

143 INFORMATION OPERATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

143 Aircraft Control and Warning Sq.
Redesignated 143 Communications Squadron (TT), Oct 1960
Redesignated 143 Mobile Communications Squadron (Contingency)
Redesignated 143 Combat Communications Squadron
Redesignated 143 Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985
Redesignated 143 Combat Communications Squadron
Redesignated 143 Information Operations Squadron

STATIONS

Seattle, WA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC William F. Tanner

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1974-31 Dec 1975

1 Jan 1983-31 Aug 1984

1 Jan 1987-30 Dec 1988

EMBLEM



On an Air Force blue disc edged red, an Air Force yellow circuit issuing circle-wise eight lightening bolts, the movement counterclockwise, forming eight Air Force blue lightening bolts, the movement clockwise, surmounted by a light blue globe edged and grid lined Air Force blue; all within a white band bordered and inscribed in top UNA VOCE PRO PATRIA red. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The interlocked lightning bolts represent the whirling ball of communications going into space and returning to earth, depicted by the globe. The light blue of the globe alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force Operations. The emblem bears the Air Force colors ultra-marine blue and golden yellow, the national colors red, white and blue. (Approved, 31 March 1964)

MOTTO

UNA VOCE PRO PATRIA - With one voice for our country

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Korat Thailand customer service is what counts for the men and women who handle all official radio satellite and telephone communications to the military exercise Cobra Gold 95. When a

troop picks up the phone to make a call or send a fax they expected it to work said LTC William Canavan commander of Washington Air National Guard combat communications in Thailand. Canavan also commands the 143rd Combat Communication Group at Boeing Field. Military communicators are riding the wave of computer-chip technology and all enabling them to reach around the globe. The size and scope of message traffic is staggering during the exercise due to the advent of digital and satellite communications. In one three-hour block we processed more than 12,000 phone calls said Canavan.

More than 26,000 Thai and US military troops participated in the exercise designed to bolster Thai defense capability. The US contingent numbers more than 17,000 service members representing all branches of the active military and reserve forces according to chief Master Sgt. Lawrence D. Taylor, headquarters Pacific Air Forces. The business of managing huge electronic communications networks during the exercise is a joint effort which relied heavily on people and equipment from all services active and reserve.

We work with air National Guard a lot. Much of the equipment used here is theirs. Exercises like Cobra Gold gives us a chance to use our equipment in a joint combined military scenario both active and guard get pointers from each other and we work together like this. The equipment, location, and missions of the military communicators in Thailand for Cobra Gold are as varied as the people supporting them. Scattered in various locations throughout this hot humid Southeast Asian country known for its friendly people and spicy cuisine, 450 military communicators keep the official network up and alive. Some work in steamy remote villages linking civil affairs medical teams with higher headquarters via radio and portable satellite devices.

Other communicators can be found near the exercise center. Other communicators can be found exercise center; people like technical Sgt. Rob Womack who is an electrical maintenance technician with the Washington air National Guard's 242 combat communication group. He keeps equipment running that routes all of the official message traffic in the nerve center best described as a switch linking customers to an intended destination to digital and analog signals. Advanced electronic technologies such as fiber optics pulse code signals and satellites all help get messages to and from exercises in Thailand. Traffic-wise it's busy, repairs slow and maintenance is steady, said Womack a resident of Spokane Washington. We've learned good maintenance keeps us out of the repair business he said.

For Staff Sgt. Gregory P. Denton and the 17 member crew of the US Space Command at Colorado Springs Colorado it was business as usual setting satellite links for weather forecasting. Denton and fellow space team member staff Sgt. Neal F. Payne used their expertise to assist in cutting edge medical imaging exercise. Thanks to these gentlemen from Space Command we're able to send still images back to Tripler Army hospital in Hawaii said Capt. Jeff Gaylord, I Corps surgeon's office. This emergency technology is known as telemedicine. In the future said Gaylord, medical personnel in remote sites will be able to use this technology to perform consultations without having to resort to costly and time-consuming medical evacuations. Once developed, the system will save lives and money.

