

# **147<sup>th</sup> COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

147<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control Squadron constituted, 27 May 1946  
Organized as 147 Aircraft Control Squadron, 20 June 1948  
Redesignated type "A" Aircraft and Control Squadron, 1 Oct 1949  
Redesignated 147<sup>th</sup> Communication Squadron (Tributary Team), 1960  
Redesignated 147<sup>th</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron, 1968  
Redesignated 147<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, 1976  
Redesignated 147<sup>th</sup> Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 147<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron, 1 Oct 1986

## **STATIONS**

Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, CA  
San Fernando Valley Airport CA, 26 Jan 1951  
Duncanville, TX 23 May 1951  
Van Nuys, CA, 1 Feb 1953  
San Diego ANGS, CA, Mar 1988

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

162<sup>nd</sup> Communications Group  
162<sup>nd</sup> Combat Communications Group

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Extended federal recognition to the unit on 18 July 1948.

On 1 May 1951, the 147 ACSQ was ordered to active duty under General Order 41, Headquarters 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force, and transferred to Duncanville, Texas.

147 ACW Squadron: assigned on 12 May 51 at Duncanville, as the 159th Group; transferred to 33rd Air Division on 6 Feb 52

The unit remained in Duncanville from 23 May 1951 until its return to Van Nuys on 1 Feb 1953.

On 1 May 1951, the 147 ACSQ was ordered to active duty under General Order 41, Headquarters 4<sup>th</sup> Air Force, and transferred to Duncanville, Texas. The unit remained in Duncanville from 23 May 1951 until its return to Van Nuys on 1 Feb 1953.

In 1960, the 147 ACSQ was redesignated the 147<sup>th</sup> Communication Squadron (Tributary Team) under the command of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Communications Group. The unit was subsequently redesignated a Mobile Communications Squadron in 1968, a Combat Communications Squadron in 1976, a Combat Information Systems Squadron in Jul 1985, and finally a Combat Communications Squadron in 1 Oct 1986.

In Mar 1988, the unit was moved to its present location for the purpose of expanding operations and training facilities. Another important consideration was the need to facilitate the strategic dispersal of emergency communications in southern California. The squadron's primary function in peacetime is the provision of emergency communications and other needed assistance during state-declared emergencies.

The unit has participated in federal Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises worldwide including Team Spirit in Korea, Display Determination in Italy, Tactical Fighter Weaponry in Denmark, Eager Tiger in Jordan, Nuevos Horizontes in Panama, and Partnership for Peace in the Ukraine. We have also supported the US Army in their Roving Sands exercise in New Mexico and the US Navy in Joint Warrior Interoperability Demonstrations on the San Diego coast. The unit has proudly served in Bosnia, Columbia Denmark, Dutch Antilles, El Salvador, England, Germany, Guam, Haiti, Hawaii, Honduras, Italy, Jordan, Korea, Kuwait, Panama, Puerto Rico, Peru, Turkey, Ukraine, and the Virgin Islands.

In Jan 2008 won't soon be forgotten by the service-members of the California Air National Guard's 147<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS). On a beautiful San Diego day, the

