

934 COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT



MISSION

The 934th Communications Flight, Air Force Reserve, has both peacetime and wartime missions. In peacetime, the unit provides full communications support to the 934th Airlift Wing to include:

Base Network Control Center

Small computer Support

Telephone Maintenance

Tempest/COMSEC

STU-III Support

HF Radio Operations and Communications Maintenance LMR Management

Frequency Monitor Plans and Programs

Telephone Administration

Switchboard Operations

C4 Systems Security

In wartime the unit develops and maintains operational readiness so as to be an effectively trained organization upon mobilization. The 934th Communications Flight's RACE (Reserve Advance Communications Element) Eagle Concept of Operations (CONOPS) package supports two missions: flying squadron initial communications support, and maintenance support for wartime computer systems (i.e., the Air Force Mission Support System [AFMSSJ automated mission planning system). These missions are assigned to UTCs 6KTAJ and 6KVA9, respectively.

The Eagle Team identifies the flying squadron's base-level communications needs, including access to the base local area network, long-haul voice, fax, and data connectivity requirements, and other communications services as determined in consultation with the flying squadron commander and provisional base senior communicator.

Two Eagle Team members maintain the flying squadron's AFMSS automated mission planning system. This system, hosted on a computer graphics workstation, integrates intelligence data with terrain maps stored in the system to create a flight plan that minimizes the aircraft's exposure to hostile fire.

The 934th Communications Flight is authorized radio operators, radio maintenance, crypto maintenance, communications-computer operators, still photographers, and an information management specialist. The unit is authorized 20 enlisted personnel and one officer (commander). There is one full-time air reserve technician.

LINEAGE

934 Communications Flight constituted and activated, 3 May 1966

Organized in the Reserve, 1 Jun 1966

Redesignated 934 Information Systems Squadron, 10 Apr 1985

Redesignated 934 Communications Squadron, 1 Feb 1987

Redesignated 934 Communications Flight, 1 Aug 1992

STATIONS

Minneapolis-St Paul IAP (later, Minneapolis-St Paul IAP-Air Reserve Station), MN, 1 Jun 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

934 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Patrick M. McDonald, 9 Oct 2017

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 1985-30 Sep 1987

1 Oct 1988-30 Sep 1990

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

30 Sep 1998-1 Oct 2000

1 Sep 2002-31 Aug 2004

1 Sep 2005-31 Aug 2007

EMBLEM

Blue and 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 Viking warrior reflects the spirit of the unit's personnel and the region's Scandinavian heritage. The tower and the concentric rings represent the Squadron's ability to provide worldwide communications. The lightning flashes imply affiliation to the unit's parent command and its rapid response capabilities. The stars symbolize all the personnel of the unit and their commitment to duty. (Approved, 8 Aug 1990)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Cyber Unit Upgrade: Elevating the cyber security mission, Air Force Reserve Command's 934th Airlift Wing communications flight achieved squadron status during a re-designation ceremony at Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station. TSgt. Terry Neff, 934th Communications Squadron client services craftsman, said the re-designation gives the unit "parallel personnel and resources" that will help further Air Forces Cyber's mission in defending the nation. Lt. Col. Rick Erredge stepped up to command the newly christened squadron, accepting the ceremonial guidon from 934th Mission Support Group Commander Col. Michael Ochs. "Change is a common thread in our business and our unit has been a prime example of how to be successful under constant forces of change," said Erredge, at the Jan. 7 ceremony. 2012

The Communications Squadron is responsible for critical command and control systems on base, including IT service delivery encompassing computer hardware and network infrastructure, data sharing, and other information distribution technologies. CS also controls communications records management and leads communications project management.

In CY 2020 the Communications Squadron provided critical project management during COVID-19 response by supporting the Minimal Manning initiative and virtual UTAs via helpdesk management for Desktop Anywhere and ensuring that 934 Airmen had a safe and secure internet connection through a virtual private network (VPN) in which to work remotely. A significant part of that effort was increasing VPN capacity from 97k pre-COVID to 450k during the peak of remote work. The CS also worked hand in hand with the Public Affairs office to ensure the 934th met their mission to provide Combat Ready Airmen by ensuring that all Global Vikings had the ability to telework, by pushing out IT messaging and tips for remote work so that day-to-day and monthly work requirements were maintained- this included the Jabber software rollout for end users to utilize video and voice conferencing, instant messaging, voice calls, and screen sharing capabilities on mobile devices.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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