

118 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

118 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron activated, 10 Aug 1948

Inactivated Oct 1952

Redesignated and activated 118 Communications Squadron, 13 Mar 1989

Redesignated 118 Combat Communications Squadron, 16 Jun 1993

STATIONS

Badin ANG Station, NC

New London, NC

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj John K. Tyson

Maj Newton C. McCorkle, Jr.

LTC Henry C. Byrd, Jr.

Maj William B. Way

Major Alfred B. Paul

LTC Larry S. Helms

LTC Archie D. Cumbee

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Colonel James C. Grizzard, commander of the 154th Tactical Control Group, with Headquarters at Marietta Air Base Marietta, GA, met with Colonel Payne and Colonel Byrd. As a result of this meeting, the 118th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron of the North Carolina Air National Guard became a reality, and became a subordinate unit of the 154 Group.

118th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron activated, 10 Aug 1948, Strength: 7 officers and 38 airmen. Commanding Officer: Major Newton Craig McCorkle. Squadron was organized to operate eight radar stations with a Ground Control Intercept Flight and Headquarters to be established at Morris Field in Charlotte and two Early Warning Radar Flights to be established in adjacent towns to form an outer perimeter. Note: This unit consisted of three detachments, with Detachment "A" located in Charlotte, Detachment "B" in Wadesboro, and Detachment "C" in Badin, North Carolina.

The first training assembly (with pay) was conducted in January 1949 for these two detachments. Temporary meeting facilities were provided by Carolina Power and Light Company in Wadesboro and Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA) in Badin.

The First time the 118th AC & W squadron was ordered to state active duty occurred on 5 March, 1949, when unit members were called to help battle a sawdust pile blaze at the Peachland Lumber Company, Peachland, NC.

The 118th AC & W Squadron's First annual field training was conducted at Orlando AFB, FL, in August, 1949 after traveling there by troop train.

Master Sergeant Walter H. Waddell was employed as a full-time technician at Wadesboro and Technical Sergeant Donald B. Carrick at Badin.

Commanders for Flights B, C, and D of the 118th were Captain Ward Hill, First Lieutenant Claude M. Hollyfield and Second Lieutenant John K. Tyson, respectively.

A World War II building from Camp McCall, NC was transported and erected on a site in Wadesboro to become the temporary home of the Wadesboro unit.

In 1950, Badin units deployed to Bleuenthal Field, Wilmington, NC for their annual training that year.

On 8 January 1951, the 118th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was called into Federal Service and sent to Sewart AFB, TN, where it was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Byrd, Jr. Major Newton C. McCorkle became the Executive Officer. The 118th was commanded by Major William B. Way when Colonel Byrd was transferred to duty at the Pentagon. The 118th was part of the 154th Tactical Control Group while in Tennessee. Other units of the 154th were Air National Guard units from Marietta, Brunswick and Savannah, Georgia.

After re-equipping and being brought up to full strength, the 118th was sent from Sewart AFB to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey in early December of 1951.

A small contingent of the 118th AC&W Squadron boarded the USS Henry Gibbons on 22 December to make ready for the remainder of personnel boarding on 23 December. The Gibbons, with the 118th on board, set sail from New York Harbor on Christmas Eve at 1425 (what a way to spend Christmas!). After nine days of rocking and rolling in a North Atlantic storm (the same storm in which the Flying Enterprise merchant ship sank), the vessel arrived at the Port of Casablanca, French Morocco, North Africa on 2 January 1952. Captain Alfred B. Paul, a Delta Airlines pilot from Atlanta, was the 118th Commander while the unit was in North Africa.

The 118th AC&W Squadron was deployed to French Morocco in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as part of the Air Force Strategic Air Command's network of strategic bomber bases. The main body of personnel were located at Nouasseur Air Base, approximately 20 miles from the city of Casablanca. Detachments were assigned at Sidi Slimane and Benguerir Air Bases.

The mission of the squadron was to calibrate, install, maintain and operate tactical control radar and early warning radar for the protection at each base. Detachments of the 118th were deployed to sites in the Atlas Mountains and the Sahara Desert, where A1C Billy J. Reid and a C-47 re-supplied them each week with food, mail and equipment.

All personnel of the former 118th, except those who voluntarily re-enlisted in the regular Air Force, were discharged or released from active duty by 7 October 1952.

Personnel of 118th and subordinate units began being released from active duty in July and continuing on into the Fall of 1952, ending the Korean Conflict era of the history of the North Carolina Air National Guard.

