 688th CW mission.

LINEAGE

Air Force Special Communications Center designated 24 Jul 1953
Organized, 8 Aug 1953
Redesignated Air Force Electronic Warfare Center, 1 Jul 1975
Redesignated Air Force Information Warfare Center, 10 Sep 1993
Redesignated Air Force Information Operations Center, 1 Oct 2006
Redesignated 688 Information Operations Wing, 18 Aug 2009
Redesignated 688 Cyberspace Wing, 13 Sep 2013

STATIONS

Kelly AFB (later, Kelly Field Annex, Lackland AFB), TX, 8 Aug 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force Security Service (later, Electronic Security Command; Air Force Intelligence Command; Air Intelligence Agency), 8 Aug 1953

Eighth Air Force, 1 May 2007

Twenty-Fourth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), 18 Aug 2009

Twenty-Fourth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic) [later Twenty-Fourth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber)],
18 Aug 2009- 11 Oct 2019

Sixteenth Air Force (Air Forces Cyber), 11 Oct 2019

COMMANDERS

Col C. O. Jones, 1 Jun 1963

Col F. J. Harrold, 3 Sep 1963

Col R. J. Minick, 11 Apr 1966

Col W. M. Hamilton, 19 Aug 1966

Col R. D. Ragsdale, 19 Jun 1970

Col J. E. Thome, 31 Jul 1971

Col J. W. Johnson, 3 May 1974

Col F. A. McLauren, 26 Sep 1974

Col J. B. Tyra, 22 Apr 1977

Col N. P. Quigley, 31 Jul 1977

Col J E Marshall, 29 Feb 1980

Col K.A. Gilroy, 30 Jun 1980

Col L. R. Manz Jr., 22 Jul 1983

Col W. Brown, 10 Jul 1986

Col H. J. Edmondson, 10 Jun 1988

Col S. S. Peacock, 16 Jul 1988

Robert Ostoerloh, Sep 1993

Frank Morgan, Oct 1994

James Massaro, Oct 1996

Richard Stotts, Jul 1999

Arthur Wachdorf, 20 Aug 2003

Col David D. Watt, #2007

Col Paul A. Welch Jul 2011

Col Michelle Hayworth

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Nov 1965-1 Nov 1967

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jan 1974-1 Jan 1976
1 Jan 1976-1 Jan 1979
1 Jan 1988-31 Dec 1989
1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991
1 May 1993-31 May 1994
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1997
1 Jun 1997-31 May 1998
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

Meritorious Unit Awards
17 Jul 2018-31 May 2019

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Nov 1965-1 Nov 1967
18 Aug 2009-1 Oct 2010
1 Oct 2013-30 Sep 2014
1 Jun 2019- 31 May 2020
1 Jun 2020-31 May 2021

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards
1 Jan 1974-1 Jan 1976
[2 Jan] 1976-1 Jan 1979
2 Jan 1979-31 Dec 1981
1 Jan 1988-31 Dec 1989
1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991
1 May 1993-31 May 1994
1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996
1 Jun 1996-31 May 1997
1 Jun 1997-31 May 1998
1 Jun 1999-31 May 2000
1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002
1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006

Special Honors: Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
2 Nov 1967-1 Nov 1968

EMBLEM



AFSCC: The emblem is symbolic of the Center and the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, are used in the design. The color blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, and the yellow to the sun and excellence of personnel in assigned tasks. The globe represents world-wide effort. The colors green and blue refer to the air, land, and sea. The plane, ground-based radar, and ship allude to the all-service operation. The antenna reflects the communications effort. The lightning bolt represents the electronic environment in which the Center operates.



Gules, a globe enhanced Azure, gridlined Argent surmounted by a mullet of the last, fimbriated Or, overall four lightning flashes saltirewise of the like; all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and

inscribed "688TH INFORMATION OPERATIONS WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The five points of the star denote the primary functions of the Center to provide combat support, databases, analysis, securities, and acquisition and testing support. The lightning bolts stand for the unit's history of work in the electromagnetic spectrum and the Center's mission to control and protect during contingencies and war.

688 Cyberspace Wing emblem: Gules, a globe enhanced Azure, gridlined Argent surmounted by a mullet of the last, fimbriated Or, overall four lightning flashes saltirewise of the like, all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "688TH CYBERSPACE WING" 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 globe represents the Wing's commitment to worldwide support of air, sea, and land forces with information necessary to defend the peace. The star symbolizes the Wing's joint nature to provide combat effective information to all sources in any application of force. The five points of the star denote the primary functions of the Wing to provide combat support, databases, analyses, securities, and acquisition and testing support. The lightning bolts stand for the unit's history of work in the electromagnetic spectrum and the Wing's mission to control and protect during contingencies and war.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 688th Information Operations Wing is located at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. The wing delivers proven Information Operations and Engineering Infrastructure capabilities integrated across air, space and cyberspace. The 688th team is comprised of more than 1200 military and civilian members skilled in the areas of engineering installation, weaponing, operations research, intelligence, communications and computer applications. The wing was formally designated on August 18, 2009, the same day 24th Air Force stood up as the Air Force's Cyberspace Numbered Air Force under Air Force Space Command and is composed of two groups: the 318th Information Operations Group (IOG) at Lackland AFB and the 38th Cyberspace Engineering Group (CEG) at Tinker AFB, Okla.

