

341 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The 341 Communications Squadron plans, operates and maintains information technology resources supporting the wartime requirements of 20th Air Force, the 341st Missile Wing and tenant units. The unit maintains reliable communications systems for Malmstrom's Minuteman III ICBMs, Air Force Global Strike Command's Secure Global Network (SGN), data networks, telecommunications systems, computer systems and radio/ground communications

LINEAGE

341 Operations Squadron constituted, 7 Jun 1955

Activated, 1 Sep 1955

Inactivated, 15 Jun 1956

Activated, 26 Apr 1961

Organized, 15 Jul 1961

Redesignated 341 Communications Squadron, 1 Oct 1962

Inactivated on 1 Oct 1977.

2153 Communications Squadron designated and activated, 2 Oct 1977

Redesignated 2153 Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1984

Redesignated 2153 Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 1986

341 Communications Squadron and 2153 Communications Squadron consolidated, 1 Sep 1991,
Consolidated organization designated 341 Communications Squadron.

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992

Activated, 1 Jul 1994

STATIONS

Abilene AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1955-15 Jun 1956

Malmstrom AFB, MT, 15 Jul 1961-1 Oct 1977

Malmstrom AFB, MT, 2 Oct 1977-1 Jun 1992
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Jul 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

341 Air Base Group, 1 Sep 1955-15 Jun 1956
341 Combat Support Group, 15 Jul 1961
341 Strategic Missile Wing, 1 Oct 1962
Strategic Communications Area, 1 Jul 1976-1 Oct 1977
Strategic Communications Area (later, Strategic Communications Division; Strategic Information Systems Division; Strategic Communications Division), 2 Oct 1977
40 Air Division, 1 Oct 1990
840 Combat Support Group, 14 Jun 1991
341 Support Group, 1 Sep 1991
301 Support Group, 15 Jan-1 Jun 1992
341 Support Group (later, 341 Mission Support Group), 1 Jul 1994

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Paul A. Niehaus, 2 Oct 1977
Maj William L. Morrison II, 8 Jun 1978
Lt Col Robert C. Lilly, 29 Jun 1979
Lt Col Barron K. Keller, 6 Jan 1981
Maj Cecil L. Hicks, 10 May 1983
Lt Col Everett G. Beckwith, 27 Jun 1985
Lt Col David R. Dick, 24 Jul 1987
Lt Col Richard H. Hange, Jr., 14 Aug 1990
Lt Col J. W. Smith

HONORS

Service Streamers

Global War on Terrorism (GWOT-S)

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
22 Oct 1962-31 Dec 1963
1 Jul 1964-30 Jun 1965
1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1976
1 Jan 1986-31 Dec 1987
1 Jul 1991-31 May 1992
[1 Jul]-31 Aug 1994
1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1995

1 Oct 1995-30 Sep 1996
1 Oct 1997-30 Sep 1999
1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 1999 (not same as previous honor)
1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002
1 Oct 2002-1 Oct 2003
1 Oct 2004-30 Sep 2006
1 Oct 2006-30 Sep 2008
1 Oct 2008-30 Sep 2009
1 Jan 2010-31 Dec 2011
1 Jan 2013-31 Dec 2014
1 Jan 2015-31 Dec 2015
1 Jan 2017-31 Dec 2017

EMBLEM



2153 Communications Squadron emblem: Blue and yellow are primary 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 North Star reflects the squadron's mission of providing reliable navigational air traffic control and base support for a northern base. The missile represents the mission; while the lightning bolts and the satellite dish reflect the communications mission of the unit. (Approved, 8 May 1967)

The emblem is symbolic of the squadron. The blue depicts the sky, the primary theatre of Air Force operations, and the sphere refers to the earth. Together they allude to the vastness of space. The stars symbolize the strategic banner and in the squadron's color green denote the unit's excellence in the performance of its assigned functions for which it earned Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. The fire beacon, an heraldic charge for communications, with the lightning flashes represents the power and speed of communications and electronic equipment. The three flames, four flashes, and one beacon indicate the squadron's numerical designation. The emblem bears the National colors and the Air Force colors golden yellow and ultramarine blue.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 341st Communications Squadron began on 1 October 1962 at Malmstrom AFB, MT. The squadron was combined with the 1904th Communications Squadron (Air Force Communications Service) on 1 July 1976. The squadron was redesignated the 2153d Communications Squadron (Air Force Communications Command) on 15 September 1979 as a tenant unit on Malmstrom. The 2153 CS was reassigned to the 40th Air Division (Strategic Air Command) on 1 October 1990. On 1 September 1991, the squadron was redesignated as the 341st Communications Squadron and realigned under the 341st Support Group and 341st Missile Wing. With this realignment, the air traffic control function was removed from the squadron and in January 1992, the squadron inherited the audio visual function. The squadron's numerical designation was changed to 43d Communications Squadron (Air Mobility Command) on 1 June 1992 when the 43d Air Refueling Wing became the host wing and then returned to the 341st Communications Squadron on 1 July 1994 under the 341st Support Group and 341st Missile Wing (subsequently renamed Space Wing). On 1 April 1996 the information management function merged with the squadron. On 4 September 1998 the squadron operationalized its newest flight, the Network Operations Center. The 341 CS has earned 10 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards since its activation and has garnered recognition as the best in the command in 1990 (AFCC), 1991 (SAC), 1994, and 1996 through 1999 (AFSPC).

The squadron's Network Control Center was recognized as the Air Force's Best C4 Systems Center for 1994, and the Mission Systems Flight was awarded the Air Force Maintenance Effectiveness Award for 1996. Through exemplary achievements in the spirit of installation excellence, the 341st Communications Squadron earned the 2000 Commander-in-chief's Installation Excellence Award, Special Recognition Category.

The 341st Communications Squadron provides the best customer service in operating, maintaining, engineering, and implementing communications and information systems in support of all units assigned to Malmstrom AFB and space operations customers worldwide. The squadron is comprised of a team of 200 military and civilian professionals organized into five flights. The Mission Systems Flight is responsible for maintaining air traffic control equipment, weather equipment, radio relays, and all voice and data communications equipment in the missile complex, in addition to operating the base switchboard. The Support Flight provides audio visual, and publishing services. The Plans Flight manages leased and personal wireless communications, cable television, squadron resources, manpower, mobility commitments, and plans and programs for all current and future communications and information functions. The Information Systems Flight integrates the Network Control Center, Information Protection, Records Management, Administrative Communications, and Customer Training. The Network Operations Center provides reliable communications capability to the Passive Space Surveillance Global Wide Area Network, ensuring the continuous confidentiality, integrity, and accessibility of all Passive Space Surveillance communications.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 14 Dec 2010
Updated: 26 May 2021

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *Malmstrom AFB, First Minuteman Wing of the Air Force*. Army and Navy Publishing, Co., Inc.
Baton Rouge, LA. Nd.