

# 141 AIR CONTROL SQUADRON



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

141 Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Redesignated 141 Tactical Control Squadron, 15 Oct 1988

Redesignated 141 Air Control Squadron, 16 Jun 1992

## STATIONS

*Ramey, PR*

*Aguadilla, PR*

*Punta Borinquen, Puerto Rico*

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

2006 March 28, 2006 - KIRKUK AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN) -- In the sky over Iraq, technology developed in the 1940s helps fight a 21st century war. From their unique vantage point, the Kirkuk long-range radar surveillance site searches the sky. It's almost as if the slow cyclonic pace hypnotizes everything in the airspace to spill their deep dark secrets -- friend or foe? the site, Airmen work around the clock searching for threats and maintaining air superiority. Staff Sgts. Luis Nazario and Jose Saavedra ensure radar is working properly at Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq.

The Airmen perform maintenance checks on the unmanned radar twice daily. Georgia's 117th Air Control Squadron and Puerto Rico's 141st Air Control Squadron have been teamed together since January with responsibility for controlling Iraqi airspace. This is the first time that all air control responsibilities in the congested airspace over Iraq have been controlled by Air Guardsmen. The Kingpins, named so because they are in control of the sky, are using technology that's been around since World War II, but has evolved into a field of microchips and computers. While their radar has been upgraded, the significant change lies in the receiver and its capability to process information.

The difference now is how that information gets used. Complementing the radar is a combination of off-the-shelf technology adapted for military use and next-generation computers. The old and the new blend together to produce battlespace awareness for more than 180,864 square miles of Northern airspace. The information the Kingpins of Northern Iraq produce is used to make decisions at levels ranging from the cockpit of a fighter to that of the combined forces air component commander. Supplied with data received from other air bases in Iraq, Airmen of the

727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron provide command and control capabilities for more than 270,000 square miles of airspace for the Control and Reporting Center. Capt. Aristides Jimenez leads this group of vigilant warriors from the Puerto Rico Air National Guard. "If it flies, we see it," he said. The entire sight picture for Iraq is sent to Kirkuk from the CRC.

This information is pushed out to aircrews, providing them battlespace awareness beyond their line of sight. The information is also supplied to the Combined Air Operations Center, providing coalition forces the entire air sight picture. "We have the capability to connect to aircraft flying missions in Iraq. In Balad, they also have the capability to link and pass information to surface-to-air missile batteries in Iraq," Captain Jimenez said. "We can talk to anyone, anywhere and act as a link between ground forces and the aircraft. We are an important piece of the puzzle."

Even though the squadron has the ability to talk directly with coalition aircraft, this aspect of their capabilities is controlled by the CRC, said Master Sgt. Rafael Rodriguez, ground radio superintendent. "Because of our location and capabilities, we allow the uplink between the CAOC, ground and air forces and other deployed radar sites," Sergeant Rodriguez said. Ground radio technicians Senior Airman Francisco Rivera and Staff Sgt. Javier Mercado maintain the equipment and they know how much is riding on the information they provide. "Since we provide the ability for long-range communication, if other sites' antennae can't reach up to the Northern part of the country, they use us," Sergeant Mercado said

Allotted: 24 May 1946 to Washington ANG  
1951 – June 1952  
Mobilized: 1 May, 1951 – 1 February, 1953  
Deployed: Ladd AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska

***141st Tactical Control Flight***  
***2 May, 1988 – 15 October, 1988***

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.