

206 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The unit's primary mission is to support combat air forces within PACAF with initial deployment communications to provide crucial information technology services to either deployed locations or augment existing garrison infrastructures. The principal means of this support is through the employment of a Super High Frequency, Satellite Communications Terminal, TSC-94A/V1, and a Quick Reaction Package (QRP), TSC-107. The QRP provides UHF-VHF secure air-to-ground radio, HF secure voice, record communications, and a tactical switchboard for voice communications.

LINEAGE

206 Combat Communications Flight recognized, 1992

206 Combat Communications Flight, 1 Apr 1993

Redesignated 206 Combat Communications Squadron, 1 Jul 1996

Inactivated, 31 Mar 2008

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, AK

Elmendorf AFB, AK, 1 Apr 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Richard S. Johnson, 1 Jul 1996

Maj Renee S. Blake, 20 Oct 2000

Lt Col Jeffrey S. Campbell, 11 Mar 2004

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1993 – 31 Jul 1994

1 Jan 1998 – 31 Aug 1999

1 Sep 1999 – 30 Jul 2001

1 Jul 2003 – 30 Jun 2005

31 Aug 2005 – 1 Sep 2007

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In 1992, the military went through restructuring and due to the changing world situation the 206th Combat Communications Flight was formed to support the 11th Air Force during deployed wartime missions. Cpt Richard S. Johnson was selected as the commander to lead the unit from its infancy to a cohesive, well-oiled contingency element. The unit became a PACAF-gained combat communications unit effective 1 Apr 1993 and was relocated to Elmendorf Air Force Base.

On 1 Jul 1996, the unit was redesignated as the 206th Combat Communications Squadron. The unit had been annually supporting Alaska Command during NORTHERN EDGE, bolstering the air sovereignty of the United States and homeland defense missions. While reporting administratively to the State of Alaska and subsequently the 176th Wing, the squadron came under the operational umbrella of the 201st Combat Communications Group, Hawaii ANG, located at Hickam AFB, Hawaii.

In an effort to maintain combat readiness, the 206 CBCS regularly supported Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises such as NORTHERN EDGE in Alaska, COBRA GOLD in Thailand, ULCHI FOCUS LENS in Korea, and TANDEM THRUST in Guam. The unit also directly supported the 172nd Brigade with portable satellite radios for Operation GERONIMO STRIKE in U-Tapao, Thailand. Additionally, the unit provided the State of Alaska with single channel radios to support the 210th Rescue Squadron and the US Coast Guard in Valdez, AK.

Over time, the unit's primary mission evolved to support Pacific theater communications requirements. The principal means of this support was through the employment of two satellite communications (SATCOM) terminals: the TSC85B and TSC-152. This equipment provided both a

large hub terminal and a smaller spoke terminal, giving the unit maximum flexibility to meet a variety of missions. In addition, the unit was one of the first in the Air National Guard to receive and deploy the Theater Deployable Communications Integrated Communications Access Package (TDC ICAP). The TDC ICAP suite offered voice, data and message services. Additionally, the unit deployed portable satellite radio terminals for command and control, a video teleconference suite and a Global Broadcast Receive suite, providing CNN, weather, imagery and other broadcast services. Eventually the TSC-152 was replaced with the Air Force's newest tri-band satellite spoke terminal, the USC-60.

In Dec 2001, unit members volunteered to deploy to Southwest Asia to such places as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to participate in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM/SOUTHERN WATCH. While there, they endured many tense moments and austere conditions while providing excellent communications support to combat actions.

In Nov 2002, unit personnel deployed to Tsuigi AB, Japan to support Exercise KEEN SWORD to provide SATCOM, voice, data, technical control and systems control.

In Apr 2003, the squadron deployed to the US Naval Forces Marianas, Guam, in support of Exercise TANDEM THRUST. They provided SATCOM, voice, data, technical control, video services and SYSCON. The very next year they deployed to Korat, Thailand, to participate in Exercise COBRA GOLD to provide the very same communications support. In each of these deployments, the joint and coalition customers raved about the outstanding communications services and support provided to these crucial exercises.

In Jun 2005, the squadron again stepped up to support Exercise NORTHERN EDGE, which had evolved into a key homeland security/homeland defense posture with input and oversight from both ALCOM and US Northern Command. The squadron provided the network, voice and data connectivity for the Alaska National Guard's first-ever establishment of a Joint Operations Center, implementing crucial information technology services to this important function.

In early 2006, several unit members volunteered to assist their neighbors in the Matanuska-Susitna borough whose homes were threatened by rising flood waters. Squadron personnel led teams in filling sandbags and shoring up river banks, protecting property and performing one of the core missions of the National Guard.

The squadron also deployed members in support of Operation JUMP START, supporting the US Border Patrol in their mission of securing the sovereign boundary of the United States. 206th personnel were key players in providing communications, supply and power production activities to the National Guard and Border Patrol contingents in Arizona and New Mexico for this important tasking. Later that same year, unit members once again volunteered to deploy to Southwest Asia to support the Air Expeditionary Force in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and the Global War on Terror. While deployed, they provided key command and control capabilities in support of over 30,000 combat sorties across the theater in the face of hostile fire.

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In Sep 1989, the unit deployed to Nordholz NAS, Federal Republic of Germany in support of NATO exercise CORONET INDIGO. During the same year, the unit was called to state active duty to provide communications support to the Exxon Valdez oil spill. Unit members responded to this event within hours of the incident and remained on site providing assistance to the clean-up operation for 45 days. Personnel provided tactical satellite communication support throughout the area of operations and deployed directly to the command bridge of the Exxon Valdez. Their support was instrumental in providing essential command and control to state agencies. In September 1991, the unit deployed to an Operational Readiness Exercise. In the course of this five day event, flight members excelled in every aspect of the operation. They were recognized as the "Communications Flight by which to set the standard."

Effective 1 Apr 1993, the unit became a PACAF gained combat communications flight and was redesignated as the 206 CBCF.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 6 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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