

102nd AIR OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

102nd Air Operations Group Mission Integrate with the 608th Air Operations Center to provide decisive air and space power through effective command and control (C2) of operational/theater level forces. Support the combatant commander, U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). Be ready to augment other air operations centers in supporting other combatant commanders anywhere in the world, as the situation dictates.

The 102nd Air Operations Group is a unit of the Massachusetts Air National Guard located at Otis ANG Base, Mass. The members of the 102nd AOG are trained and ready to support the Governor of Massachusetts in preserving the peace, order, and public safety of the state, and stand ready to support their federal mission as required.

While the unit's primary federal mission is to provide trained C2 warfighters to any global Air Operations Center, the 102nd AOG is functionally aligned with the 608th AOC, a functional AOC specializing in global effects. The 608th AOC is part of Eighth Air Force (also known as "The Mighty Eighth") located at Barksdale Air Force Base, La. Eighth Air Force also functions as the Global Strike Joint Functional Component Command for USSTRATCOM, making the 608th AOC the USSTRATCOM AOC. The 608th is the first AOC in the Air Force to conduct distributed operations with an Air National Guard unit. The 102nd AOG's role is to augment the Airmen at the 608th AOC and to share the operational workload. Together the 608th AOC and the 102nd AOG plan and monitor missions that involve strategic assets that are too specialized to be released to a specific theater of operations.

As part of this commitment, the 102nd AOG provides augmentation for a 24/7/365 Battle Watch mission. The Battle Watch executes the daily Integrated Tasking Order and maintains situational awareness at the strategic level on all world events, while simultaneously maintaining a global operational picture tracking friendly/enemy orders of battle and monitoring/tracking and performing command and control for global power missions.

Additionally, the mission includes the collection of battle damage assessment and intelligence to determine mission effectiveness.

Traditionally, National Guard units assigned this mission deploy personnel to the physical location of the AOC and work with their active duty counterparts on site. What makes the mission currently happening between the 608th AOC and the 102nd AOG unique is the use of distributed operations. Distributed operations enable the units to integrate and work as one despite being geographically separated. Airmen can share information and collaborate with each other using electronically linked systems within their respective work centers. Now, operators in the 102nd AOG at Otis Air National Guard Base can monitor mission activities as if they were present at the 608th AOC. The two operations centers can distribute the workload seamlessly.

LINEAGE

102nd Air Operations Group

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Richard Sweeten

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The outer border of the patch is a tie to Cape Cod's nautical heritage. The F-15s separating the text represent the 102nd's former alert mission. The hand, olive branch and dagger are a link to STRATCOM. The 8 and star are a link to 8th Air Force and the star is over Otis. The lightning bolts are a symbol of the command and control mission of the 608th Air Operations Center. And, finally, the four stars on the bottom of the inner circle are symbolic of the fighter squadron's four consecutive Outstanding ratings during its last four Alert Forced Evaluations. It is a metaphor for the excellence of the past and the standard the 102nd Air Operations Group is shooting for now and in the future.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

2010 In September, the 102nd Air Communications Squadron (102nd ACOMS) completed installation on Otis Air National Guard Base of more than \$1 million worth of the latest command and control (C2) equipment and software applications as part of the new Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) weapon system. With this equipment, the 102nd Air Operations Group (102nd AOG) made monumental progress in its ability to train and deploy worldwide and took a leap toward achieving initial operational capability (IOC). Although supremely challenging at times, 102nd ACOMS Airmen triumphed over the installation process while simultaneously maintaining the 102nd AOG's ability to conduct their real world Battle Watch mission augmenting the 608th Air and Space Operations Center (608th AOC) at Barksdale AFB, La.

