

201st COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



MISSION

The 201st Group's mission is to provide command and control communications and air traffic control services for U.S. Air Force combat air forces. It also supports emergency USAF requirements for air traffic control and communications facilities, as well as to provide tactical communications for the State of Hawaii, Department of Defense, in response to emergencies originating from either human or natural causes. When activated under call-up authorities, the 201st units activate their personnel within 72 hours in accordance with USAF Mobilization Plans.

The combat communications units can provide command and control communications and air traffic control services for 30 days with their own readiness spare package. The 201st Combat Communications Group is composed of a group headquarters and five assigned units. The headquarters and four assigned units are located on the Hawaiian islands of Oahu, Maui and Hawaii, and one unit in Alaska. The headquarters is co-located with the 293rd Combat Communications Squadron at Hickam AFB. The 291st Combat Communications Squadron is located in Hilo, Hawaii; the 292nd Combat Communications Squadron is located in Kahului, Maui; the 297th Air Traffic Control Squadron is located at Kalaeloa, Oahu; and the 206th Combat Communications Squadron is located at Elmendorf AFB in Anchorage, Alaska.

LINEAGE

201st Combat Communications Group Dec. 10, 1975

Redesignated 201st Combat Information Systems Group, 1 Jul 1985

201st Combat Communications Group

STATIONS

Hickam AFB, HI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Robert H. Maglasang

LTC Craig N. Ishizaki

LTC Joseph A. Garnett, #2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Lt. Col. Myron Dobashi was selected as the new commander for the 201st CCG replacing Col. Jeffrey Okazaki. These units provide command and control communications for tactical air forces and support emergency USAF/ State requirements. Additionally, the 297th Air Traffic Control Flight (ATCF), Naval Air Station Barbers Point, Oahu is assigned to the group. The 297th ATCF provides terminal air traffic control facilities for tactical air forces. The unit also supports USAF/ State requirements as necessary. The 201st Combat Communications Flight relocated to Wailuku, Maui as part of a master plan to decentralize the 201 Combat Communications Group. The flight shared facilities for six years with the Hawaii Army National Guard-Wailuku Armory, Kahului Armory, and HARNG motor pool at Paukualo developing good partnerships. The flight conducted its first unit training assembly (LTA) at the Wailuku Armory with 30 personnel attending. Maj. David Rodrigues was in command, with Capt. Stephen Berg as the operations officer, Capt. Lance Okihara as the operations staff officer, and Lt. Norbert Luke as the maintenance officer.

The 201st Mobile Communications Squadron was activated Mar. 6, 1967 with initial duty at Battery Selfridge. Maj. Paul S. Mori was appointed Commander. The 109th ACWS was inactivated. By the end of the fiscal year, the 201st was at 35% strength and 40% of its new equipment had been received. (The four flights were added Oct. 13, 1967).

The new 201st Mobile Communications Squadron (MCS) was growing and expanding at a rapid rate. The four-flights were authorized Oct. 13, 1967 and ninety more positions were authorized in March 1968. NGB Fully supported getting all personnel up to speed PACCOMMAREA

conducted an inspection April 5-7 which found, understandably at this early date, that the unit was not operationally ready.

The 201st MCS was not about to be out done in comparison with the HANG air defense units in active mission support. They deployed radio gear to Hilo several times in support of Military Airlift Command's participation in several LEPRECHAUN LAUGHTER operations, and sent teams to Pago Pago, Samoa to support the communication requirements for APOLLO 8, 9 and 10. It sent 28 men to Thailand to support the requirements of SEATO Exercise SEA SPIRIT jointly with USAF's 1st Mobile Communications Group. The 201st MCS also made nine other local training deployments.

PACCOMMAREA inspected the 201st MCS and found that it was "progressing favorably towards becoming an effective mobile unit". There were a tremendous number of 3 level, a shortage of 5 level, and a very critical shortage of 7 and 9 level AFSCs.

