

102nd NETWORK WARFARE SQUADRON



MISSION

The 102nd Network Warfare Squadron operates out of Quonset Air National Guard Base. Located in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, the mission of the 102nd Network Warfare Squadron includes the Network Warfare mission.

LINEAGE

102nd Information Warfare Squadron
102nd Network Warfare Squadron

STATIONS

North Smithfield ANGS, Slaterville RI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Erick A. Olsen

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 102d Information Warfare Squadron is an Air Combat Command (ACC) gained unit which provides Computer Network Defense (CND) services. CND incorporates those actions taken to protect, monitor, analyze, detect and respond to unauthorized activity within DoD information systems and computer networks.

The Air National Guard will move one of its newest units, 102nd Information Warfare Squadron, (IWS) to the Quonset Air National Guard Base. Currently located at the 1960's-era Coventry Air National Guard Station, they will move into a new \$5 million state-of-the-art facility. A cyber-space focused unit, the 102 IWS specializes in DoD network defense. The facility will provide the RI National Guard with its first and only full-sized Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) allowing for full-spectrum Top Secret level work.

The Information Warfare building will be built at an overall cost of \$5 million by MCC Construction Corporation of Colchester, CT. "I am pleased to have secured \$43 million in federal funding to upgrade the Rhode Island National Guard's facilities," said U.S. Senator Jack Reed (D-RI), a member of the Appropriations Committee who secured \$38 million for the Army Aviation Complex and \$5 million for the Special Operations Training Support Facility for the 102nd Information Warfare Squadron. "This funding will help modernize the Guard's facilities, strengthen our national security, and create 100 good paying construction jobs in Rhode Island. After the project is completed, these facilities will support over 100 full-time personnel."

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany (9/15/10) - Airmen from the 102nd Network Warfare Squadron of the Rhode Island Air National Guard are learning to protect computer operating systems from improper use, hacking and other suspicious activity as part of Combined Endeavor 2010. Combined Endeavor, hosted here from Sept. 3-16, is the largest military communications exercise of its kind in the world, which enables participating nations to test the interoperability of their communications systems and networks in order to support their nation's respective security priorities during crisis. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III recently told the Washington Post that terrorist organizations have identified cyberspace as "a means to damage both our economy and our psyche -- and countless extremists have taken this to heart."

The 102nd NWS supports Combined Endeavor by ensuring no inappropriate or malicious activity on the network interrupts the test schedule. Each of the 40-partner nations participating in the exercise may have differing ideas of minimum network security criteria. The exercise provides a common platform for participants to learn from each other, build collaborative network systems and to protect those networks from attack or breakdown. One of the valuable lessons learned from this mission is the opportunity to work through cultural and technological differences to complete the objective, said Senior Master Sgt. David Fleury of the 102nd NWS.

The Rhode Island airmen have supported Combined Endeavor since 2003. Five airmen are located at Grafenwoehr, three are assisting the exercise from a forward site in Romania. "Having a forward site in Romania is a good part of the exercise," said Marine Maj. David Norton, site commander for Combined Endeavor-Romania. "It adds to the level of complexity and makes troubleshooting exponentially harder." "The exercise allows me to improve and refresh my skills," said Staff Sgt. Miguel Barajas, also of the 102nd. He also said that he enjoys the camaraderie of the numerous participating nations within the facility. Very few missions allow a technician to learn and encounter so much within a three week period, Combined Endeavor is a great opportunity, Fleury said.

2011 The Rhode Island National Guard's newest facility, the 102nd Network Warfare Squadron, officially opened for business on Aug. 7, 2011, after a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Maj. Gen. Kevin R. McBride, the Adjutant General of Rhode Island and the Commanding General of the Rhode Island National Guard, attended the ceremony. The \$5 million Special Operations Training Facility gives the 102nd NWS more than 14,000 square feet of space and provides them with a vastly improved capability to execute their primary mission of cyber-defense.

The facility includes more than 7,000 square feet of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility space. This enables National Guardsmen to have a secure, classified environment in which to perform duties of defending against computer network attacks. The 102nd NWS, chartered in 2003 as one of the Air Force's first cyber-defense squadrons, has provided critical cyber network defense to Department of Defense customers spanning the globe. The acquisition of this facility positions the Rhode Island Air National Guard for future expansion in what is certainly the Air Force's largest growth industry—cyber-warfare. "This facility marks the Rhode Island Air National Guard as a key player in the burgeoning world of cyber-warfare. Ten years of experience and a first-rate operational facility postures this unit, and our state, for future success, and growth, in the cyber-warfare arena," McBride said

2012 And it's still unclear "how or if the Army Guard or the National Guard as a whole would fit in with defending non dot-mil networks," he says. It's not just legal restrictions that impede greater Guard involvement in domestic cyber defense. Industries like "the banking industry most likely would not allow the military to come in and look at their networks," says Lt. Col. Dennis Riel, a spokesman for the Rhode Island National Guard. The Rhode Island Air Guard's 102nd Network Warfare Squadron monitors military networks for anomalies and suspicious activity, and conducts cyber-readiness inspections of military computer networks across the United States and overseas.

The squadron does not perform similar work on civilian networks, Riel says, although that might be a possibility in the future. "We've partnered with the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the state police and universities to bring a team together for the general awareness on cyber issues," says Capt. Charlene Marshall, the squadron's operations officer. This multiagency regional "cyber disruption team" stands ready to help in the event of a cyber disaster, military or civilian, she says. "We would respond," Riel says, "but it would have to be through the Emergency Management Agency."

Meanwhile, there's a growing mission for protecting military networks. The Defense Department operates more than 15,000 networks that are linked to more than 7 million computing devices, according to Creedon. And the military's networks are probed millions of times a day, according to the Pentagon's Strategy for Operating in Cyberspace. In addition to China, Russia and Iran, military cyber experts worry about terrorist organizations, organized crime and garden-variety hackers. Guard cyber specialists, too, pay attention to those threats. "I wouldn't say we are addressing any specific threats," says Kelley, the Air Guard cyberwarfare chief. "We are trying to develop capabilities so that we can handle the full spectrum of operations, from defense to offense to exploitation to analysis and forensics, based on the requirements the Air Force is giving us. We're developing capabilities to face any threat that's out there."

102 Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Providence, Rhode Island ANG

Allotted: 24 May 1946 to ANG

Created: 20 June, 1948

Manning: 8 Officers, 55 Airmen

Commander: Capt. Allen R. Worley

Activated: 1 July, 1951

Camp Edwards, Massachusetts

September, 1951

Located: 1952, Wheelus Field, Tripoli, Libya

Reassigned: 1 August 1952, from assignment to the Tactical Air Command and assigned to the United States Air Forces Europe.

Mission: 1952, To establish Radar Defense of Wheelus Field and vicinity.

Notes: Personnel of 104th AC&W combined with 102nd;

Commander: LT. Col. Alfred P. Mallet

Wietzenbruk, Germany (Celle, Germany)

Mobilized: 1 Oct 61 - 31 Aug 1962

Commander: Lt. Col. Irvin G. Ray

Demobilized: July, 1962

Inactivated: October, 1965 (redesignated 102nd TCS)

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 12 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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