Now, the 102nd ACOMS will continue to maintain the new equipment as well as perform any future upgrades. "Our role is to ensure the warfighter has technological support to complete the AOC mission, as well as provide communications expertise to the AOG's leadership," said Senior Master Sgt. Mike Walsh, 102nd ACOMS superintendent. "This was a demanding project with a steep learning curve, but my team pulled together and exceeded every expectation," said Capt. Ray Hale, 102nd ACOMS commander. Because of the 102nd ACOMS incredible effort, the 102nd AOG is now able to train and fight as an AOC using a full suite of equipment. The new equipment will also enhance the 102nd AOG's ability to provide real world support to the 608th AOC from Otis ANG Base; conducting distributed operations.

"With the great work that Ray and his team have done, the Group can really accelerate our ability to support Strategic Command and Eighth Air Force's Global Strike mission," said Col. Richard Sweeten, 102nd AOG commander. Although worldwide deployable, the 102nd AOG's primary mission focus is integrating with its active duty counterpart, the 608th AOC, in its conventional long range bomber role. With an IOC date of April 2011, the 102nd AOG must now focus its attention on training crew members and ensuring a cadre of qualified mission experts are ready for the fight. Meanwhile, 102nd ACOMS will continue to provide critical support to the AOC weapon system and 102nd AOG personnel to ensure this state of the art equipment continues to run at optimum performance.

As always, 102nd ACOMS stands true to their vision of providing a dependable, outstanding, reliable, and "always available" communications infrastructure. Senior Airman John Wong, 102nd ACOMS cyber transport systems journeyman, and Airman 1st Class Michael Servis, 102nd ACOMS cyber systems operations journeyman, assemble a cable rack used to support command and control (C2) equipment recently installed on Otis Air National Guard Base, Mass., as part of the 102nd Air Operations Group's new Air and Space Operations weapon system. The equipment installation was accomplished without interrupting on-going support of real world operations and supports the 102nd AOG's goal of attaining initial operational capability in April 2011.

2011 On April 1, the 102nd Air Operations Group reached Initial Operational Capability (IOC). The designation of IOC indicates the unit is qualified and ready to execute specific missions. It

also signifies the completion of the 2005 BRAC mandated unit conversion from the Homeland Defense and National Air Sovereignty Alert mission flying F-15 to Air and Space Operations Center (AOC) augmentation and integration, specializing in the command and control (C2) of Global Strike assets for U.S. Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM). "In reality we have been operationally supporting USSTRATCOM for over a year now. While this means IOC is mostly symbolic, it is still a major milestone," said Col. Richard Sweeten, 102nd Air Operations Group commander.

"We will be expected to 'step up' if required to support an AOC (Air and Space Operations Center) anywhere in the world. Most of our efforts will continue to be related to the Global Strike mission and supporting USSTRATCOM's AOC at the 608th (Barksdale AFB, La.) but we need to assume a 'mission ready' mentality in all that we do." While the unit's primary federal mission is to provide trained C2 warfighters worldwide to any AOC, the 102nd AOG is functionally aligned with the 608th AOC, a functional AOC specializing in global effects. The 608th is the first AOC in the Air Force to conduct real-time distributed C2 operations with an Air National Guard unit. The 102nd AOG's role is to augment the Airmen at the 608th AOC and to share the operational workload.

Together the 608th AOC and the 102nd AOG plan and monitor missions that involve strategic assets that are too specialized to be released to a specific theater of operations. Since its inception nearly two and a half years ago, the Air Operations Group has proven that it has the capability, talent, and capacity to meet the requirements of its new mission. During this time, the unit transformed the BRAC concept of AOC augmentation into integration and created the distributed operations concept, whereby, 102nd personnel at Otis ANGB seamlessly integrate daily with their counterparts at the 608th at Barksdale AFB. This cutting edge concept is now the model for Guard/ active duty AOCs to follow.