2010 The 688th Information Operations Wing recently celebrated its one year anniversary during a wing's commanders conference. In looking back over the last year, the 688th IOW has operated on afterburners improving and integrating cyber effects across all domains, said Col. Robert Skinner, 688th IOW commander. The 688th IOW stood up Aug. 18, 2009, with the complex task of bringing together the different cultures of three major commands into a new wing. The wing laid the foundation upon which the Air Force will build future full spectrum operational cyber excellence. "While there have been cultural challenges, the professional men and women of the 688th have risen to the task and made incredible strides over the last year," Colonel Skinner said. The new wing, consisting of the 318th Information Operations Group, the 38th Cyberspace Engineering Group and wing staff, stepped off smartly to pursue their task of driving the "art of the possible" in cyberspace. Since the stand up, they have deployed over 20,000 days supporting

Air Expeditionary Forces and engineering and installation missions. Cyber has been incorporated into the majority of Red Flag Exercises at the Air Force Warfare Center, integrating cyber with air and space operations. The 38th Cyberspace Engineering Group managed over 956 contracts with a value of \$91 million. They teamed with Air Force Space Command to establish the E&I Corporate Structure Process, providing direction, prioritization and resourcing decisions for requirements valued in excess of \$4 billion. The 318th Information Operations Group created and managed a computer based training course to help transition personnel into the new cyberspace Air Force Specialty Codes. More than 1,200 students have been trained in the first six months, and the course capacity has been increased by 300 percent allowing more than 7,000 students to be projected in the next year. They have also developed and deployed over 150 network tools supporting both Air Force and joint cyber operations – nearly double the Air Force's previous year's production. Colonel Skinner said it is no wonder that the 688th IOW was selected for AFSPC's inaugural, Most Outstanding Wing with a Cyberspace Mission Award. The 688th professionals continue to forge relationships with Joint Base San Antonio and the local San Antonio community, as well as local communities throughout the United States. "[The 688th is] grateful to our host base(s) and greater communities for always going the extra mile to support mission success, personal growth and positive experiences for our families," he said

The Air Force has redesignated the 67th Network Warfare Wing and the 688th Information Operations Wing, both at JBSA-Lackland, Tex., as the 67th Cyberspace Wing and 688th Cyberspace Wing, respectively. These units fall under 24th Air Force, the service's cyber operations arm, headquartered at Lackland. "Throughout the Air Force, you have fighter wings, bomber wings, and training wings," said Gregory Ball, 24th AF command historian, in a release from the numbered air force. "Renaming these units as 'cyberspace wings' is a logical step, since it says very clearly what we do," he said. The name change became official on Sept. 13 for the 688th Cyberspace Wing. It becomes official on Oct. 1 for the 67th Cyberspace Wing. 2013

Air Force Activates Cyber Group, Squadrons The Air Force this month activated a new group and five squadrons with the task of protecting Defense Department networks and mission systems. The 688th Cyberspace Operations Group activated during a ceremony at JBSA-Lackland, Texas, with two new squadrons at Scott AFB, Ill., and three at Lackland. The group will consist of 500 "cyberspace professionals" that will conduct "cyberspace operations to protect Air Force and DOD cyber assets," according to a Lackland release. The activation follows the September redesignation and reorganization of the Air Force's cyber teams; the 67th Network Warfare Wing and the 688th Information Operations Wing, both at JBSA-Lackland, Texas, became the 67th Cyberspace Wing and 688th Cyberspace Wing, respectively. "Prepare yourselves, there will be many challenges to face," 688th COG Commander Col. Roger Vrooman said at the Dec. 1 ceremony. "I see a very, very tough two to three years as we have growing pains from standing up the units, to seeing new members daily, to moving [buildings and offices] possibly multiple times." 2015

The Air Force Information Operations Center is engaged in a myriad of activities supporting its role as the Air Force's information warfare executive agent. It integrates information warfare tactics, training and technology for combatant commanders. The center is comprised of about

1,000 military and civilian members trained in the areas of operations, engineering, operations research, intelligence, radar technology and communications and computer applications.

AFIOC activated Sept. 10, 1993 by combining the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center with elements of the Air Force Cryptologic Support Center's securities directorate and portions of Air Force Intelligence Command.

Co-located with Air Intelligence Agency headquarters at Lackland AFB, the Air Force Information Operations Center replaced the Air Force Information Warfare Center on 1 October 2006. The AFIOC consists of two directorates, the Air Force Information Operations Battlelab and the 318th Information Operations Group.

The Information Operations Directorate analyzes U.S. and adversary IO vulnerabilities, explores leading-edge technologies, prototypes solutions, develops concepts and data applications, and provides the foundation for center operations. The Resource Management Directorate conducts AFIOC plans and develops Air Force IO programs to satisfy warfighter requirements.

The Battlelab mission was to rapidly identify innovative ways to plan and employ information operations capabilities, a research and development operation to expedite the operational fielding of promising IO concepts. Citing budget issues, the Air Force announced on 22 February 2007 that all seven Air Force battlelabs would be closing.

The Air Force Information Operations Center realigned with 8th Air Force on 1 May 2007 to be part of the planned Air Force Cyber Command.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 1 Jan 2023

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.