

97 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

Provides, operates, and maintains advanced communication and information management systems, air traffic control systems, navigational aids, mobile radios, telephone operations, and base-wide communications, and computer network control. Conducts infrastructure planning, visual information support, and communications and information security programs.

The squadron has since developed the vision of "Providing outstanding support as the single point of contact for focused communications and information technology planning, implementation, maintenance and support" and its motto, "Comm check...loud and clear!" The squadron's goal is to "Provide reliable and responsive communications and information technology and combat capability for the nation."

The squadron is organized into three flights, each with a distinct set of key, core responsibilities:

The Mission Systems Flight which is responsible for maintaining all airfield radar systems, base meteorological and navigational control systems, ground-to-air and land mobile radios, Next Generation Weather Radar. In addition the flight supports telephone and cable plan maintenance along with telephone operations.

The Plans Flight provides management, planning and implementation of the base communications and information systems infrastructure blueprint. The flight also manages the squadron's \$1.8 million budget and the unit's deployment taskings.

Information Systems Flight manages all communications and information systems maintenance,

information assurance, defense messaging system support, local area network support, small computer systems maintenance, long-haul communications circuits, computer equipment control, administrative communications through the official mail center, records management of Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act material, wing-wide publications and forms management and multi-media support.

LINEAGE

97 Communications Squadron, Bombardment Medium constituted, 28 May 1948

Activated, 12 Jul 1948

Redesignated 97 Communications Squadron, 16 Mar 1950

Inactivated, 10 Feb 1951

Activated, 14 Feb 1952

Inactivated, 16 Jun 1952

2101 Communications Squadron designated and organized, 1 Jan 1965

Redesignated 2101 Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1984

Redesignated 2101st Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 1986

97 Communications Squadron and 2101st Communications Squadron consolidated,
and designated 97 Communications Squadron, 1 Sep 1991.

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992

Activated, 1 Oct 1992

STATIONS

Biggs AFB, TX, 12 Jul 1948-10 Feb 1951

Blytheville (later Eaker) AFB, AR, 1 Jan 1965-1 Jun 1992

Altus AFB, OK, 1 Oct 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Capt Ronald H. McKinney, Jan 1965

Maj Robert E. Depperman, 1966

Lt Col Robert V. McKee, 1968

Maj Alan W. Bundy, 1970

Maj Gordon H. Fair, 2 Jan 1972

Maj George S. Kimmell, 19 Aug 1974

Maj Robert B. Gallerani, 5 Jul 1976

Maj Terry A. Simpson, 23 May 1978

Lt Col Ralph H. Ford, 29 Jul 1981

Maj Allyn K. Mills, 19 Jul 1983

Maj Lawrence A. Tomei, 30 Jun 1985

Lt Col Ronald L. Schwandt, 22 Sep 1988

Maj Robert J. Jangraw, 17 Aug 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1975-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1987

1 Oct 1992-30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1995- 30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001

1 Jan 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2008

1 Jul 2008-30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009-30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2011

1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012

1 Jul 2013-30 Jun 2014

1 Jul 2014-30 Jun 2016

1 Jul 2016-30 Jun 2017

1 Jul 2017-30 Jun 2019

1 Jul 2019-30 Jun 2021

EMBLEM



Two shades of blue around the globe symbolize day and night service. A single four-point star symbolizes navigational aid service to aircraft. Five pointed stars symbolize the five major sections of the squadron. The tower with radiating lightning around the globe symbolizes worldwide communications. The antenna on the tower with radiating lines symbolizes air traffic control to aircraft.

An Ultramarine Blue and Brittany Azure globe is positioned on its axis at the honor point on an Ultramarine Azure disc. The globe is highlighted with Yellow Or longitude and latitude lines. A cougar is perched atop the globe at middle chief. An Air Force Or satellite orbits the globe. Sable highlights from the cougar's rapid paw movement and the orbiting of the star illuminate the globe slightly Dexter of the nornbril point. An Ultramarine Azure scroll is attached above and below the disc. The scroll above bears the units designation, "97 COMMUNICATIONS SQ," and the one below displays the motto, "IN OMNIA PARATUS." **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are used in the design; Blue represents the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow signifies the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The world map alludes to the unit's global response in performance of its mission. The cougar symbolizes unit's fearless pursuit of its mission while the Yellow star denotes the squadron's universal reach in performance of its duties. All elements reflect the unit's motto, "IN OMNIA, PARATUS"

MOTTO

IN OMNIA, PARATUS-Prepared in All Things

In 1996, the 97 Communications Squadron developed its unit mascot, a cougar, and at the same time adopted the Latin motto, "In Omnia Paratus," which translates to "Prepared for All Things." As a result of adopting the two elements, the squadron obtained approval for a new squadron shield in November 1997. The shield highlights the new mascot and fearless pursuit of mission goals.

OPERATIONS

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 15 Feb 2014

Updated: 17 Apr 2017

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. *97 Bombardment Wing, Biggs AFB, TX. @1948.*

Unit yearbook. *Blytheville AFB, AR, 1964.*

Major Command history. *A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage.* Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.