In addition to strategic effects operations, the unit also provides augmentation for a 24/7/365 Battle Watch mission. The Battle Watch executes the daily Integrated Tasking Order and maintains situational awareness at the strategic level on all world events, while simultaneously maintaining a global operational picture tracking friendly/enemy orders of battle and performing C2 for global deterrence missions. Reaching IOC signifies the Group's ability to perform critical and significant elements of its mission. "We continue to expand our capability with the new training systems and integrated operations with the 608th AOC," said Col. Sweeten. "The 102nd AOG is seen by all as a critical piece to the Global Strike planning and execution mission."

2011 Two years of exercises and training between the 608th Air Operations Center (AOC) and the 102d Air Operations Group (AOG) were put to the test recently when members of the 102d deployed to Barksdale Air Force Base, L.A., in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn and Operation Unified Protector. A major mission set of the 608th is Global Strike Time Sensitive Planning (TSP), and in the early days of these operations, several real-world TSP "events" resulted in the need for additional on-site manpower and expertise at Barksdale.

"We have been practicing for the real thing for a long time and when the call came from the 608th, we were ready," said 101st AOS Commander Colonel Tim "Heater" Estep. The 608th Air and Space Operations Center plans, directs, and assesses daily operations employing global,

kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities in order to deliver strategic effects for the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) Commander and other theater commanders. The 102d AOG supports and augments the 608th with personnel and tactical capability through direct and distributed means. While the details of the TSP tasking are still highly classified, members of the 102nd led the "Mission Analysis" strategic planning cell and also augmented the "Courses of Action" planning cell.

Captain Christian Leighton provided intelligence analysis support to the 608th. Lt. Col. Martin "Opus" Richard and Lt. Col. Gary "Lips" Cundiff led the Mission Analysis team and provided background information, tactical planning considerations, and mission objective guidance so several Courses of Action (COA) could be developed. Lt. Col. Vaughn Littlejohn augmented the COA Development team providing planning, weapons, and tactical expertise for potential Global Strike missions. Col. Estep and Col. Frank "Rud" Aflague served as Deputy Directors overseeing the entire TSP effort. "The 102nd enabled us to meet our mission tasking by stepping up to the plate and doing anything we asked of them," said Col. Mike Tichenor, commander of the 608th.

Col. Keith Tiester, Chief of the Strategy Division, said, "We have complete confidence in the 102nd. The work they did here was simply amazing." As Col. Frank "Rudy" Aflague said, "It was rewarding to be a part of the first real-world combat deployment for the 102nd AOG." Ultimately, the Courses of Action developed by the Otis team were briefed at the highest levels of command authority and refined to assure mission success in the Libyan AOR. Col. Rich Sweeten, 102nd AOG commander, added, "This is the perfect example of why this new guard C2 mission is important to the active duty Air Force. Most AOCs do not need a fully manned operations center during normal peacetime, day to day, operations.

But when a contingency operation like Odyssey Dawn requires action, the guard can step in with highly trained AOC augmentees and either deploy to the site or support the effort through reach back or integrated ops from home station. The 102nd AOG proved that the model works." The 102nd will deploy back to Barksdale at the end of April to support Operation Global Lightning / Austere Challenge. The unit will also participate in planning and execution for the exercise with a team at Otis through their innovative distributed operations process.

Prototype Could Improve ISR Command and Control: Members of the 102nd Air Operations Group from Otis ANGB, Mass., recently tested a new prototype system that could significantly reduce the request time for intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, announced Air Force officials June 4. The Deliberate and Dynamic ISR Management, or D2ISRM, tool allows for more direct machine-to-machine communications, giving operators more time to focus only on the best options available, they said. In fact, the recent operational demonstration conducted with the Air Guardsmen under the auspices of the Electronic Systems Center's Command and Control Constellation program showed that D2ISRM cut the total request cycle for ISR assets by an average of 85 percent, according to the officials. "With D2ISRM, we're trying to give [operators] better tools to allow for some semi-automatic decision-making that helps reduce stress and non-value-added work," said Perry Villanueva, C2 Constellation program manager at Hanscom AFB, Mass. 2012

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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