

# 1 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



## MISSION

### LINEAGE

1 Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron, Mobile, constituted, 28 Jan 1952  
Activated, 1 Mar 1952

Redesignated 1 Mobile Communications Squadron, 1 Jul 1961

Redesignated 1 Mobile Communications Group, 1 Oct 1961

Redesignated 1 Mobile Communications Squadron, 1 Jul 1974

Redesignated 1 Mobile Communications Group, 15 Jan 1975

Redesignated 1 Combat Communications Squadron, 24 Mar 1976

Redesignated 1 Combat Communications Group, 1 Jan 1981

Redesignated 1 Combat Information Systems Group, 15 Oct 1984

Redesignated 1 Combat Communications Group, 1 Oct 1986

Redesignated 1 Combat Communications Squadron, 31 Jul 1991

### STATIONS

Johnson AB (later, AS), Japan, 1 Mar 1952

Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Aug 1961 - 15 Jan 1975

Robins AFB, Georgia, 15 Jan 1975 - 1 Feb 1976

Lindsey AS, West Germany, 1 Feb 1976

Sembach AB, West Germany, 1 Oct 1992

Ramstein AB, Germany, 1 Jul 1994

### ASSIGNMENTS

1808 Airways and Air Communications Service Wing (later, Pacific Airways and Air

Communications Service Area; Pacific Communications Area), 1 Mar 1952  
Southeast Asia Communications Region, 8 Jan 1962  
Pacific Communications Area, 15 Aug 1965  
Tactical Communications Area, 15 Jan 1975  
European Communications Area (later, European Communications Division; European Information Systems Division; European Communications Division), 24 Mar 1976  
Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1991  
601 Communications Group, 31 Mar 1993  
32 Air Operations Group, 1 Jul 1994

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Ted H. Tanner, 1 Mar 1952-Apr 1955  
Maj Gilbert H. Bertie, 30 Jun 1955  
Maj Martin R. Pautz, 31 Dec 1958  
Lt Col William Hugill, 30 Jun 1960  
Maj John C. Woodward, 1 Jul 1961  
Lt Col John F. Lawler, Jr., 5 Dec 1961  
Col Eldy E. Crowell, 30 Jun 1962  
Col Homer J. Phoenix, 25 Jul 1963  
Col Gilbert H. Bertie, 7 Jan 1965  
Col Harry Urban, 6 Jul 1967  
Col Tom B. Foulk, Jr., 1 Jul 1969  
Lt Col Robert D. Johnson, 26 Jan 1972  
Col William A. Komstedt, Jr., 24 Jul 1972  
Col Jean C. Seagroves, 12 Jul 1973  
Maj Kenneth J. Haldeman, 14 Jun 1974  
Maj Francis G. Reid, 23 Jul 1974  
Col Ed Callicotte, 1 Feb 1976  
Col Gearld Block, 1978  
Col Heiki Ellermets, 1981  
Col J.W. Penny, 1984  
Col Palmer W. Rowe, 1985  
Col Keith F. Poch, 1988  
Lt Col Nicholas Kallelis, 1991  
Col Keith F. Poch, 1991  
Lt Col Frank B. Richardson, 1992  
Lt Col Benjamin F. Osler, 1994  
Lt Col Thomas Inskeep, 1996  
Lt Col Thomas H. Brown, 1998  
Lt Col James H. Appleyard, Jr., 2000  
Lt Col Michael Niezgoda, 2002  
Lt Col Jeff Maxwell, 28 June 2004  
Lt Col Gary L. Wood

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Presidential Unit Citation

1 Jan 1967-15 Feb 1968

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jan 1969-31 Dec 1969

1 Jan 1971-31 Dec 1971

1 Jan 1972 - 31 Dec 1972

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Jan 1955-Nov 1956

24 Jul 1963-31 Dec 1964

1 Jan 1965-31 Dec 1965

1 Jan 1966-31 Dec 1966

1 Jan 1968-31 Dec 1968

1 Jan 1975-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1977

1 Jan 1978-31 Dec 1978

1 Jan 1979-31 Dec 1980

1 Jan 1981-31 Dec 1981

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1982

1 Jan 1983-31 Dec 1984

1 Jan 1985-31 Dec 1985

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1986

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 1991-30 Mar 1993

1 Apr 1993-31 Mar 1995

1 Jun 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Apr 1995-1 Jun 1996

1 Oct 1996- 30 Sep 1998

1 Oct 1998-30 Jun 2000

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation

1 Jan 1969-26 Jul 1969

Philippine Republic Presidential Unit Citation  
21 Jul 1972-15 Aug 1972

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm  
1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

**EMBLEM**





Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "1 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. Per bend sinister Vert and Celeste, a scarpe enhanced Azure fimbriated Or, debruised by a sword Argent point to chief the handle resembling the numeral one of the like, hilt and pommel of the third fimbriated Gules, and radiating from the hilt, to dexter and sinister six lightning flashes three and three, between a pole star in dexter chief of the fifth and a buffalo head caboshed of the third in sinister base; all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "1 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQ" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force Colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater for Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The buffalo, an unofficial emblem used by the unit, and the aqua blue background, adapted from the Pacific Air Force shield, denote service in the Pacific theater from 1952 until 1975. The star and green background symbolize the European theater which is the unit's present location. The blue diagonal band signifies the Presidential Unit Citation that was awarded to the unit. The sword, from the shield of the United States Air Forces in Europe, indicates the parent organization. The lightning flashes signify that the group is a unit of the Air Force Communications Command. (Approved, 8 Sep 1999)

### **MOTTO**

FIRST IN-LAST OUT

### **OPERATIONS**

The 1 Mobile Communications Group mission was to provide personnel and equipment for emergency mobile support to carry out every kind of operational commitment for communications, air traffic control, and air navigational aids in the Pacific area.

