

## 642 ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS SQUADRONS



### **MISSION**

The 642 Electronic Systems Squadron develops and fields force protection command and control systems for military installations worldwide, delivering integrated force protection solutions.

### **LINEAGE**

642 Electronic Systems Squadron

### **STATIONS**

Hanscom AFB, MA

### **LINEAGE**

### **STATIONS**

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

On a disc Azure, a pair of wings elevated and displayed Or, surmounted by a globe Gules, fimbriated and gridlined Argent, in pale a sword of the last hilted Sable point to base, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "SEE UNDERSTAND ACT" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "642D ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS SQ" 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 globe represents the worldwide nature of the unit's mission to deliver life-saving force protection capability. The wings signify the protection the Squadron's security systems provide the unit's Security Forces customers. The sword positioned above the globe represents the constant state of peril in which the unit's Security Forces customers operate. "SEE UNDERSTAND ACT" represents the unit's motto to provide its Security Forces customers the capability to see the threat first, understand the threat first and act first to intercept the threat before it has an opportunity to disrupt the mission.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

9/7/2007 - HANSCOM AFB, Mass. -- When one of the Navy's primary bases in Africa nearly quadrupled in size, the 642nd Electronic Systems Squadron responded proportionately to the new security demands its Tactical Automated Security System would be meeting there.

The squadron is currently delivering TASS capability upgrades to Camp Lemonier, United States Central Command's home base for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, and the very first of the squadron's collaborative efforts with the Navy.

"This is our first and the only Navy base that we're supporting, and hopefully this will be one step toward further expanding our joint relationships with another service," said Capt. Steve Smith, tactical systems program manager.

The 642 ELSS installed the TASS at Camp Lemonier in April 2004 when the installation belonged to the Marines. In 2006, it changed hands from the Marine Corps to the Navy.

The TASS, an intrusion-detection system, protects a military installation by using devices - thermal imaging cameras, radars and even mini-unmanned aerial vehicles - to detect threats along its perimeter. A centralized tower gathers the information and reports it to a computer at the base defense operations center, where operators pinpoint the threat's exact location and decide how to act upon it.

Camp Lemonier, located in Djibouti, Africa, provides operations to Somalia and Southwest Asia.

Last year an agreement between the United States and Djiboutian governments established a five-year lease that allowed for the site to increase from about 97 to 500 acres. The expansion would yield more space to build housing for the almost 1,500 personnel and would provide more site security.

For the squadron, that substantial growth translated into an expanded fence perimeter and called for putting in place the appropriate security devices to protect the installation.

"Extending the fence perimeter meant that there was a need to put in place some additional fiber-optic fence sensors and some more cameras for the expansion of the new operations and living areas," said Captain Smith.

Further capability upgrades include an enhanced command and control node, which is a part of the system's annunciator, the computerized schematic map that shows exactly where a potential threat is located. The installation of a speaker warning system and a communications tower are also slated as part of the upgrade.

"The tower will provide additional line of sight for the system itself," he said.

Feedback regarding the expansion of the system has been favorable. Navy Lt. Harry Cheng, a public safety officer at Camp Lemonier, said that the upgrades have resulted in changes that directly impact the security mission.

"The technology has enabled Camp Lemonier Security Forces to reduce the number of personnel at the perimeter," said Lieutenant Cheng. "It acts as a force multiplier, and the quality of life has significantly improved by reducing the number of personnel exposed to the harsh climate and the pervasive dust conditions in Djibouti."

Additionally, the expanded capabilities come with a resident tactical engineer who is on site to monitor any technical troubleshooting that may need to be executed. According to Lieutenant Cheng, the current engineer has proven to be an invaluable asset.

"The current resident field engineer has been working locally for over three and a half years," he said. "He routinely works above and beyond what is expected of him and is extremely effective in technically describing the security system to operators and VIPs".

For the 642 ELSS, upgrading the Navy system means that they have equipped war fighters with another way to focus on the mission.

"Having the TASS in place allows for keeping certain things within an installation, and keeping other things out," said Captain Smith. "As long as we're doing that, we're allowing the war fighter to continue doing his or her duty.

8/7/2009 - HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. -- Members of the 642nd Electronic Systems Squadron recently completed the first fixed site security installation in the Southwest Asia Area of Responsibility for the Air Force's Combined Air and Space Operations Center. The project came in as a direct request to the Electronic Systems Center from Lt. Gen. Gary North, U.S. Air Forces Central commander as an immediate need in October 2007. The 642nd built a flexible acquisition strategy to work around the delays in building construction, ensuring that the security system was in place before the CAOC became operational. Once a known baseline was established, the security installation was delivered on-time, on-cost and now provides enhanced situational awareness for Security Forces personnel overseas protecting vital resources in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. "We're proud to deliver this first ever AFCENT fixed site intrusion detection system to our warfighter on cost and on schedule with full capability to meet their needs," said Lloyd Corricelli, Combatant Commands Integrated Base Defense Security System program manager. "The installation of fixed site security sensors at the CAOC provides security forces personnel with greater internal access controls of their on-base facilities in addition to a more enduring system similar to that found at our CONUS bases," Mr. Corricelli said. "It takes base security beyond expeditionary, to a longer range security solution to better meet AFCENT's force protection requirements." With the new security install, information will be sent from the fixed site sensors installed at various facilities across the base to a central annunciator or terminal where security forces personnel can monitor the health of the system and respond to any security concerns. "This is just the first step, we expect this to be an ongoing incremental process," Mr. Corricelli said. "We will continue our work of leveraging technology to further enhance base security as additional facilities come on-line." "With this install we've taken overseas base security to the next level and we're looking forward to continuing this work to ensure that our customers have all the tools they need to meet their mission of protecting warfighting resources and personnel," said Patrick Marr, 642 ELSS director.

2/22/2010 - HANSCOM AIR FORCE BASE, Mass. (AFNS) -- Electronic Systems Center members here transitioned all sustainment actions for a critical base security system from contractors to a government-organic source Feb. 10, reaping large savings for the government. All logistics support for the Tactical Automated Security System will now be performed at the Cryptologic Systems Group in San Antonio, Texas, part of ESC's 653rd Electronic Systems Wing. The total switch from contractor logistics support to organic support is expected to save the government nearly \$4 million a year, Kermit Schol of CPSG said. The TASS is managed by ESC's 642nd Electronic Systems Squadron members at Hanscom AFB, Mass., it is a rapidly deployable, integrated electronic intrusion detection system that provides the capability to detect, announce and remotely assess intrusions into a secured area. The early detection and identification of an intrusion prevents or minimizes damage or destruction of mission-critical resources. The system provides additional security without adding more personnel for guard and patrol duties. It has been used around the globe protecting personnel and critical assets in active war zones. The largest user of TASS, are Air Forces Central officials, which provide Air Force component support to Central Command. "TASS plays an important role in protecting our deployed warfighters, including some of our CPSG co-workers," Mr. Schol said. "We are proud to contribute to their safety and security while at the same time saving the Air Force millions of dollars by effectively utilizing existing CPSG processes."

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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