

290th JOINT COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron FEDERAL MISSION: On order, the provides rapidly deployable, en-route, early entry, and scalable command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) services capability across the full spectrum of operations to combatant commanders or other agencies as directed in order to facilitate rapid establishment of Joint Force Headquarters and bridge joint C4ISR requirements.

STATE MISSION: Provide communications support during disaster response and relief activities at the direction of the Governor of Florida.

LINEAGE

The 290th Combat Communications Squadron was designated and activated, 7 Jan 1984
Redesignated 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, 15 Jun 1985

STATIONS

MacDill AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Communications Command, 7 Jan 1984

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert E. Smith, Jan 7, 1984

LTC Robert W. Sullivan, May 14, 1988

LTC Paul N. Paquette, Mar 2, 1991

LTC David H. Barnhart, Jul 11, 1998

LTC Eric L. Buchanan, Jul 14, 2001
Col David H. Barnhart, Jul 10, 2004
LTC Loretta J. Lombard, Apr 8, 2006
LTC Matthew Giles

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1992–30 Jun 1994
1 Oct 2003–30 Sep 2005

EMBLEM

The satellite symbolizes the worldwide communications support mission of the Squadron. The satellite design is a modification of the unofficial emblem of the Joint Communications Support Element, US readiness Command, and represents affiliation with the Command. The orange sun alludes to the sunshine states of State, the location of the Squadron. The six stars signify the six commands that the Squadron supports. (Approved, 18 Mar 1986)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 290th Communications Support Squadron was activated on 7 Jan 1984 with Federal Recognition on 4 Jul 1984. The unit was initially authorized a strength of nine officers and 186 enlisted personnel. On 15 Jun 1985, the squadron was redesignated the 290 Joint Communications Support Squadron (290 JCSS). The 290 JCSS was aligned under the United States Readiness Command (USREDCOM) for administrative and logistics support until the USREDCOM deactivation in August 1984, and realignment under United States Central Command (USCENTCOM), with Air Combat Command as our mobilizing command. On 1 October 1998, the squadron was aligned under United States Atlantic Command (USACOM) along with its parent active duty component the, Joint Communications Support Element. The 290 JCSS has deployed personnel and equipment on numerous exercises to worldwide locations, ranging from the arctic of Alaska to the jungles of Central America and to the desert war in the Persian Gulf.

The 290th has deployed to support real world operations, including sending 11 volunteers to Saudi Arabia in Aug 1990 to support Operation Desert Shield. Additional volunteers followed to

support Operation Desert Storm. Missions followed in countries like Haiti, Kenya, Somalia and many others. As part of the Global War on Terrorism the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron deployed 32 personnel and several tons of equipment to the Philippines, where they provided Special Operations Command, Pacific JTF 510, with satellite and internet communications, secure and non-secure phone service, video-teleconferencing services. The unit simultaneously deployed a six-member team in support of the Operation Fundamental Justice (detainee transport) missions and another 10 personnel to the U.S. Embassy in Pakistan to support U.S. Central Command, coalition forces and other U.S. government agencies with communications support. The unit rotated the same number of personnel seven times to each of these locations during its two-year activation. Since Sep 2003, the 290th has maintained a continuous 120-day Air Expeditionary Force rotation cycle to the Middle East. Consequently, almost every one of the 290th's more than 230 members has answered the call to serve overseas. The unit continues to send communications support teams to both Iraq and Afghanistan to support the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force, Central Command, coalition forces, and other U.S. government agencies in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 6 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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