

109th AIR CONTROL SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 109th is "To provide reliable and secure command, control, communications, computer, and intelligence anytime, anywhere." This means that this unit provides higher headquarters with a real-time air picture for both offensive and defensive operations. This air picture is critical to battle management activities and to the war fighters' decision-making process. The 109th ACS supplies this air picture by utilizing long-range surveillance radar coupled with a robust suite of HF, VHF, UHF radios complimented with satellite and microwave communications capabilities. The squadron operates and maintains this equipment that included the tactical data links and voice communications necessary for the Ground Theater Air Control System (GTACS). This includes integration capabilities with Air Force airborne and ground units, Army missile units, Marine ground units, and Navy vessels and aircraft.

The 109th Air Control Squadron is a fully deployable unit, able to position highly proficient personnel and specialized equipment virtually anywhere around the world. This capability makes the 109th an important component of our National Defense. On arrival, the 109th is able to quickly set up, establish a real time air picture, provide communications, power, and support all functions necessary as a self-sustaining unit.

LINEAGE

109th Air Control Squadron

STATIONS

Salt Lake City, UT

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Kenneth L. Gammon

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The unit began the year supporting operation "Southern Watch" in Kuwait. In April, unit members received valuable training and experience with a "COMMEX" designed to deploy and exercise long haul communications. Radar personnel were utilized for their technical expertise in the support of ongoing Drug interdiction programs. Additional training activities included: Equipment and Defense Messaging System (DMS) training, AWACS familiarization and home station training. Personnel participated in exercises and training in Italy, Germany, Poland, Georgia, Florida and Nevada just to name a few.

Special recognition was received from the 729th ACS at Hill AFB to some members of the 109th for their volunteer assistance and technical expertise during a critical time. The squadron's reputation of excellence came through once again as the unit deployed to Wendover, Utah in support of "Roving Sands 2003." Roving Sands is a unique large-scale joint theater air and missile defense exercise. It provides distinctive training opportunities to participants in Joint Theater Air and Missile Defense (JTAMD) as well as Joint Tactical Air Operations (JTAO). The exercise encompassed the execution of a ground campaign through modeling and simulation to provide adequate ground activity during which the 109th accomplished all training objectives. In the exercise, the unit demonstrated the ability to deploy ACS equipment and support a robust Theater architecture. The exercise provided training and familiarization in command and control of an Integrated Air Defense system (IADS) in a joint services environment and conventional war scenario. Joint assets were integrated into theater architecture through accurate tracking, surveillance, identification, and control of airborne assets in the assigned area of responsibility as well as practice of battle management tactics, techniques and procedures.

In October 2003 members of the 109th were mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. They deployed to two separate locations, Baghdad and Kirkuk, Iraq. Their mission was to provide Air Control, Surveillance, and Identification of aircraft for the entire Iraqi theater. During the deployment, they accomplished a seamless move of equipment and control capability from Baghdad to Balad; the first ever redeployment of a Control and

Reporting Center while in a combat environment. The Kirkuk detachment also accomplished several "firsts" as they completed the first ever field repainting of the TPS-75 radar. They were able to provide electronics expertise and parts to an Army fire finder radar unit that was a critical piece in the overall base protection and defense scheme. After seven months in theater, all personnel were redeployed back to Utah in June 2004.

The 109th ACS members who were not deployed, stayed busy as they supported the 729th Air Control Squadron in performing an evaluation of radar system capabilities. In June, unit members received valuable training and experience as they supported the Patriot 04 exercise. Members also deployed to Poznan, Poland to support NATO Air Meet, where they controlled over 90 aircraft from 15 different countries.