Fiscal year 1970 was a busy year for the 201st; it supported the Military Airlift Command with air-to-ground radio and technicians on five separate occasions at General Lyman Field, Hilo, Hawaii; Apollo 12 with two telecommunication operators at Pago Pago, Samoa; and support of the 154th Fighter Group at three locations during spring camp.

The new \$1 million facility at Fort Kamehameha for the 201st MCS was completed and dedicated Sept. 1, 1970. Personnel were happy to move into their shiny new facility with all due respect for their prior temporary home at Battery Selfridge.

The 201st was busy as usual with deployments. The unit supported MAC's PROJECT OPPORTUNE JOURNEY at Hilo, APOLLO 14 at Pago Pago, American Samoa, and emergency maintenance support to PACCOMMAREA for a Radio Beacon problem at Okino, Okinawa. The 201st received three AN/ GRM-94 Maintenance shelters, an AN/TSW-7 Air Traffic Control Central and three AN/MRC-108 Communications Centrals to add to their impressive long list of mission equipment on hand.

The 201st MCS (now the Combat Communications Group) participated in 12 deployments in support of the Air Force, including deployment of telephone maintenance technicians to Osan AFB, Korea; VHF radios and technicians to General Lyman Field in Hilo, Hawaii (on seven separate occasions); VHF transceivers to the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan; VHF transceivers to Kaneohe MCAS; and one mobile control tower to Kwajalein Atoll.

The 201st Combat Communications Group (CMBTCG) assisted in nine Opportune Journey deployments. Of particular importance were the VHF radios provided to the 1st Mobile Communications Group during "Operation Homecoming." the return of the POWs in January 1973.

Headquarters USAF and National Guard Bureau approved a proposal to reorganize the existing 201st MCS flights into a mobile communications group with the addition of a mobile

communications group headquarters of approximately 43 military positions.

Lt. Col. Kiyoshi P. Goya was assigned as the new Commander of the 201st Mobile Communications Group. Col. Goya commanded the 169th ACWS before assuming command from Lt. Col. Paul S. Mori. In addition, approval was received to plan the relocation of four of the five units located at Hickam AFB, Oahu, to three of our neighbor islands.

The 201st CCG participated annually in Team Spirit exercises in the Republic of Korea from 1976 to 1993; serving as the lead USAF communications unit since 1983.

On Oct. 1, 1980, Lt. Col. Ernest T. Shima assumed ol the 201st CCG from the retiring Col. Goya and Maj. Melvin C. Morris became the air technician detachment commander.

On July 1, 1985, the 201st Combat Communications Group was redesignated the 201st Combat Informations Systems Group. On Oct. 1, 1986 the name was changed once again to Combat Communications.

Beginning 1992, up to 100 members of the 201 CCG annually deploy to Thailand for Cobra Gold exercises. In addition, individual members of the group deploy throughout the Pacific theater and beyond to support numerous USAF/Joint DoD exercises and missions. These exercises include Balikatan in the Philippines, Cope North in Japan, Northern Edge in Alaska, Vector South in Diego Garcia, Tandem Thrust on Guam, and Ulchi Focus Lens in Korea.

The HQ 201 CCG and its assigned units received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period January 1, 1993 to July 31 1994. In recognition of superior performance and contributions to the Air National Guard, the National Guard Bureau presented the 201 CCG with a Recognition Award for the Excellent rating received during their PACAF Operational Readiness Inspection from October 12, 1994 to November 7, 1994.

Group's significant events The 201st Group sent over 70 personnel in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM to forward operating bases in Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar and Kuwait. Members from every unit within the 201st sent volunteers for the four-month Air Expeditionary Force rotations in Southwest Asia. This was the first time a Combat Communications Group sent this many volunteers to support any one Air Expeditionary Force. Normally, an Air National Guard Group will send 30-35 volunteers staying for approximately 60-day rotations. At that same time, the Group also sent 20 members to Arizona to support Operation JUMP START, the mission in support of the U.S. Border Patrol. They were the first Hawaii National Guardsmen to deploy in support of Operation JUMP START. One 201st member was also deployed to McMurdo Station, Antarctica, in support of Operation DEEP FREEZE.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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