

# HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

## LINEAGE

### STATIONS

Kapaun AS, Germany  
Ramstein AB, Germany

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

Maj Kenneth W. Klise	25 May 1943	6 Jan 1944
Lt Col William L. Day	7 Jan 1944	14 May 1944
Col Edgar A. Sirmyer, Jr. *	15 May 1944	Summer 1945
Col William L. Day	Summer 1945	Aug 1945
Col Thurston H. Baxter	Aug 1945	15 Nov 1946
Lt Col Paul C. Oscanyan (Interim)	15 Nov 1946	13 Jan 1947
Col Minthorne W. Reed	14 Jan 1947	30 May 1947
Lt Col Edward T. Tinsdall (Interim)	30 May 1947	15 Jun 1947
Lt Col Jess R. Guthrie	16 Jun 1947	14 Sep 1949
Col E. Blair Garland*	15 Sep 1949	1 Sep 1951
Col Albert T. Wilson, Jr.*	2 Sep 1951	9 Jun 1954
Brig Gen Daniel C. Doubleday* *	10 Jun 1954	7 Jun 1957

Brig Gen Haskell E. Neal	8 Jun 1957	14 Mar 1959
Brig Gen J. Francis Taylor, Jr.	15 Mar 1959	1 Dec 1962
III Brig Gen George M. Higginson	1 Dec 1962	22 Jul 1965
Brig Gen Robert W. Paulson**	22 Jul 1965	3 Jul 1967
Col Wilmer A. Randall	3 Jul 1967	20 Jul 1967
Brig Gen Albert R. Shiely, Jr. * *	20 Jul 1967	30 Jun 1969
Col John T. McCabe, Jr. (Acting)	30 Jun 1969	1 Aug 1969
Brig Gen Paul G. Galentine, Jr.	1 Aug 1969	27 Jul 1971
Brig Gen William W. Gilbert	29 Jul 1971	29 Jul 1974
Brig Gen Kenneth R. Miles**	29 Jul 1974	11 May 1975
Col Alvers I. Singleton (Acting)	12 May 1975	6 Jun 1975
Brig Gen John R. Randerson**	6 Jun 1975	17 Jul 1977
Col William J. Veurink (Acting)	18 Jul 1977	14 Aug 1977
Col Gerald L. Prather**	15 Aug 1977	12 Jul 1980
Col George H. Wheeler (Acting)	13 Jul 1980	20 Aug 1980
Brig Gen John P. Hyde**	21 Aug 1980	1 Aug 1983
Brig Gen James S. Cassity, Jr. * * *	2 Aug 1983	20 Jun 1985
Brig Gen Samuel J. Greene	20 Jun 1985	29 Jun 1988
Col Frederick A. Zehrer III*	30 Jun 1988	15 Jun 1989
Col Kenneth Key	16 Jun 1989	

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

The divided shield, using the colors of the Air Force, represents a radar screen used by air traffic controllers. The globe refers to the unit's overseas duty and information services provided over great distances by the unit. The lightning bolts represent electronic communications and data automation. The two center stars, encompassed by the lightning bolts, represent NATO and the United States Air Forces in Europe and symbolize the unit's support to these two organizations.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

**HEADQUARTERS EUROPEAN COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**

## RAMSTEIN AB, GERMANY

The function of providing communications services in the United Kingdom can probably be traced to July 1942 when a small detachment of the 8th Air Corps Squadron, Communications (Regional Control) (later redesignated to 8th Airways Communication Squadron) arrived at Prestwick, Scotland. As communications operations expanded, the stations in the United Kingdom were reassigned on 30 December 1942 to the new 17th Airways Communication Squadron with headquarters in Greenland, and on 25 March 1943 to the newly activated 24th Airways Communication Squadron with headquarters in London. [NOTE: Apparently the "command section" of each of these squadrons was also known as the XXth Regional Control Headquarters and the squadron commander as the Regional Control Officer. The unit histories seem to use the term "xth Region" to indicate both the squadron command section and the stations or detachments controlled by the squadron.]

The European Airways Communications Area was established/activated on 19 April 1944, at London, England, assigned to Airways and Air Communications Service Wing; disestablished on 15 May 1944. The activation was intended to control the 24th and the new 26th Army Airways Communications Squadrons; however in a general reorganization of AACS, the existing units were disbanded on 15 May 1944 and replaced by the 89th AAF Base Unit. The 5th Airways and Air Communications Service (hereafter, AACS) Wing established on 14 May 1948; organized on 1 June 1948 at Wiesbaden, Germany, assigned to Airways and Air Communication Service (later, Air Force Communications Service; Air Force Communications Command). Redesignated 1807th AACS Wing on 1 October 1948. Location moved to Furstenfeldbruck AB, Germany, 26 June 1953 and Bitburg AB, Germany, 12 November 1955. Redesignated European-African-Middle Eastern AACS Area on 1 November 1957. Location moved to Lindsey AB (later, AS), Germany 3 February 1958 and back to Wiesbaden AB, Germany, 4 November 1959. Redesignated European-African-Middle Eastern Communications Area on 1 July 1961. Location moved to Lindsey AS, Germany, 10 July 1963. Redesignated European Communications Area on 1 July 1968. Location changed to Ramstein AB, Germany, 31 December 1975 and moved to present location, Kapaun Barracks, Germany, 21 June 1976. Reestablished and consolidated with European Communications Area on 10 February 1981 which was redesignated European Communications Division on 1 June 1981. Redesignated European Information Systems Division 15 October 1984 and redesignated back to European Communications Division on 1 November 1986.

Headquarters European Communications Division moved with personnel and equipment (WPE) 1 October 1989 from Kapaun AS, Germany, to Ramstein AB, Germany, for a permanent change of station with an approximate personnel strength of 123 officers, 210 enlisted, and 106 civilians. The move constituted a continuation of overseas tour for all assigned personnel.

**SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES:** The 24th Airways Communications Region was operating stations in Iceland and the British Isles under control of the North Atlantic Airways Communications Region until 13 May 1944, when it was finally incorporated into the European Airways Communications Area. The 26th Airways Communications Region was formed on 22 April 1944, but apparently was not operational before the Area was disestablished on 15 May 1944. Records indicate the European Airways Communications Area was non-operational during its 1944 existence and was replaced on 15 May 1944 by the 89th Army Air Forces Base Unit (one section of which as sub-titled "5th AACS Wing").

The 89th AF Base Unit was replaced, and its resources absorbed by, the 5th AACS Wing

formed on 1 June 1948. The new wing, soon redesignated 1807th AACS Wing, was responsible for operation and maintenance of communications services, facilities, and navigational aids within its geographical area, which included western Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. Berlin Airlift operations required considerable support when the organization was established, and in later years other airlifts and emergency operations also caused highs and lows in the size and strength of the Area. On 1 July 1962 the European-African-Middle Eastern Communications Area assumed operational and maintenance responsibility for all USAFE base communications-electronics facilities, vastly increasing its size and scope of operations. In May 1970 the (now European Communications) Area further assumed C-E installation tasks from Ground Electronics Engineering and Installation Agency units in Europe. Electronics installation responsibility passed to the Northern Communications Area on 1 January 1976.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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