18 November 2010 SALT LAKE CITY, Utah - Approximately 70 Airmen of the Utah Air National Guard's 109th Air Control Squadron will return to Utah Thursday, Nov. 18, from support of the Global War on Terrorism. This has been the Squadron's fifth mobilization in ten years. The 109th Air Control Squadron is a worldwide-deployable, battle-management platform. They provide radar surveillance, identification and command and control of Coalition aircraft for combatant commanders. The unit is manned by Maintenance, Operations, and Combat Support personnel providing 24/7 coverage of the battlefield and is equipped to deploy to austere remote locations. The fact that the 109th Air Control Squadron is one of only a handful of Air Control Squadrons in the Air Force keeps them busy in the Global War on Terrorism. The Squadron's first activation was in 2000, when members deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch. In the days following Sept 11, 2001, the unit was mobilized again for almost a year for Operation Noble Eagle. They provided radar coverage and protection over the Western United States and for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games. In 2003 the unit was again called to active duty and deployed over 60 members to three locations in Iraq for seven months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In September 2007 the unit deployed to southwest Asia for several months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The 109th Air Control Squadron's current activation was in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The squadron members supported the ground forces in the field by coordinating combat air support for troops in contact in Afghanistan. In addition to providing command and control in Afghanistan, the deployed 109th Air Control Squadron Airmen worked closely with Army Air Defense Units to provide persistent air defense of the Persian Gulf. Maintenance personnel played an indispensable role in the 109th Air Control Squadron's mission by maintaining the \$30 million facility and equipment. Absolutely none of the Operations would be possible without the warriors working in Materiel Control, Ground Radio, Theater Deployable Communications, Aerospace Ground Equipment, Maintenance Operations Center, and Radar. The outstanding Airmen working in these sections performed incredible feats to ensure the 109th maintained a 100% Operational rate.

1 April 1976 109th Tactical Control Flight (TCF) was federally recognized.

Jan 1979 Received the Air Force Outstanding Unit award

May 1981 Deployed to Mountain Home Idaho in support of Owyhee Roundup

July 1982 Supported the 106th in Mountain Home Idaho during Operation Owyhee Roundup

July 1982 Deployed 20 personnel to McConnell AFB Kansas
June 1983 Deploys to Wendover Utah in support of Operation Sea Saw
8 March 1984 106th/109th new building was dedicated.
June 1984 Deploys to Camp Pendleton, California.
May 1985 109th wins 2nd outstanding unit award
Sept 1986 Deployed to Wendover Utah for Exercise Sentry Stateline III
June 1987 Deploys to Germany in support of Central Enterprise 87
June 1987 Received Mission Support Trophy. "Best in the Guard"
Sept 1987 Awarded Mission support plaque.
Sept 1987 Deployed to Douglas Arizona in support of drug interdiction mission Autumn Harvest
May 1988 109th wins outstanding unit award
May 1988 Deployed to Puerto Rico in support of 141st conversion to a Tactical Control Flight
Oct 1988 Redesignated to a Tactical Control Squadron
June 1989 109th wins outstanding unit award
July 1989 Deployed to Great Inagua Bahamas in support of Counter drug mission Kokomo II.
Sept 1989 Deployed to Boulder Mountain in support of Counter Drug mission Big Eye
Jan 1990 Deployed to Germany in support of operation Cold Fire
Oct 1990 Deployed to Cabo Rojo Dominican Republic for Counter drug mission Hat Trick III
Dec 1990 Received outstanding unit award
June 1992 Redesignated to a Air Control Squadron (ACS)
March 1995 Deployed for Dakota Thunder (South Dakota)
June 1995 Deployed for Deeplook (Wendover)
1995 Deployed for Operation Steady State Columbia
March 1996 Deployed for Mighty Thunder (Wendover)
May 1996 Deployed for Operation Decisive Endeavor (Italy) (90days)
August 1996 Deployed for Operation Cornet Sentry (Wendover)
August 1997 Deployed for Global Apache (Wendover)
1998 Received the Air Force outstanding unit award
July 1998 Deployed for Global Patriot (Wendover)
October 1998 Deployed for Foal Eagle (Korea)
June 1999 Deployed for Roving Sands (New Mexico)
Dec 1999 Activated for Operation Southern Watch. Deployed to Kuwait (120 days)
June 2000 Deployed for Global Patriot (Wendover)
September 2000 Deployed for Operation Dover (AFT Wendover)
April 2001 Received Air Force Outstanding Unit award
May 2001 Deployed for Roving Sands (New Mexico)
Sept 2001 Received Utah Air National Guard Outstanding Unit Award
September 2001 Activated for Noble Eagle (16 Sept 2001 to 31 Aug 2002)
June 2003 Deployed for Roving Sands (Wendover)
November 2003 Activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Deployed to Baghdad, and Kirkuk Iraq (from November until June)
March 2005 Deployed for Joint Red Flag (Wendover)

109 Tactical Control Squadron

Activated: 15 October, 1988 – 16 June, 1992

Redesignated: ACS 16 June 1992

Equipment: TPS-43E; TPS-75 (April 1992)

109 Air Control Squadron

16 June, 1992 – Present

Equipment: TPS-43E; TPS-75 (April 1992)

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Updated:

Sources

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