

# **143<sup>rd</sup> INFORMATION OPERATION SQUADRON**

# **143<sup>rd</sup> COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

143<sup>rd</sup> Aircraft Control & Warning Sq.  
Redesignated 143<sup>rd</sup> Communications Squadron (TT) October 1960  
Redesignated 143<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Squadron  
Redesignated 143<sup>rd</sup> Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985

## **STATIONS**

Seattle, WA

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

AFOUA 1 Jan 1974-31 Dec 1975  
AFOUA 1 Jan 1983-31 Aug 1984  
AFOUA 1 Jan 1987-30 Dec 1988

## **EMBLEM**

On an Air Force blue disc edged red, an Air Force yellow circuit issuing circle-wise eight lightening bolts, the movement counterclockwise, forming eight Air Force blue lightening bolts, the movement clockwise, surmounted by a light blue globe edged and grid lined Air Force blue; all within a white band bordered and inscribed in top UNA VOCE PRO PATRIA red. (31 March 1964)

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The interlocked lightening bolts represent the whirling ball of communications going into space and returning to earth, depicted by the globe. The light blue of the globe alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force Operations. The emblem bears the Air Force colors ultra-marine blue and golden yellow, the national colors red, white and blue.

## **MOTTO**

UNA VOCE PRO PATRIA - With one voice for our country.

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Korat Thailand customer service is what counts for the men and women who handle all official radio satellite and telephone communications to the military exercise Cobra Gold 95. When a troop picks up the phone to make a call or send a fax they expected it to work said LTC William Canavan commander of Washington Air National Guard combat communications in Thailand. Canavan also commands the 143<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communication Group at Boeing Field. Military communicators are riding the wave of computer-chip technology and all enabling them to reach around the globe. The size and scope of message traffic is staggering during the exercise due to the advent of digital and satellite communications. In one three-hour block we processed more than 12,000 phone calls said Canavan. More than 26,000 Thai and US military troops participated in the exercise designed to bolster Thai defense capability. The US contingent numbers more than 17,000 service members representing all branches of the active military and reserve forces according to chief Master Sgt. Lawrence D. Taylor, headquarters Pacific Air Forces. The business of managing huge electronic communications networks during the exercise is a joint effort which relied heavily on people and equipment from all services active and reserve. We work with air National Guard a lot. Much of the equipment used here is theirs. Exercises like Cobra Gold gives us a chance to use our equipment in a joint combined military scenario both active and guard get pointers from each other and we work together like this. The equipment, location, and missions of the military communicators in Thailand for Cobra Gold are as varied as the people supporting them. Scattered in various locations throughout this hot humid Southeast Asian country known for its friendly people and spicy cuisine, 450 military communicators keep the official network up and alive. Some work in steamy remote villages linking civil affairs medical teams with higher headquarters via radio and portable satellite devices. Other communicators can be found near the exercise center. Other communicators can be found exercise center; people like technical Sgt. Rob Womack who is an electrical maintenance technician with the Washington air National Guard's 242 combat communication group. He keeps equipment running that routes all of the official message traffic in the nerve center best described as a switch linking customers to an intended destination to digital and analog signals. Advanced electronic technologies such as fiber optics pulse code signals and satellites all help get messages to and from exercises in Thailand. Traffic-wise it's busy, repairs slow and maintenance is steady, said Womack a resident of Spokane Washington. We've learned good maintenance keeps us out of the repair business he said. For Staff Sgt. Gregory P. Denton and the 17 member crew of the US Space Command at Colorado Springs Colorado it was business as usual setting satellite links for weather forecasting. Denton and fellow space team member staff

Sgt. Neal F. Payne used their expertise to assist in cutting edge medical imaging exercise. Thanks to these gentlemen from Space Command we're able to send still images back to Tripler Army hospital in Hawaii said Capt. Jeff Gaylord, I Corps surgeon's office. This emergency technology is known as telemedicine. In the future said Gaylord, medical personnel in remote sites will be able to use this technology to perform consultations without having to resort to costly and time-consuming medical evacuations. Once developed, the system will save lives and money.

143rd Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Seattle, Washington

Allotted: 24 May 1946 to ANG

Mobilized: 1 May, 1951 – 1 February, 1953

Deployed: Ladd AFB, Alaska

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 7 Sep 2010

Updated:

Sources

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

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## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## OPERATIONS

The Air Guard leads among reserve forces in developing offensive cyber capabilities. It operates two 100-person squadrons that are capable of launching cyber attacks. They're Maryland's 175th Network Warfare Squadron and Delaware's 166th Network Warfare Squadron. Both squadrons support the National Security Agency, but Guard officials in Delaware and Maryland declined to discuss what the units do. As cyber operations and units expand, the active-component services are struggling to attract and retain qualified cyber troops. But that's proving to be less of a problem for the Guard. In an address at a CyberFutures Conference in March, Gen. William Shelton, the chief of the Air Force Space Command, called the shortage of cyber recruits for the Air Force "a serious national security issue." Shelton said far too few U.S. college graduates now are earning technical degrees. Of those who do, too many are foreign nationals who are ineligible to work in U.S. national security. And too many others "aren't the kind of folks that would necessarily take well to military life," he said. Pay is another problem. "There's no way that the military can compete with civilian salaries" for cyber professionals, said Wyatt, the Air Guard director. But pay disparity creates opportunities for the Guard. By joining the Guard, cyberwarriors can keep their high-paying civilian jobs and still serve in the military. That formula seems to be working. The authorized personnel end-strength of Rhode Island's 102nd is 50 airmen, but "we're currently stacked at 58," said Marshall, the operations officer. In Washington state, where the 143rd Information Operations Squadron is being created from a combat communications squadron, "we're demographically blessed," says Dravis, the wing commander. The 143rd's headquarters sits about two miles east of Interstate 5, which runs from Canada to Mexico along the West Coast. In western Washington, the I-5 corridor is dotted with high-tech industries—Microsoft, Cisco, Boeing, T-Mobile, supercomputer-maker Cray and dozens of software companies. "We pull extensively from them," Dravis says. "We have significant experience levels walking into our units." The Los Angeles area is another "hotbed of cybertech," says Col. Stephen Beck, commander of the California Air Guard's 162nd Combat Communications Group. The group's new 261st Information Operations Squadron is based in Van Nuys, just north of L.A. In addition to numerous high-tech companies, many with ties to the military, the area has "tons of universities and two dozen cyber-research centers, all within an hour or two drive," Beck says. Similar demographics exist for the 175th in Maryland. As it expands, it expects to draw from high-tech companies clustered around Washington, D. C., and Baltimore. The locations are no coincidence. The three units were selected for cyber missions because of their proximity to cyber-savvy populations, Wyatt said. But proximity isn't always essential. "We've got a cyberwarrior in Washington state," Wyatt said, "who, on drill weekends, on his own dime, flies to the east coast to Fort Meade to do battle with folks worldwide." 2012

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources