

1st COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



LINEAGE

1st Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron, Mobile, constituted, 28 Jan 1952

Activated, 1 Mar 1952

Redesignated 1st Mobile Communications Squadron, 1 Jul 1961

Redesignated 1st Mobile Communications Group, 1 Oct 1961

Redesignated 1st Mobile Communications Squadron, 1 Jul 1974

Redesignated 1st Mobile Communications Group, 15 Jan 1975

Redesignated 1st Combat Communications Squadron, 24 Mar 1976

Redesignated 1st Combat Communications Group, 1 Jan 1981

Redesignated 1st Combat Information Systems Group, 15 Oct 1984

Redesignated 1st Combat Communications Group, 1 Oct 1986

Redesignated 1st Combat Communications Squadron, 31 Jul 1991

STATIONS

Johnson AB (later, AS), Japan, 1 Mar 1952

Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Aug 1961 - 15 Jan 1975

Robins AFB, GA, 15 Jan 1975 - 1 Feb 1976

Lindsey AS, Germany, 1 Feb 1976

Sembach AB, Germany, 1 Oct 1992

Ramstein AB, Germany, c. 1 Jul 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

1808th Airways and Air Communications Service Wing (later, Pacific Airways and Air Communications Service Area; Pacific Communications Area), 1 Mar 1952

Southeast Asia Communications Region, 8 Jan 1962

Pacific Communications Area, 15 Aug 1965

Tactical Communications Area, 15 Jan 1975

European Communications Area (later, European Communications Division; European Information

Systems Division; European Communications Division), 24 Mar 1976
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1991
601st Communications Group, 31 Mar 1993
32nd Air Operations Group, 1 Jul 1994

COMMANDERS

Maj Ted H. Tanner, 1 Mar 1952-Apr 1955
Maj Gilbert H. Bertie, 30 Jun 1955
Maj Martin R. Pautz, 31 Dec 1958
LTC William Hugill, 30 Jun 1960
Maj John C. Woodward, 1 Jul 1961
LTC John F. Lawler, Jr., 5 Dec 1961
Col Eldy E. Crowell, 30 Jun 1962
Col Homer J. Phoenix, 25 Jul 1963
Col Gilbert H. Bertie, 7 Jan 1965
Col Harry Urban, 6 Jul 1967
Col Tom B. Foulk, Jr., 1 Jul 1969
LTC Robert D. Johnson, 26 Jan 1972
Col William A. Komstedt, Jr., 24 Jul 1972
Col Jean C. Seagroves, 12 Jul 1973
Maj Kenneth J. Haldeman, 14 Jun 1974
Maj Francis G. Reid, 23 Jul 1974
Col Ed Callicotte, 1 Feb 1976
Col Gearld Block, 1978
Col Heiki Ellermets, 1981
Col J.W. Penny, 1984
Col Palmer W. Rowe, 1985
Col Keith F. Poch, 1988
LTC Nicholas Kallelis, 1991
Col Keith F. Poch, 1991
LTC Frank B. Richardson, 1992
LTC Benjamin F. Osler, 1994
LTC Thomas Inskeep, 1996
LTC Thomas H. Brown, 1998
LTC James H. Appleyard, Jr., 2000
LTC Michael Niezgodá, 2002
LTC Jeff Maxwell, 28 June 2004
LTC Gary L. Wood

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation

1 Jan 1967-15 Feb 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jan 1969-31 Dec 1969

1 Jan 1971-31 Dec 1971

1 Jan 1972 - 31 Dec 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Jan 1955-Nov 1956

24 Jul 1963-31 Dec 1964

1 Jan 1965-31 Dec 1965

1 Jan 1966-31 Dec 1966

1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1968

1 Jan 1975-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1977

1 Jan 1978-31 Dec 1978

1 Jan 1979-31 Dec 1980

1 Jan 1981-31 Dec 1981

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1982

1 Jan 1983-31 Dec 1984

1 Jan 1985-31 Dec 1985

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1986

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 1991-30 Mar 1993

1 Apr 1993-31 Mar 1995

1 Jun 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Apr 1995-1 Jun 1996

1 Oct 1996- 30 Sep 1998

1 Oct 1998-30 Jun 2000

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation

1 Jan 1969-26 Jul 1969

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation

21 Jul 1972-15 Aug 1972

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM

Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "1ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. Per bend sinister Vert and Celeste, a scarp enhanced Azure fimbriated Or, debriused by a sword Argent point to chief the handle resembling the numeral one of the like, hilt and pommel of the third fimbriated Gules, and radiating from the hilt, to dexter and sinister six lightning flashes three and three, between a pole star in dexter chief of the fifth and a buffalo head caboshed of the third in sinister base; all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "1ST COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. Blue and yellow are the Air Force Colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater for Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The buffalo, an unofficial emblem used by the unit, and the aqua blue background, adapted from the Pacific Air Force shield, denote service in the Pacific theater from 1952 until 1975. The star and green background symbolize the European theater which is the unit's present location. The blue diagonal band signifies the Presidential Unit Citation that was awarded to the unit. The sword, from the shield of the United States Air Forces in Europe, indicates the parent organization. The lightning flashes signify that the group is a unit of the Air Force Communications Command. (Approved, 8 Sep 1999)

MOTTO

FIRST IN -- LAST OUT

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 1st Mobile Communications Group mission was to provide personnel and equipment for emergency mobile support to carry out every kind of operational commitment for communications, air traffic control, and air navigational aids in the Pacific area.

