

4411 JOINT STARS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

4411 Joint Stars Squadron

STATIONS

Melbourne, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Whilst still undergoing evaluations, the two pre-production E-8A were used operationally by the 4411th J-STARS Squadron, based at Riyadh during the Gulf War in January 1991. They carried out fifty sorties and nearly 500 flying hours, notably guiding with great precision Apache AH-64 and Cobra AH-1 combat helicopters, towards Iraqi armor. Their efficiency in this role was such that a high-ranking USAF officer said 'with them, mobile targets did not remain so for very long.

Boeing Grumman E-8A J-STARS (s/n 86-0416) 93rd Air Control Wing. Robins AFB, 1994. After having belonged to Qantas then Korean Airlines, this 707-338C-H was initially sold in January 1986, then to Grumman in August 1987. It was the first J-STARS program test plane and was originally designated EC-18C, carrying out its maiden flight on 22 December 1988, equipped with the AN/APY-3 radar. Forming the 4411th Joint Star Squadron (Provisional), alongside a second (T2) prototype put into service in August 1989, it was deployed to Saudi Arabia in December 1990 and took part in operation Desert Storm during which the two planes carried out fifty combat missions with a 100% success rate. Officially accepted by the USAF in December 1993, this plane was used once more in Bosnia 1995-96 and finally used for training E-8C J-STARS crews under the designation TE-8A in 1998.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 29 Jan 2017
Updated:

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