

32nd COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 32nd is to provide mobile and tactical navigational aids, air traffic control services, and communications facilities in support of world-wide U.S. Air Force and Department of Defense requirements. The mission is broken down into two basic areas: combat readiness and emergency mission support.

LINEAGE

32nd Communications Squadron, Command constituted and activated, 7 Dec 1959
Organized, 1 Feb 1960
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1970
Disbanded, 15 Jun 1983
Reconstituted and redesignated 32nd Combat Communications Squadron, 15 Jul 1988
Activated, 22 Jul 1988

STATIONS

Elkhorn Communications Annex, NE
Hooper Communications Annex, NE, 1 Nov 1963
Tinker AFB, OK, 22 Jul 1988

ASSIGNMENTS

1st Communications (later, 1st Aerospace Communications) Group, Command
3rd Combat Communications Group, 22 Jul 1988

COMMANDERS

Maj Alan L. Stemen
Maj Richard N. Anderson, #2002

LTC. A.R. Ali, Jul 2002-Jul 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1967

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1969

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Personnel and equipment deployed to Antarctica in December 1976 for testing of the equipment in extreme cold and adverse weather conditions. Members of the 32nd deployed in December 1979 to Salisbury, Rhodesia, providing satellite terminal support of the Military Airlift Command's airlift of peacekeeping forces.

32nd satellite communications capability was again tested in 1980 at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. A satellite terminal was deployed to provide communications between government cleanup crews on the atoll and project headquarters more than 4,000 miles away in Hawaii.

The combat readiness of the 32nd has been tested several times. Personnel were sent to Southwest Asia on three different occasions supporting National Command Authority directives. Operation URGENT FURY saw the deployment of satellite communications personnel and equipment to Grenada to provide secure voice and data satellite communications. Another mission in March 1984 saw Third Herders deploy in support of Operation EAGLE LOCK in response to Libyan aggression towards Egypt and Sudan.

The 32nd squadron also supported the Elf One mission (deactivated in 1989), an AWACS operation in Southwest Asia. The unit has also supported the joint-service Poker Buff mission in Central America, as well as several early space shuttle missions, using a tactical air navigation system.

The Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center has utilized the 32nd squadron's capabilities in the past. Building 3001, the ALC headquarters, caught fire in 1985, and the 32nd squadron was put into

action on the home front. The unit provided the entire DSN and AUTODIN capability and complete telephone switching for nearly four months until regular service could be restored.

In April 1995, the 32nd CCS was tasked to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency in extricating victims from the bombed Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City. The squadron provided manpower and life support equipment for around-the-clock recovery efforts.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Tinker AFB, OK, Vol 4, 2002 Yearbook*. 2002.