

554 ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS WING



MISSION

The 554 Electronic Systems Wing is a unit of the Air Force Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom AFB, Mass. It develops, fields sustains and operates worldwide communications-computer and force protection systems and capabilities for the President and Secretary of Defense, CJCS, unified combatant commanders, services and specified Department of Defense and non-DoD agencies to direct military forces. Administers contracts for the procurement of information technology systems and services supporting DoD-wide customers.

LINEAGE

3 Combat Crew Replacement Center Group established, 2 Nov 1943

Activated, 21 Nov 1943

Redesignated 3 Combat Crew Replacement Center Group (Bombardment or Fighter, Special),
17 Jul 1944

Inactivated, 22 Nov 1945

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

Reconstituted and redesignated 554 Operations Support Wing, 26 Feb 1980

Activated, 1 Mar 1980

Inactivated, 1 Nov 1991

Operations Support Systems Wing established, 23 Nov 2004

Activated, 17 Dec 2004

554 Operations Support Wing and Operations Support Systems Wing consolidated, 6 Apr 2006

Consolidated organization redesignated 554 Electronics Systems Wing, 17 Apr 2006
Inactivated, 30 Jun 2010

STATIONS

Toome, Northern Ireland, 21 Nov 1943
Chipping Ongar, England, c. 23 Sep 1944
Vittel, France, by 15 Mar 1945
Ohringen, Germany, by 30 Apr 1945
Schwetzingen, Germany, by 1 May 1945
Fillingen, Germany, by 15 May 1945
Nellingen, Germany by 31 May 1945
Kaufbeuren, Germany, 15 Oct 1945
Leipheim, Germany, c. 31 Oct-22 Nov 1945
Nellis AFB, NV, 1 Mar 1980-1 Nov 1991
Hanscom AFB, MA, 17 Dec 2004

ASSIGNMENTS

VIII Air Force Composite Command, 21 Nov 1943
Air Disarmament Command (Provisional), c. 23 Sep 1944
VIII Air Force Composite Command, 10 Oct 1944
IX Air Force Service Command, 1 Feb 1945
1587 Quartermaster Battalion, Mobile, 16 Oct 1945
Detachment B, 9 Base Air Depot Area, 12-22 Nov 1945
USAF Tactical Fighter Weapons (later, USAF Fighter Weapons) Center, 1 Mar 1980-1 Nov 1991
Electronic Systems Center, 17 Dec 2004

ATTACHMENTS

Air Disarmament Command [Provisional], 10 Oct 1944-31 Jan 1945

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1943-1944
A-20, 1944
AT-23, 1944
UH-1N, 1985-1987

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Robert W. Chrisp, 21 Nov 1943
Col Charles W. Bicking, Feb 1944
Maj George O. Commenator, 25 Aug 1944-unkn
Unkn (apparently not manned as a unit), Feb 1945-14 Oct 1945
1st Lt Benjamin J. Gewirtzman, 15 Oct-22 Nov 1945
Col Keith E. Kiplinger, 1 Mar 1980
Brig Gen Richard H. Dunwoody, 7 Apr 1980
Col Robert R. Reed, 22 Oct 1982

Col Joseph K. Stapleton, 25 May 1984
Col Henry R. Becker, 21 May 1985
Col Henry M. Hobgood, 26 Sep 1986
Col William L. Worthington Jr., 23 Sep 1988
Col James D. Blair, 23 Mar 1990-1 Nov 1991
Mr. Frank P. Weber, 17 Dec 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Rhineland
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jul 1983-30 Jun 1985
1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987
1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989
1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

EMBLEM



Per bend Azure and Gules, issuing from dexter and arced to sinister chief three vapor trails Argent each terminating below a flight symbol Sable fimbriated of the third, overall a base embattled of five pillars Or, all within a diminished bordure of the like. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "554 ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence

required of Air Force personnel. The three delta arrows represent the global operational Air Force that the Wing supports. The gold crenellated base is the rampart of a fortress, which represents the robustness of the Information Technology (IT) support provided by the Wing. The middle diagonal section represents military courage, and the top diagonal section is symbolic of the sky, the domain of the Air Force (Approved, 17 Dec 1980)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Used B-26s and A-20s to provide combat and theater indoctrination for Eighth Air Force combat crews, Nov 1943-Sep 1944. Resources used to man and equip provisional disarmament units in Feb 1945, which moved to the continent and advanced with Allied ground forces, seizing, securing, inventorying, and disposing of all captured German Air Force equipment and materiel through Oct 1945. Provided base support functions for Nellis AFB, 1980-1991. Developed, operated, and maintained all range facilities and threat simulators and provided combat support functions at Indian Springs AF Auxiliary Field.

