

55 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

55th CBCS provides theater-deployable communications during wartime and contingency operations or humanitarian missions in austere locations.

LINEAGE

55 Communications Squadron, Operations constituted, 13 Mar 1952

Activated, 27 Mar 1952

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1953

Disbanded, 15 Jun 1983

Reconstituted and redesignated 55 Combat Communications Squadron, 27 Aug 2001

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 2001

STATIONS

Chateauroux, France, 27 Mar 1952-1 Oct 1953

Robins AFB, GA, 1 Oct 2001

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Forces in Europe, 27 Mar 1952

1812 Airways and Air Communications Service Group, 1 Jan-1 Oct 1953

622 Regional Support Group, 1 Oct 2001

960 Cyberspace Wing

COMMANDERS

Col George E. Raeder

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, issuing from base a demi-terrestrial globe Celeste, landmasses Or, gridlined Argent, supporting a griffin sejant Gray, wings addorsed and erect, with ear and paws armed White, beaked and eyed Or, grasping a lightning bolt bendwise sinister in the dexter forepaw of the like, fimbriated Sable, all within a narrow border White. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "NO LIMITS NO BOUNDARIES" in White letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow White border and inscribed "55TH COMBAT

COMM SQ" in White letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The griffin alludes to the Squadron's ability to perform on demand for mission success. The globe denotes the unit's ability to serve worldwide operations. The lightning bolt is representative of the communications career field and is the weapon of combat for the Squadron. (Approved, 17 Oct 2003)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Every year, a Marine-led contingent of U.S. service members teams up with members of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces for a large-scale exercise called African Lion that is designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's tactics, techniques and procedures. This year, for the first time ever, an Air Force Reserve squadron was chosen to provide the critical communications support for this vital endeavor. Fourteen members of the 55th Combat Communications Squadron, based at Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and five pallets of computers, cables, switches, satellite dishes, tents and other supplies were scheduled to leave Robins on a KC-135 early this month.

After their arrival in Agadir, Morocco, the comm specialists were tasked with setting up the communications network that would serve as the backbone for African Lion. "We will be providing SIPR (secure internet), NIPR (non-secure internet), voice and some VTC (video teleconferencing) for this large-scale exercise," said Senior Master Sgt. Bart Sawyer, 55th CBCS superintendent. "Our folks have been training hard," said Lt. Col. Lee Mumford, 55th CBCS commander. "We finished an ORI in December of 2010 and a UCI in August of 2012, and we're ready to put our training to the test and show that we can provide comm to the warfighter in an austere location." It will be a challenging mission.

More than 1,400 U.S. military service members will join more than 900 Moroccan soldiers in various regions of the country to take part in a wide variety of training, including command post operations, live fire and maneuvering, peacekeeping operations, amphibious operations, and aerial refueling and low-level flight training. In addition, exercise participants will provide medical, dental, pediatric and optometry care to thousands of Moroccans throughout the country. "This is a great opportunity for our people to train in a joint environment with people from the other services and other countries," Mumford said. "Providing comm to all of the participants who need it will definitely put us to the test." "This exercise is the real deal," Sawyer said.

"Our mission is to deliver tactical communications systems for dominant combat operations anytime, anywhere, and we're ready to prove we're up to the challenge." African Lion is already the largest exercise for U.S. Africa Command, and it is expanding every year. This year, Marines and Sailors will conduct a large-scale offload of both a Marine prepositioned ship and a commercial shipping vessel at the Port of Agadir. They will offload more than 200 vehicles and containers, move them to locations more than 200 miles away, use the equipment, and then bring it back and load it aboard the ships in a 24-day period.

This year also marks the first time rocket training will take place during African Lion. "The launching of HIMARS will take our U.S./Moroccan team to greater limits in terms of our coordination and interoperability," Col. Roger Garay, Task Force African Lion commander, said in a

recent Marine Corps Forces Africa news article. The High Mobility Artillery Rocket System is the Marine Corps' premier artillery system, accurately engaging targets over great distances and under all weather conditions. Military representatives from close to 20 different nations are expected to check out what African Lion is all about this year.

"The embassy has invited a host of nations this year to expand African Lion into a true multi-lateral exercise," U.S. Army Maj. Barrett McNabb, U.S. Embassy Rabat liaison officer, said in the Marine Corps Forces Africa news article. "The intent is to invite our partner nations from Europe and Africa to act as observers this year and expand to participation in the years ahead." Mumford said he hopes Reserve combat communications participation might also expand in the years ahead. "We're hoping that our participation in African Lion this year might open up some more doors for us," he said. "This training is a perfect fit for us, and we'd love to provide more support of this type in the future. 2013

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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.

