

# 83<sup>rd</sup> NETWORK OPERATIONS SQUADRON



## MISSION

### LINEAGE

83<sup>rd</sup> Communications Squadron constituted, 24 Feb 1956

Activated, 8 Jul 1956

Inactivated, 11 Nov 1957

Activated, 1 Jul 1998

Redesignated 83<sup>rd</sup> Network Operations Squadron, 5 Jul 2006

### STATIONS

Seymour-Johnson AFB, NC, 8 Jul 1956-11 Nov 1957

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jul 1998

### ASSIGNMENTS

83<sup>rd</sup> Air Base Group, 8 Jul 1956-11 Nov 1957

Air Combat Command Communications Group, 1 Jul 1998

26<sup>th</sup> Network Operations Group, 5 Jul 2006

690<sup>th</sup> Network Support (later, 690<sup>th</sup> Cyberspace Operations) Group, 18 Aug 2009

### COMMANDERS

#### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2012

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jan 2002-31 May 2003

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

[5 Jul 2006]-31 May 2007

1 Oct 2012-30 Sep 2013

## **EMBLEM**

Approved, 16 Apr 1999

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

8/14/2007 The redesignation of the 83rd Network Operations Squadron Aug. 3 completed its transformation into the Air Force's newest high-speed squadron dedicated to meeting the service's cyberspace mission.

Formerly the 83rd Communications Squadron, the unit at Langley is assigned to 26th Network Operations Group, 67th Network Warfare Wing located at Lackland AFB, Texas. The squadron's responsibilities include intrusion/detection, active directory management, mail relay, firewall management, Web proxy services, gateway management and other operations associated with Air Force networks.

"Networks, today even more than television and print media, increasingly provide the face we show to those outside the United States who are curious about or hostile toward our national identity and intentions." Col. Mark S. Kross, 26th NOG commander. "Our Web pages and information services, our public affairs messages disseminated instantaneously, our consistent presentation of images and messages of confidence, competence and dedication are key to the credibility and acceptance of our deployed warfighters around the world. Increasingly, network defense is the national defense."

The conversion of the 83rd falls in line with the Air Force mission - to fly and fight in air, space and cyberspace. "Our ability to fight in ground, sea, air, and space depends on communications that could be attacked thru cyberspace," said Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne at the November 2006 Command, Control, Computers, Communication, Surveillance & Reconnaissance Integration Conference in Crystal City, Va.

The 83rd's roadmap to accomplishing its mission might be different than what most Airmen think of from a regular communications squadron.

"We're not a typical communications squadron," said 1st Lt. Joseph M. Hinson, 83rd NOS. "This name change reflects the fact that we're operating the Air Force's largest weapon system: the

network. Just as a fighter pilot adjusts (his or her) controls and mitigates threats to put bombs on target, we're adjusting settings and defending against intrusions to connect intelligence folks with Predator footage, link units and missions via email and Web applications, etc."

The responsibilities of the 83rd are important because adversaries "... can not only use cyberspace in new asymmetrical ways, but can actually make it fit their needs," said Dr. Lani Kass, special assistant to the chief of staff of the Air Force and director of the Air Force Cyberspace Task Force. "Cyberspace's edge for an enemy is they can strike from a distance and at lightning speed - at the stroke of a keyboard," she said.

Two organizations that have reaped the benefits of Reservists seamlessly fitting in with their regular Air Force counterparts are the two integrated network operations and security centers — one at Langley Air Force Base, Va., and the other at Peterson AFB, Colo. Maj. Michael Allen recently completed a tour as director of operations for the 561st Network Operations Squadron at Peterson. And Maj. William Monahan is currently serving as director of operations for the 83rd NOS at Langley. Majors Allen and Monahan, both communications flight commanders, were called upon to fill in for regular Air Force officers who deployed.

INOSC responsibilities include active directory management, mail relay, firewall management, web proxy services, gateway management and other operations associated with Air Force networks. Major Allen, 310th Communications Flight commander at Peterson, and Major Monahan, 622nd CF commander at Langley, are just two of hundreds of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members contributing to the stand-up of 24th Air Force units and the cyber mission. "When I arrived here in November 2007 during my first activation at the 561st, there were only 20 Airmen in the unit," Major Allen said. "Because of the low numbers, AFRC personnel provided up to 50 percent of the manning to ensure operations were able to be sustained. We solicited the AFR and ANG for additional support to ensure critical functions were maintained until the 561st was able to build up to sustainable levels."

The 561st NOS has increased its manning level to 180 people and will eventually grow to 300, the major said. The 624th Operations Center, located at Lackland AFB, Texas, is the hub for all Air Force network operations and provides cyber tasking orders to the two I-NOSCs. Within the 624th, 29 of the 108 people assigned are from the reserve components. Over the next year, the center is expected to reach a manning level of 203.

Reservists and Guardsmen typically serve on 179-day orders to help fill the shortfalls until the unit becomes fully manned. "This is the best foundation I've seen; there is plenty of work to go around," said Col. Kathleen Barrish, 24th AF reserve adviser. "We are working smartly to capture mission sets that are best for the Guard and Reserve to fill." The experience Reservists and Guardsmen are receiving as a result of assisting where they are needed is strengthening the relationship between the regular Air Force and reserve forces.

"This activation is allowing me to see the mission from a new perspective, which will allow me to shape the 310th CF to be an even better partner in this critical mission," Major Allen said. "I believe the experience gained and relationships developed as a byproduct of this activation have already yielded substantial improvements in the customer support and service that the 622nd CF provides our active-duty brethren," Major Monahan said. In addition, the civilian businesses that support these Reserve and Guard members reap benefits from the activations as well.

“When someone like Major Monahan puts on his Reserve hat, he brings with him his skill set from the private sector to enhance his military activation, and it is reciprocated when he returns with new skills from his unit,” said Daniel V. Mullen, assistant vice president, Business Management DOD Network Services Operation Enterprise and Mission Solutions, SAIC. “As a defense contractor, we have many great Americans who activate as Reservists, and it is an honor to have them work for us. We ensure they have their (civilian) jobs to return to,” Mr. Mullen said. “While it is a hardship while they are gone, we overcome, and it truly is a win win situation for the Air Force and for SAIC.”

“I’ve shared best practices from my civilian position and am planning to introduce a myriad of innovative process improvements I learned from my activation at SAIC,” Major Monahan said. Since its inception Aug. 18, 2009, 24th Air Force has been a model of TFI, Colonel Barrish said. With the rapid nature of development of the mission and units, the Reserve and Guard have been integral in the organization’s stand-up. 2010

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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