143rd Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron
Seattle, Washington
Allotted: 24 May 1946 to ANG

Mobilized: 1 May, 1951 – 1 February, 1953

Deployed: Ladd AFB, Alaska

The 143 Mobile Communications Squadron (Contingency) is located at 6736 South Ellis, in Seattle. The mission of the 143rd is to install, operate and maintain radio relay and mobile radio relay terminals at unprepared sites. The 143d could also be responsible for installation and operation of radio communication tributary teams and for linking those teams to relay centers by telephone, teletype, and radio communications.

The 143d was created and federally recognized as an Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron in April 1948. The unit was called to active duty on May 1, 1951 during the Korean conflict and served in Alaska until it reverted to state control on Feb. 1, 1953. The unit was redesignated the 143d Communications Squadron (Tributary Teams) and on March 14, 1968 the unit was again redesignated as the 143d Mobile Communications Squadron (Contingency).

The 143d is completely self-sufficient. It maintains its own ground power, motor pool, supply section, food service and medical section. The unit must be ready, on short notice, to deploy anywhere in the world, set up their equipment and facilities and be self-sufficient for at least 30 days.

The Air Guard leads among reserve forces in developing offensive cyber capabilities. It operates two 100-person squadrons that are capable of launching cyber attacks. They're Maryland's 175th Network Warfare Squadron and Delaware's 166th Network Warfare Squadron. Both squadrons support the National Security Agency, but Guard officials in Delaware and Maryland declined to discuss what the units do. As cyber operations and units expand, the active-component services are struggling to attract and retain qualified cyber troops. But that's proving to be less of a problem for the Guard.

In an address at a CyberFutures Conference in March, Gen. William Shelton, the chief of the Air Force Space Command, called the shortage of cyber recruits for the Air Force "a serious national security issue." Shelton said far too few U.S. college graduates now are earning technical degrees. Of those who do, too many are foreign nationals who are ineligible to work in U.S. national security. And too many others "aren't the kind of folks that would necessarily take well to military life," he said. Pay is another problem. "There's no way that the military can compete with civilian salaries" for cyber professionals, said Wyatt, the Air Guard director. But pay disparity creates opportunities for the Guard. By joining the Guard, cyberwarriors can keep their high-paying civilian jobs and still serve in the military.

That formula seems to be working. The authorized personnel end-strength of Rhode Island's 102nd is 50 airmen, but "we're currently stacked at 58," said Marshall, the operations officer. In Washington state, where the 143rd Information Operations Squadron is being created from a combat communications squadron, "we're demographically blessed," says Dravis, the wing commander. The 143rd's headquarters sits about two miles east of Interstate 5, which runs from Canada to Mexico along the West Coast. In western Washington, the I-5 corridor is dotted with high-tech industries—Microsoft, Cisco, Boeing, T-Mobile, supercomputer-maker Cray and dozens of software companies. "We pull extensively from them," Dravis says. "We have significant

experience levels walking into our units.” The Los Angeles area is another “hotbed of cybertech,” says Col. Stephen Beck, commander of the California Air Guard’s 162nd Combat Communications Group. The group’s new 261st Information Operations Squadron is based in Van Nuys, just north of L.A.

In addition to numerous high-tech companies, many with ties to the military, the area has “tons of universities and two dozen cyber-research centers, all within an hour or two drive,” Beck says. Similar demographics exist for the 175th in Maryland. As it expands, it expects to draw from high-tech companies clustered around Washington, D. C., and Baltimore. The locations are no coincidence. The three units were selected for cyber missions because of their proximity to cyber-savvy populations, Wyatt said. But proximity isn’t always essential. “We’ve got a cyberwarrior in Washington state,” Wyatt said, “who, on drill weekends, on his own dime, flies to the east coast to Fort Meade to do battle with folks worldwide.” 2012

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit History. *Washington ANG, WA, Golden Anniversary, 1924-1974*. Nd.