The 1st Mobile Communications Group functioned under the command control of AFCS, but the operational control of the Pacific Air Force. Because the Pacific Air Force had overall Air Force communication support responsibility in Southeast Asia, the Group's assets were often combined with those of other organizations to meet increasing commitments. This frequently resulted in the installation of a mobile communications or air traffic control facility as emergency mission support and subsequently having it transferred to a fixed unit. This forced the Group to continually reconstitute its equipment to maintain sufficient resources to support Southeast Asia efforts.

Detachments of the 1st Mobile Communications Group were frequently deployed to Southeast Asia tactical air bases which consisted merely of a runway, a portable water supply, and the necessary air traffic control and navigational aid equipment to support Air Force operations. This responsiveness was illustrated, for example, during the Gulf of Tonkin incident on 4 Aug 1964. The Group deployed 134 people and 156 tons of equipment to Southeast Asia within only eight days.

The extent of AFCS support in the Vietnam conflict was demonstrated through the amount of equipment deployed to the area. In 1967 and 1968, the 1st Mobile Communications Group deployed

162 sets of high frequency radios, 25 tropospheric scatter systems, 72 radio relay terminals, 44 telephone systems, 47 communications centers, 26 control towers, 22 ground control approach facilities, and 41 tactical air navigation systems, in addition to other equipment.

The ability of AFCS and the entire Air Force to respond rapidly to crisis situations was tested with the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea on 23 Jan 1968. This action abruptly altered the United States military posture in Korea from a peacekeeping force to a combat-ready force and precipitated a period of hectic activity to expand and augment existing communication and air traffic control facilities in Korea. The situation required immediate personnel actions, accomplished through extensive temporary duty assignments, and the mobilization of Air National Guard and Reserve forces. Within 72 hours, the 1st Mobile Communications Group planned, packed, and readied for deployment personnel and equipment for "bare base" telecommunications for five bases in Korea. In a matter of days, the Group deployed over one million tons of communications equipment, using more than 40 C-141s.

In 1979 events For 1 Combat Communications Squadron Include Increased Readiness For Possible Participation In Iranian Contingency Operations; Provided Support At Nordholz German Air Base For Exercise Coronet Hoof; Unit Participation In Joint Chief Of Staff Funded Exercise, Flintlock 79; Deployment Of F-15 Aircraft To Saudi Arabia; And Healthy Strike Package. The 1st Combat Communications Squadron Participated In Crisex 79, "First Ever Joint, Combined Exercise With Spanish Military"

The 1st Combat Communications Group provided a mobile TACAN at Senegal's Dakar-Yoff Airfield. This facility, one of the most modern in West Africa, was a transatlantic abort landing site where the space shuttle could make emergency landings immediately after launch.

In Dec 1982, the 1st Combat Communications Group deployed a four-man team to Beirut, Lebanon, to supply secure voice communications for the European Command Liaison Team, part of the peacekeeping forces in civil war- torn Lebanon. Following the 18 Apr 1983 bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut when 17 Americans lost their lives, the team members were recognized for their heroism. Ambassador Robert Dillon said the men were "the real heroes of the bombing. Never leaving their equipment, they supplied communications for a myriad of organizations, sleeping in chairs next to their radios." One of the team members, A1C Rodney Hammen, received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the bombing and the Joint Services Commendation Medal for rescuing the ambassador's secretary. Following the suicide terrorist bombing at the Beirut Airport on 23 Oct that killed 240 United States Marines, AFCC's communicators were moved aboard Navy ships off the coast of Lebanon where they continued to provide vital communications.

Since being located in Germany, the unit was used to provide communications support in 1989 when Congressman Leland's plane crashed in Ethiopia and to provide communications support for the return of the American hostages from Iran. The 1st Combat Communications Squadron also provided communications support for the "Beirut Air Bridge" for potential evacuation of the American Embassy in Lebanon for 11 years. It was also involved in Operation Eldorado Canyon (the 1986 air strike against Libya) and operation Ernest Will in the Persian Gulf. It was heavily involved in Operation Desert Storm as well as Operations Proven Force and Provide Comfort out of Turkey

after the end of the Gulf War. It has been extensively involved in NATO and UN Operations Deny Flight, Provide Promise, United Nations Protection Forces, and Joint Endeavor in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Personnel and Equipment from the squadron have been deployed to locations in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Italy, France and Zaire in the former Belgian Congo in Africa.

The unit has also been at the forefront of NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative. 1st Combat Communications Squadron led the planning and provided 100% of the operational communications for the first communications only PFP exercise, Combined Endeavor in Sep 1995. This exercise brought together eight former Warsaw Pact nations in order to test the interoperability of their deployable communications systems with each other and with the U.S.

9/3/2010 Airmen assigned to the 1st Combat Communications Squadron have become accustomed to being busy -- after all, they support the communication needs of the entire European theater. In recent months in fact, nearly half of the squadron's more than 300 members have been busy supporting operations in nine locations including Spain, Lithuania, Iceland and Latvia. "I am very proud of the efforts of our Airmen, not only throughout this summer, but every day," said Lt. Col. Keith Mueller, 1st CBCS commander. On each deployment, 1st CBCS Airmen have been crucial to mission success, installing and maintaining communications systems from telephone lines to servers used to connect service members to the Web. During this summer, the squadron supported NATO missions in Rota, Spain, and even provided support to U.S. Africa Command's intelligence community.





Air Force Order of Battle
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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.