The 1 Mobile Communications Group functioned under the command control of AFCS, but the operational control of the Pacific Air Force. Because the Pacific Air Force had overall Air Force communication support responsibility in Southeast Asia, the Group's assets were often combined with those of other organizations to meet increasing commitments. This frequently resulted in the installation of a mobile communications or air traffic control facility as emergency mission support

and subsequently having it transferred to a fixed unit. This forced the Group to continually reconstitute its equipment to maintain sufficient resources to support Southeast Asia efforts.

Detachments of the 1 Mobile Communications Group were frequently deployed to Southeast Asia tactical air bases which consisted merely of a runway, a portable water supply, and the necessary air traffic control and navigational aid equipment to support Air Force operations. This responsiveness was illustrated, for example, during the Gulf of Tonkin incident on 4 Aug 1964. The Group deployed 134 people and 156 tons of equipment to Southeast Asia within only eight days.

The extent of AFCS support in the Vietnam conflict was demonstrated through the amount of equipment deployed to the area. In 1967 and 1968, the 1 Mobile Communications Group deployed 162 sets of high frequency radios, 25 tropospheric scatter systems, 72 radio relay terminals, 44 telephone systems, 47 communications centers, 26 control towers, 22 ground control approach facilities, and 41 tactical air navigation systems, in addition to other equipment.

The ability of AFCS and the entire Air Force to respond rapidly to crisis situations was tested with the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea on 23 Jan 1968. This action abruptly altered the United States military posture in Korea from a peacekeeping force to a combat-ready force and precipitated a period of hectic activity to expand and augment existing communication and air traffic control facilities in Korea. The situation required immediate personnel actions, accomplished through extensive temporary duty assignments, and the mobilization of Air National Guard and Reserve forces. Within 72 hours, the 1 Mobile Communications Group planned, packed, and readied for deployment personnel and equipment for "bare base" telecommunications for five bases in Korea.

In 1979, events For 1 Combat Communications Squadron Include Increased Readiness For Possible Participation In Iranian Contingency Operations; Provided Support At Nordholz German Air Base For Exercise Coronet Hoof; Unit Participation In Joint Chief Of Staff Funded Exercise, Flintlock 79; Deployment Of F-15 Aircraft To Saudi Arabia; And Healthy Strike Package. The 1 Combat Communications Squadron Participated In Crisex 79, "First Ever Joint, Combined Exercise With Spanish Military"

The 1 Combat Communications Group provided a mobile TACAN at Senegal's Dakar-Yoff Airfield. This facility, one of the most modern in West Africa, was a transatlantic abort landing site where the space shuttle could make emergency landings immediately after launch.

In Dec 1982, the 1 Combat Communications Group deployed a four-man team to Beirut, Lebanon, to supply secure voice communications for the European Command Liaison Team, part of the peacekeeping forces in civil war torn Lebanon. Following the 18 Apr 1983 bombing of the American Embassy in Beirut when 17 Americans lost their lives, the team members were recognized for their heroism. Ambassador Robert Dillon said the men were "the real heroes of the bombing. Never leaving their equipment, they supplied communications for a myriad of organizations, sleeping in chairs next to their radios." One of the team members, A1C Rodney Hammen, received a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during the bombing and the Joint Services Commendation Medal for

rescuing the ambassador's secretary. Following the suicide terrorist bombing at the Beirut Airport on 23 Oct that killed 240 United States Marines, AFCC's communicators were moved aboard Navy ships off the coast of Lebanon where they continued to provide vital communications.

Since being located in Germany, the unit was used to provide communications support in 1989 when Congressman Leland's plane crashed in Ethiopia and to provide communications support for the return of the American hostages from Iran. The 1 Combat Communications Squadron also provided communications support for the "Beirut Air Bridge" for potential evacuation of the American Embassy in Lebanon for 11 years. It was also involved in Operation Eldorado Canyon (the 1986 air strike against Libya) and operation Ernest Will in the Persian Gulf. It was heavily involved in Operation Desert Storm as well as Operations Proven Force and Provide Comfort out of Turkey after the end of the Gulf War. It has been extensively involved in NATO and UN Operations Deny Flight, Provide Promise, United Nations Protection Forces, and Joint Endeavor in the former Republic of Yugoslavia. Personnel and Equipment from the squadron have been deployed to locations in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Macedonia, Italy, France and Zaire in the former Belgian Congo in Africa.

The unit has also been at the forefront of NATO's Partnership for Peace initiative. 1 Combat Communications Squadron led the planning and provided 100% of the operational communications for the first communications only PFP exercise, Combined Endeavor in Sep 1995. This exercise brought together eight former Warsaw Pact nations in order to test the interoperability of their deployable communications systems with each other and with the U.S.

9/3/2010 Airmen assigned to the 1 Combat Communications Squadron have become accustomed to being busy -- after all, they support the communication needs of the entire European theater. In recent months in fact, nearly half of the squadron's more than 300 members have been busy supporting operations in nine locations including Spain, Lithuania, Iceland and Latvia. "I am very proud of the efforts of our Airmen, not only throughout this summer, but every day," said Lt. Col. Keith Mueller, 1 CBCS commander. On each deployment, 1 CBCS Airmen have been crucial to mission success, installing and maintaining communications systems from telephone lines to servers used to connect service members to the Web. During this summer, the squadron supported NATO missions in Rota, Spain, and even provided support to U.S. Africa Command's intelligence community.

---

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 13 Jul 2024

Updated:

#### Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.