

# 82<sup>nd</sup> COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON

## MISSION

Hammer ACE is the Air Force's quick-reaction, special-purpose communications team assigned to the 82nd Communications Support Squadron at Langley AFB, Va. Its primary mission is to provide secure communications support for military aircraft and nuclear mishaps worldwide. Secondary missions include supporting Nuclear Weapons Accident Response exercises for both the Defense Threat Reduction Agency and United States Northern Command. Hammer ACE teams and equipment can support up to four missions simultaneously.

Three-person teams are on stand-by at all times. After an initial support request, Hammer ACE technicians can deploy within hours. A normal equipment load is about 26 medium sized transit cases that is tailored to provide essential communications.

The team's first priority is to establish long-haul communications using Broadband Global Area Network systems, Iridium handsets, UHF Tactical Satellite systems or cellular telephones. Eight telephone lines can be activated within minutes of arrival. If a UHF Tactical Satellite is used, phone patches can be extended via the ACU-1000 interconnect system.

Once long-haul communications are established, numerous peripherals can be interfaced to them, such as secure telephones, fax machines or laptop computers, providing a variety of data services.

Long-haul services may be used by on-scene commanders to satisfy secure and non-secure voice, data, and e-mail. Situation reports can be up-channeled, technical specialists requested, life support coordinated, as well as digital images and video transferred to headquarters for analysis.

The next priority is to provide intra-site support. A tactical land mobile radio system is installed consisting of hand-held radios, a radio repeater and a base station. The LMR system is capable of operating in remote locations and sustains itself using remote power units, recharged by a solar blanket.

Other support includes ground-to-air tactical radios compatible with all Department of Defense fixed wing and rotary aircraft. Additional intra-site services include digital photographic and video capabilities, Global Positioning System, and Video Teleconferencing. These services are available to the on-scene commander for securing the site; denying the intercept and exploitation of sensitive information; coordinating manpower, personnel and administrative

support; removing unexploded ordnance and hazardous aircraft components; and plotting the locations of aircraft wreckage.

Hammer ACE has one goal, to provide the capability to meet any military communications requirements at the exact location needed, when and where none

#### **LINEAGE**

82<sup>nd</sup> Communications Support Squadron

#### **STATIONS**

Langley AFB, VA

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **COMMANDERS**

#### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

#### **EMBLEM**

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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