The Wadesboro and Badin detachments of the NCANG were reorganized on 8 October 1952 into one composite squadron which was redesignated the 263rd Communications Squadron

(Operations). The mission of the unit was to provide necessary communications support to any Air Force organization to which it may be attached or assigned. Headquarters for the unit were established at Wadesboro, with a detachment located at Badin. Both locations occupied the new facilities that had been under construction when the 118th AC&W was activated

After being inactivated for over 36 years following cessation of the Korean Conflict, the 118th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was reactivated and renamed the 118th Communications Squadron in a ceremony held at the Badin Air National Guard Station on 4 March 1989. Brigadier General Frederick R. Keith, Jr., Air National Guard Assistant to the Commander, Air Force Communications Command accepted the 118th unit flag from Colonel Billy J. Reid, a senior former member of the 118 AC&W Squadron. General Keith, in turn, presented the unit's flag to Major Larry S. Helms, the newly appointed commander of the activated squadron. The newly reactivated unit was tasked with a mission to provide ten satellite communication teams to enhance the survivability of critical voice and teletype communication channels between NATO command centers and designated air fields where US forces will operate in their European wartime roles. The newly activated 118th unit was designated the 118th Communications Squadron with an authorized strength of one officer and fifty-two airmen. The 118th's first commander was Major Larry S. Helms.

Badin personnel were alerted on 9 August 1990 by 281 CCG Headquarters staff to begin preparation for a probable "real world" deployment to the Persian Gulf to participate in Operation Desert Shield, the Persian Gulf military operation set into motion when Iraq's President, Saddam Hussein, invaded the tiny nation of Kuwait in August. Unit personnel and equipment readiness actions were immediately set into motion in anticipation of a deployment. The first member of the unit to deploy was TSgt James R. Wood of the 118 CCSQ, who volunteered and deployed in Oman on 13 September. In addition, TSgt Ronald E. Chancy and SSgt Craig O. Johnson of the 118 CCSQ were tasked. The package of personnel and equipment arrived in the Persian Gulf on 3 November and set up operations in support of the First Marine Expeditionary Force at Port of Jubail, Saudi Arabia. The TTC-39 telephone switching system was installed to work in tandem as backup to a JCSE system already on line. With the exception of CMSgt Burleson, TSgt Chancy and SSgt Johnson, who returned to home station after their voluntary 30 day tour expired, all of the other personnel assigned to the package were mobilized to extended active duty on 3 December for 180-day tours. The TTC-39 telephone switch provided the central hub for all Marine telephone communications during the Desert Shield build-up, served as the communications gateway to the US and allied forces and provided the primary link back to the US.

In April 1997 during a reorganization of the Major Commands, 118th Combat Communications Squadron is assigned to the 9th Air Force in the Air Combat Command (ACC).

Members of the 118 CBCS began a two-week period of annual field training on 9 June 1997 at home station in New London, NC.

1989: Sentry Oasis 89, Ft Indiantown Gap, PA.

1990: Bright Star 90, Egypt; Sentry Oasis 90, Ft Huachuca, AZ; Operation Desert Shield, Saudi

Arabia.

1997: Operation Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia.

1992: JSTE 92-01 & JSTE 92-02, Dam Neck, VA; Fuertes Caminos, Honduras; Roving Sands 92, Ft Bliss, TX.

1993: JSTE 93-02, Dam Neck, VA; Roving Sands 93, Ft Bliss, TX; Bright Star 94, Egypt.

1994: Combat Challenge 94, Tinker AFB, OK; Sentry Oasis 94, Gulfport, MS; Roving Sands 94, Ft Bliss, TX.

1995: Bright Star 96, Cairo, Egypt; Roving Sands 95, Ft Bliss, TX.

1996: Internal Look 96, Camp Blanding, FL; Roving Sands 96, Ft Bliss, TX & Dahlgren, VA; Combat Challenge. Tinker AFB, OK. 1997: Roving Sands 97, Ft Bliss, TX and Dahlgren, VA; Home Station Training, New London, NC; Southern Watch. Saudi Arabia; Provide Hope, Bosnia; Bright Star 98, Egypt.

118th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Charlotte, North Carolina ANG

Allotted: 24 May 1946 to ANG

Formed: in January, 1949

Mobilized: January 8, 1951

Stewart AFB, Tennessee

Deployed: January 2, 1952, arrived French Morocco, North Africa

Twenty miles from the city of Casablanca

Personnel: released from active duty October 7, 1952

Subordinate to: 154th TCG

Redesignated: 736th AC&W October 1952

First commander: Major John K. Tyson

Call Sign: Randell

Equipment: CPS-1; TPS-1D, Height Finder

Notes: First unit training assembly January, 1949.

First annual field training Orlando AFB, FL, August, 1949

French Morocco

Sidi Slimane, Morocco

Detachment A

Wadesboro, North Carolina

Reorganized: October 8, 1952, into one composite unit designated the 263rd Communications Squadron.

Detachment B

Badin, North Carolina

Reorganized: October 8, 1952, into one composite unit designated the 263rd Communications Squadron.

Flight D

Detachment 1
(?) – March 1952

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *A Commemorative History of the North Carolina Air National Guard, Proud Heritage.....Unlimited Future, 1948-1998*. Taylor Publishing Company. Dallas, TX. 1998.