

## 299<sup>th</sup> RANGE CONTROL SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

The 299th's mission is to provide quality air traffic control, weapons control, and maintenance services to the War fighter.

### **LINEAGE**

299<sup>th</sup> Range Control Squadron

### **STATIONS**

Salt Lake City, UT

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt. Col. Wayne E. Lee

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

**MOTTO**

Clover Control

**NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

The 299 Communications Flight (Range Support) was constituted and allotted to the National Guard Bureau. It occupied space in the 1906 Communications Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah. It was formerly a part of the 130 GEEIA Squadron in Salt Lake City. In the event of war the 1906 Communications Squadron would be the gaining command., 1 Aug 1969

The 299th Communications Flight (Range Support) was redesignated 299th Communications Squadron on 10 September 1975. This Air National Guard unit would revert to the control of the Air Force Communications Service if mobilized.

The 299th Communications Squadron moved to Hill AFB from Salt Lake City airport in December 1983, and was redesignated the 299 Range Control Squadron, reporting to the 6545th Test Group (AFSC).

The distinctive and unique capabilities of the 299th, otherwise known as “Clover Control” have created another banner year for the unit. During 2003, the unit has been involved with several Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) missions supporting national defense. Some of these include United States Air Force (USAF) B-1 Weapons Instructor Course, 388th FW and 419th FW Operational Readiness Exercises, Combat Hammer, and Roving Sands. Also, the unit has participated in live Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM), Air Launch Cruise Missile and various other bomb and missile testing. Many of these weapon systems have been employed over the last few years in actions supporting highly volatile missions around the globe. The unit is the busiest Air National Guard (ANG) military radar facility and ranks number six in the entire USAF. Traffic count for 2003 will exceed 166,000; nearly 30% more than the next ANG control facility. Many pilots come to the UTTR to improve combat skills prior to their deployments. The combination of restricted airspace and Department of Defense (DoD) land make this a prime

training range for the honing of those skills. Additionally, as an Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility, civilian air traffic may transit through the range when their flights won't interfere with military activities.

The unit was impacted by the activations brought on by current world events and Aerospace Expeditionary Force tasking. Due to the unique mission of the 299th and the subsequent multi-faceted capabilities of the unit's members, many unit personnel were called upon to support various missions worldwide. Not only were unit members tasked worldwide, unit members provided combat aircrew training and support for a local deployment of the Israeli Air Force.

Several key equipment updates have occurred during this period too. Installation of the Enhanced Terminal Voice Switch (ETVS) and the Digital Voice Recording System (DVRS) enhanced the service that Clover Control has built its reputation on. These systems are computer based and created an ease of use that greatly improves the quality of communication between pilots and ATC personnel. The ETVS provides us with better radio access and enhanced control displays provides the controllers with multiple options to meet mission demands. DVRS creates a Digital Audio Tape (DAT) formatted file that improves the ease of playback and significantly increases the capacity of audio information being stored.

During 2004, the unit has been involved with several Utah Test and Training Range missions supporting national defense. Some of these include Cruise Missile, Air Force B-1 Weapons Instructor Course, 388th Fighter Wing and 419th Fighter Wing Operational Readiness Exercises, Combat Hammer, and GENESIS space recovery. Also the unit has participated in live Joint Direct Attack Munitions, Air Launch Cruise Missile, and various other bomb and missile tests. Many of these weapon systems have been employed over the last few years in actions supporting highly volatile missions around the globe.

Additionally, as an Air Traffic Control facility, civilian air traffic may transit through the range when their flights won't interfere with military activities. The professional manner in which Clover controllers accomplish this difficult task makes the UTTR an example many other DoD ranges try to emulate. The unit continues to be impacted by the activations brought on by current world events to support worldwide tasks such as Joint Force/Joint Guardian, Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Noble Eagle, Cobra Gold, and Operation Enduring Freedom. Due to the unique mission of the 299th RCS and the subsequent multi-faceted capabilities of the unit's members, approximately 20 percent of unit personnel were called upon to support various missions worldwide.

In maintenance, a number of key equipment updates were accomplished during this period. For equipment and facilities the replacement of the radome at the Cedar Mountain radar site and the installation of the Alcatel Microwave system are the two major items. This radome replaces one which collapsed in 2002. Because of the harsh environment at the Cedar Mountain site, it will extend the life of the radar antennas and the associated systems.

The Alcatel Microwave System was installed for the purpose of establishing an ANG maintained link between the 299th RCS located at Hill Air Force Base, and the Utah Air National Guard Base via Francis Peak communications site. This new link will allow enhanced services to include video streaming from Warrior Network and faster access to network resources located at the ANG Base.

Maintenance also established a private network to support ATC operations and minimizes the security risks associated with Internet access and e-mail viruses. This network would remain operational through any outage or denial of service that the ANG network may encounter. The 299th RCS continues to be a provider of key services to other units and agencies. In addition to installing a remote FACTS system with the 388<sup>th</sup> Range Squadron scheduling office, service to Dugway Proving Grounds, was improved through using the UTTR SONENT, thus saving the Air Force about \$10,000 per year in leased phone lines. While supporting Patriot 04, remote versions of the FACTS were installed at Fort Drum, NY and an additional unit at Beulene Barracks located at Dugway, Utah, to provide the Exercise Director a real-time air picture. In addition, the 299th RCS is providing real-time radar data to the Air Force C3I Directorate which is developing new software and upgrades to the Ground Theater Air Control System. Involvement of the 299th RCS in Utah National Guard and the Utah Civil Response Team is integral to implementing a statewide communications network. This network will service civilian state agencies, Joint Force HQ, and State Area Command with the 299th RCS providing access and facilities to key locations for repeater and communications sites.

The 299th Range Control Squadron, more commonly known as "Clover Control," was deactivated September 30 after 40 years of service.

In the late 1960s, the 299th was attached to the 130th Electronic Installation Squadron with the primary objective to maintain and man the Francis Peak Radar Site above Farmington, Utah. Beginning in November 1969, Clover became a separate flight, established with 10 Air National Guard technicians, primarily supporting the Utah Test and Training Range, and also working as the air traffic control unit for the Wendover, Dugway and Hill Air Force Base ranges.

During the 1970's, the 299th became the first and only RCS in the ANG as a result of the growth occurring after the relocation of the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing from Thailand to Hill AFB.

"The unit's primary mission was to support the UTTR with air traffic controlling," said Lt. Col. John Teter, former 299th commander. "Any pilot who has been a fighter pilot or a bomber pilot has probably used the UTTR...and by far the mass majority would always give positive comment when they hear the word 'clover'."

The 299th was also consistently one of the top 10 busiest air traffic control and weapons control facilities in the Air Force. Colonel Teter explained the unit has received seven Air Force outstanding unit awards and three communications/electronics trophies. Additionally, he said the most outstanding thing about the unit was that at least 65 to 70 percent of the unit's members had voluntarily deployed and supported worldwide operations such as Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

With this chapter of the unit's story being closed, all of the full-time guardsmen, and many of the traditional guardsmen within the 299th, were able to find new units and were welcomed

into their respective groups, he described.

"The main thing I'm proud of is the reputation that the call sign "Clover" has, and will continue to have," said Colonel Teter.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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