442 COMMUNICATIONS FLIGHT

MISSION

442 Communications Flight (CF) The 442 CF has both a peacetime and a wartime mission. The peacetime mission is to provide normal Communications Electronics staff support to the 442 TFG Commander and to provide the Group with required communications services.

These services include: Managing the Group's COMSEC Education Programs; Providing customer education in communications services; Maintaining intrabase radio equipment, air to ground radio systems, public address and intercom systems, and tactical telephone systems; Operating tactical fixed—station and tactical record communications systems.

The wartime mission of the 442 Communications Flight is to operate and maintain telecommunications equipment at collocated operating bases (COBs) in Europe. The equipment is prepositional and maintained in "ready" status by AFCC readiness teams.

LINEAGE

442 Communications Squadron. Troop Carrier, Medium constituted, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jul 1949
Redesignated 442 Communications Squadron, 1 Mar 1950
Ordered to Active Service on 10 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 12 Mar 1951
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1952
Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959

442d Operations Squadron constituted, 5 Dec 195
Activated in the Reserve, 14 Apr 1959

Ordered to Active Service, 1 Oct 1961
Relieved from Active Duty, 27 Aug 1962
Discontinued and inactivated, 17 Jan 1963

442 Communications Flight constituted, 18 Jun 1976
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1976
Redesignated 442 Information Systems Squadron, 10 Apr 1985

442 Communications Squadron, 442 Operations Squadron, and 442 Information Systems
    Squadron consolidated, 1 Feb 1987. Consolidated unit designated, 1 Feb 1987

442 Communications Flight, 1 Aug 1992
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Apr 1997

STATIONS
Fairfax Fid, KS, 27 Jun 1949
Olathe NAS. KS, 27 May 1950-12 Mar 1951
Olathe NAS, KS, 15 Jun 1952
Grandview (later, Richards-Gebaur) AFB, MO, 3 Apr 1955-17 Jan 1963
Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO, 1 Jul 1976
Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 Apr-1 Oct 1994
Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 Apr 1997

ASSIGNMENTS
442 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS
Maj Charles Cornelius

HONORS
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jun 1987-31 Jul 1988
1 Nov 1989-31 Oct 1991

EMBLEM
Blue and 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 eagle represents the pride and vigilance of unit personnel. The four polestars suggest the four corners of the globe, and along with the demi-globe reflect the expertise necessary to support the Air Force's worldwide communications network. The lightning bolts indicate the worldwide scope of the Squadron's mission. (Approved, 1 Oct 1990)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS
2005 Twelve members from the 442 Communications Flight deployed to Duke Field, Fla., last May and delved into some of the newest communications technology the Air Force has to offer as part of Exercise Jump Start 2005. Due to a restructuring of Air Force Reserve communication squadrons and flights, many members must retrain and adapt to their new mission of deploying within an active-duty unit. Exercise Jump Start, in its first year, provided some of this training. "This training will make us more valuable to the active duty," said Maj. Charles Cornelius, commander of the 442nd Communications Flight. "We are now using (the same equipment) that active duty is using." Flight members handle varying types of communication, including voice and data communications.

Their training also included construction of tents similar to those used in deployed locations. Learning to work in such a small area was another aspect of the training, said Master Sgt. John Davison, non-commissioned officer in charge of computer networking systems. "It gave us a feeling that if you can work in that small of a space, you can do it anywhere," Sergeant Davison said. Although this is the first year of this exercise, many 442nd members may find themselves returning next year. "This could become a recurring training requirement," said Tech. Sgt. Gregory Knauff, computer networking systems technician. "This was a test case to see if it was beneficial ... which it was." "This deployment ... gave us the tools to do our job effectively," he said.

Members of the 442nd Communications Flight received a taste of deployment operations during an exercise in Florida Oct. 22 to 27 with other Air Force Reserve communications units. Forty-seven communications experts from seven other Air Force Reserve Command units took part in the exercise at Key West Naval Air Station, Fla., named Tropic Link. Led by the 482nd Communications Squadron from Homestead Air Reserve Base, Fla., the objective was to train on tactical deployed communications equipment that is deployed to forward bare bases. All deployment phases – generation, employment and redeployment – were exercised during the training.

TDC equipment provides secure and non-secure voice and data communications using a combination of satellite links, ground-mobile radio satellite phones and local telephonic voice and data equipment. While in the past hooking up separate stations required running wires to each location, units now use line of sight microwave signals to link ground stations, often several miles apart from one another. In Key West, these microwave systems established communication links from one island to another. According to Col. John Hayes, AFRC communications director, the 442nd CF has been named as one of the units that will be gaining additional personnel and equipment to support this mission. The current plan is to deploy with the Wing's A-10 to provide

communications support for about 500 additional personnel associated with its aviation package. The hands-on training provides essential experience that we cannot perform at home station.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Knauff, 442nd CF's NCOIC of computer network systems, stated that the training was realistic because "...it provided challenges that had to be overcome, just like in real world. "In addition," Sergeant Knauff said, "since we do not have this equipment yet, this is a rare opportunity for us to setup and use all of the equipment in the TDC." The flight's personnel were noted for their key contributions to the exercise; Maj. Shane Matherne, 10th Air Force director of communications awarded a top performer coin to Staff Sgt. Matthew Eisenbarth, a 442nd CF ground-radio communication technician received for outstanding contributions to his team. As a validation of the coin presentation, Senior Master Sgt. John Reyes, one of the exercise superintendents and from the 514th Communications Squadron at McGuire AFB, N.J., said that Sergeant Eisenbarth was "his most important contributor." Sergeant Reyes said this fact was remarkable since this was the first week that Sergeant Eisenbarth had worked with the recently employed equipment.

"Communications is one of those missions that few think about...until it is interrupted or lost," said SMSgt Charlene Rhoads, 442nd CF chief of information assistance. "TDC training like this one focuses on setting up communications as soon as possible and then sustain uninterrupted communications for the duration of the mission."2007

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