

310 COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT



MISSION

The 310 Communications Flight at Peterson AFB, CO augments AFSPC Network Operations and Security Center (NOSC) operational crews providing Command and Control and situational awareness for AFSPC Communications

LINEAGE

310 Communications Flight

STATIONS

Peterson AFB, CO

ASSIGNMENTS

310 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc Sable and Gules embattled, a pair of gauntlets crossed in base Silver Gray, each emitting a curved lightning bolt from the fist Or; in fess point a globe Azure gridlined and encircled by two orbitals Argent, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "310 COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The embattled background represents the unclassified and classified network the unit protects and further emphasizes the global defense prospective. The embattlement, with ramparts, symbolizes the tops of a castle wall from which the protectors defend against attack. The crossed gauntlets symbolize a defensive blocking action representing the guardians of the network. The lightning bolts represent the electronic means employed to protect the networks and pass simultaneously through both networks, showing that protection is employed to all systems at all times. The globe with delta aero device represents defense of the United States via the Air Force Space Command's network. The globe symbolizes the worldwide mission of the unit. The orbitals further highlight the network's impact throughout the world and also into space via satellites. The crossing of the gauntlets and arching of the lightning bolts around the globe represent that in the execution of the mission, protection is provided around the entire network. (Approved, 11 Jul 2008)

MOTTO

OPERATION

Two organizations that have reaped the benefits of Reservists seamlessly fitting in with their regular Air Force counterparts are the two integrated network operations and security centers — one at Langley Air Force Base, Va., and the other at Peterson AFB, Colo. Maj. Michael Allen recently completed a tour as director of operations for the 561st Network Operations Squadron at Peterson. And Maj. William Monahan is currently serving as director of operations for the 83rd NOS at Langley. Majors Allen and Monahan, both communications flight commanders, were called upon to fill in for regular Air Force officers who deployed. INOSC responsibilities include active directory

management, mail relay, firewall management, web proxy services, gateway management and other operations associated with Air Force networks.

Major Allen, 310 Communications Flight commander at Peterson, and Major Monahan, 622nd CF commander at Langley, are just two of hundreds of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members contributing to the stand-up of 24th Air Force units and the cyber mission. "When I arrived here in November 2007 during my first activation at the 561st, there were only 20 Airmen in the unit," Major Allen said. "Because of the low numbers, AFRC personnel provided up to 50 percent of the manning to ensure operations were able to be sustained. We solicited the AFR and ANG for additional support to ensure critical functions were maintained until the 561st was able to build up to sustainable levels." The 561st NOS has increased its manning level to 180 people and will eventually grow to 300, the major said.

The 624th Operations Center, located at Lackland AFB, Texas, is the hub for all Air Force network operations and provides cyber tasking orders to the two I-NOSCs. Within the 624th, 29 of the 108 people assigned are from the reserve components. Over the next year, the center is expected to reach a manning level of 203. Reservists and Guardsmen typically serve on 179-day orders to help fill the shortfalls until the unit becomes fully manned. "This is the best foundation I've seen; there is plenty of work to go around," said Col. Kathleen Barrish, 24th AF reserve adviser. "We are working smartly to capture mission sets that are best for the Guard and Reserve to fill." The experience Reservists and Guardsmen are receiving as a result of assisting where they are needed is strengthening the relationship between the regular Air Force and reserve forces. "This activation is allowing me to see the mission from a new perspective, which will allow me to shape the 310 CF to be an even better partner in this critical mission," Major Allen said.

"I believe the experience gained and relationships developed as a byproduct of this activation have already yielded substantial improvements in the customer support and service that the 622nd CF provides our active-duty brethren," Major Monahan said. In addition, the civilian businesses that support these Reserve and Guard members reap benefits from the activations as well. "When someone like Major Monahan puts on his Reserve hat, he brings with him his skill set from the private sector to enhance his military activation, and it is reciprocated when he returns with new skills from his unit," said Daniel V. Mullen, assistant vice president, Business Management DOD Network Services Operation Enterprise and Mission Solutions, SAIC. "As a defense contractor, we have many great Americans who activate as Reservists, and it is an honor to have them work for us.

We ensure they have their (civilian) jobs to return to," Mr. Mullen said. "While it is a hardship while they are gone, we overcome, and it truly is a win win situation for the Air Force and for SAIC." "I've shared best practices from my civilian position and am planning to introduce a myriad of innovative process improvements I learned from my activation at SAIC," Major Monahan said. Since its inception Aug. 18, 2009, 24th Air Force has been a model of TFI, Colonel Barrish said. With the rapid nature of development of the mission and units, the Reserve and Guard have been integral in the organization's stand-up. 2010

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 10 Sep 2011

Updated: 17 Jan 2023

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.