The 554 Operations Support Wing inactivated after 11 years at Nellis. It was the first wing of its kind in the Air Force. The 554 Combat Support Group became the 554 Support Group; the 554 Range, Police and Communications Groups became squadrons, respectively. The 554 Civil Engineering Squadron inactivated and the 558th Civil Engineering Squadron activated in its place. All other support functions, except logistics (which went to the 57th Fighter Wing), and the 554 Comptroller Squadron (which became a direct reporting unit of the Center's), became reporting units of the 554 Support Group. 1 Nov 1991

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. -- While they will continue their current mission, the men and women of the 554 Electronic Systems Wing were reorganized Tuesday under a new name. The 554 ELSW is now a directorate called the Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems and will continue to have components at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base, Ala., Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, Hanscom AFB, Mass., and Randolph AFB, Texas. Although the wing has gone away, the mission has not, and a stand down and stand up ceremony was held Tuesday.

According to a servicewide memo sent out by Air Force Secretary Michael Donley and Air Force Chief of Staff Norton Schwartz, the change is part of a reorganization taking place in the Air Force Materiel Command, which will convert the command structure from wings, groups and squadrons to directorates, divisions and branches. The move supports the Air Force's Acquisition Improvement Plan, and the goal is to establish clear lines of authority and accountability.

The memo goes on to say that along with changing wings to directorates, the Air Force is also creating several program executive officer positions that provide a greater number of experienced senior leaders to oversee the execution of major Air Force acquisition programs. That will also address the span-of-control concerns associated with all Air Force weapons systems programs.

Coming to lead the new PEO EIS at Gunter will be Brig. Gen. Craig Olson, who has extensive operational, flight test and acquisition experience. His acquisition tours include the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System, Joint Program Office, the Air Staff Special Programs Directorate and the Navy-led V-22 Joint Program Office.

Col. James Dendis, PEO EIS's acting deputy director, said most of the major programs formerly managed by the 554 ELSW will continue under PEO EIS. The new directorate will continue to support the Air Force through efforts such as the Defense Enterprise Accounting Management System, Global Combat Support System - Air Force; Network Centric Solutions, the Air Force's Information Technology Commodity Council, AFWay (the Air Force web-based system for IT purchasing) and the Capabilities Integration Environment.

"We are, and always have been, committed to acquiring, delivering and sustaining secure, integrated and effective IT capabilities enabling combat mission support," Colonel Dendis said. "In today's information age, the Air Force and DOD depend on crucial hardware, software, products and services to fly, fight and win, and that's what we'll continue to deliver and sustain."

Colonel Dendis said the new directorate will also feature a detachment headed by a lieutenant colonel. The detachment's responsibility will be to manage all the administrative functions within PEO EIS and will report directly to the Electronic Systems Center at Hanscom.

The 554 Electronic Systems Wing consists of two groups and two direct report squadrons.

The 554 Electronic Systems Group, based at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, provides responsive information systems to support more efficient and effective logistics, contracting and comm-computer capabilities Air Force wide. The group provides life-cycle management for standard information systems. The group is primarily located in Ohio and there are also operating locations at Maxwell AFB, Ala., and Randolph AFB, Texas. The 554 ELSG administers contracts valued at \$1.5 billion.

The 754 Electronic Systems Group is based at Maxwell Air Force Base-Gunter Annex, Ala., and provides responsive information systems to support more efficient and effective logistics, contracting and comm-computer capabilities Air Force wide. The group sustains comm-computer capabilities for Unified Commands services and specified DoD and non-DoD organizations. Primarily located at Maxwell AFB, Ala., with operating locations at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio; Hill AFB, Utah; and Tinker AFB, Okla, the group administers contracts valued at \$1.5 billion.

The 642nd Electronic Systems Squadron is located at Hanscom AFB, Mass., and develops and fields force protection command and control systems for military installations worldwide, delivering integrated force protection solutions that enable users to "See First, Understand First and Act First."

The 643 Electronic Systems Squadron, located at Maxwell Air Force Base-Gunter Annex, Ala., and in concert with OSD and other joint partners, provides global engineering, architecture and technical support for more than 146 Air Force, DoD and other agency systems. The squadron designs and develops systems ensuring standards of integration and architecture are utilized on secure information and force protection systems across multiple domains deployed worldwide. The squadron is primarily located at Maxwell AFB, Ala., with support located at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, and Hanscom AFB, Mass.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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