147 CBCS ceremoniously accepted Eagle Vision III (EV) and its commercial satellite imagery mission. The narrator for the ceremony was the 147 CBCS Commander LTC Douglas Hire. Guest speakers, in order of who spoke first, were the Assistant Adjutant General BG Mary Kight, Commander of the California Air National Guard Maj. Gen. Dennis Lucas and the Pentagon's Director of the Air Force Combat Support Office, Mr. James "Snake" Clark. During General Lucas's speech, he said, "California has been in the leading the role of transformation for a little over eight years." He went on to say, to follow suite with the transformation in California, it's one of his goals to make the California Air National Guard the leader of change. He also said, "One thing that will not change is our devotion to the mission and to excellence in all we do. Eagle Vision is the Department of Defense's first lightweight, mobile commercial satellite imagery system. It provides unclassified commercial satellite imagery. It evolved from a need during Desert Storm to quickly acquire and disseminate broad-area imagery for contingency operations. The system provides unclassified commercial imagery to support war-time operations, and disseminates imagery following man-made and natural disasters that must be mapped quickly to efficiently deploy and support emergency resources. The mobile EV system can be driven or flown to an emergency or military location anywhere in the world and set up to receive image data directly from the orbiting satellites. It has capabilities to produce and enhance raw image data products for delivery in either digital or hardcopy formats. Mr. Clark is one of the Defense Department's leading experts in the field of commercial imagery. He is credited with the conception of the Eagle Vision program during the first Gulf War. Eagle Vision was developed by a French company called Matra System and Information, now known as European Air Defense Systems (EADS). Mr. Clark said. The EV system has evolved over the years." He said it represents 18 years of inter-national cooperation between the French and Americans, as well as the Air National Guard and active duty Air Force. During General Lucas' and General Kight's speeches, they credited Mr. Clark for being responsible for the 147 CBCS receiving the EV III mission. General Lucas said, "This Eagle Vision mission is extremely important, not only to the state but the nation as well." With the EV mission, the 147 CBCS joins other ANG combat communications squadrons to include South Carolina; Hawaii; Alabama as well as an active duty Intelligence Squadron in Ramstein, Germany.

It's 2 a.m. and the entire family is sleeping in their beds. All of a sudden and with a piercing wail, sirens begin to sound. The family knows from experience not to panic, but they need to know what's happening. They turn on the TV and see nothing but static. They try to call family members but discover their cell phones aren't working and their land lines are dead. In the middle of the night a massive hurricane had made a dramatic change in course and made landfall. The Category 5 storm caused the largest tsunami the Hawaiian Islands had ever seen. Making matters worse, communications throughout the island chain were down. The spring training exercise Makani Pahili, meaning "great winds" in Hawaiian, presented that scenario and required California National Guard members to bridge communications between responding agencies. "In order to save lives, we need to be able to get the communication up and running to coordinate with all of the other agencies working to get help to civilians of every community," said Cpt Michael Morabe, communication and information officer for the 147<sup>th</sup> Combat Communication Squadron. The 147<sup>th</sup> used the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC) to provide a mobile communications setup that facilitated emergency communications between the different devices used by first responders and other local, state and federal agencies. Deployed in each state by the National Guard Bureau, a JISCC can arrive at a disaster site and

provide global communications within an hour. The emergency communications effort at Makani Pahili combined Hawaiian Civil Defense assets and JISCC teams from the California, Alaska and Nevada National Guard. California State Military Reserve forces operated an Incident Commander's, Command, Control and Communications Unit, or IC4U, a vehicle that enables mobility throughout the disaster area and is capable of communicating anywhere in the U.S. and Pacific Islands using satellite technology. IC4Us can capture imagery from cameras on vehicles or aircraft and transmit that video to emergency response teams. At the Joint Operations Command, or JOC, Tech. Sgt. Kyle "Gus" Murphy of the 149 CCS established an initial communication system that included a wide range of devices that could be used to bring communications up to speed quickly and efficiently. "If it's possible to run communications wirelessly, we can set it up from this JOC," he said. "With this technology we can set up different systems to allow them to become interoperable and be able to permit emergency responders to talk to one another." The 147 CCS and 149 CCS are both units of the CNG's 162<sup>nd</sup> Combat Communications Group. Local, federal and military responders use anything from push-to-talk radios to Blackberries and standard everyday cellular phones, Murphy said. Aligning the frequencies to allow them to talk to each other is an important task the JISCC has practiced repeatedly to become quick in completing the task, he added. "It takes the complete effort of several different entities to bring up communications during a disaster," said Maj Jon Dahl of the 147 CCS. "All of the separate state Guard units and organizations collaborated together to work as one functional unit." The threat of disaster is looming out there, Murphy said. It's not "if" it will happen, but "when," and the Guard needs to be prepared to battle Mother Nature to save lives, he said. 2011

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Sources