

689 COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS WING



MISSION

The 689th Combat Communications Wing mission is to deliver combat communications for joint and coalition warfighters supporting combat operations and Humanitarian Relief Operations, anytime, anywhere. The wing has a projection force of 1,500 Airmen which provide tactical communications, computer systems, navigational aids, and air traffic control services anywhere in the world for the Air Force, Department of Defense, and other U.S. commitments. Total Force team members to include Department of Defense civilians and contractors are trained to deploy more than 150 mission systems providing initial services to a multitude of customers at various units in locations where communications and Air Traffic Control capabilities aren't established. Additionally, these Airmen are specially trained to perform their service under hostile conditions. The elements of the 689th CCW are self-sustaining and are able to operate from the initial phases of the expeditionary mission until relieved by follow-on forces and supplies.

The wing is comprised of the 3rd Combat Communications Group and 5th Combat Communications Group, each comprised of five squadrons. Because of its special ability to respond quickly, the 689th CCW also provides emergency services to many federal agencies. These services range from providing equipment to assist the Drug Enforcement Agency and U.S. Coast Guard in drug interdiction to establishing communications capabilities for first responders and senior U.S. Government officials during natural disasters. The 689th CCW also supports United States Central Command Air Forces and Joint Chiefs of Staff operations with missions and exercises in Southwest Asia, Central and South America and the Pacific theater. The wing responds to contingencies, emergencies and natural disasters both overseas and throughout the United States.

LINEAGE

1931 Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron designated, 11 Oct 1948

Organized, 18 Oct 1948

Redesignated 1931 Communications Squadron, 1 Jul 1961

Redesignated 1931 Communications Group, 1 Mar 1969
Redesignated 1931 Information Systems Wing, 1 Jul 1984
Redesignated 1931 Communications Wing, 1 Nov 1986
Redesignated 1931 Communications Group, 1 Oct 1990
Inactivated, 26 Sep 1991
Redesignated 689 Combat Communications Wing, 22 Sep 2009
Activated, 5 Oct 2009
Inactivated

STATIONS

Elmendorf AFB, AK, 18 Oct 1948-26 Sep 1991
Robins AFB, GA, 5 Oct 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

1804 Airways and Air Communications Service Group (later, 1804th Airways and Air Communications Service Wing; Alaskan Airways and Air Communications Service Region; Alaskan Communications Region), 18 Oct 1948
Air Force Communications Service (later, Air Force Communications Command), 1 Jun 1972
Continental Communications Division, 1 Jun 1981
Air Force Communications Command, 1 May 1985
21 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1990-26 Sep 1991
Twenty-Fourth Air Force (Air Forces Strategic), 5 Oct 2009

COMMANDERS

Cpt Charles Kittel, 18 Oct 1948
Maj John T. Tyler, 1 Apr 1949
Maj Jack B. Cooney, 1 Apr 1950
Maj John M. Bruce, 1 May 1950
Maj James B. Moore, 1 Jun 1952
LTC Fred C. Lathan, 1 Jun 1954
LTC Kenneth L. Huez, 6 Jun 1956
LTC Vincent E. Daniel, 1 Jun 1960
LTC Loren E. Guyer, 1 Jun 1961
LTC Charles I. Peck, 1 Aug 1962
Maj Earl M. McCloy, 1 Jul 1965
LTC Lowell G. Phillips, 1 Jul 1966
LTC Maurice O. White, 12 Jun 1968
LTC Leonard G. Robinson, May 1970
LTC James J. Kant, May 1971
Col Jack C. O'Dell, 1 Jun 1972
Col Marvin J. Anderson, 21 May 1973
Col Theron L. Jenne, 27 Aug 1975
LTC Ralph D. Walters (Acting), 23 May 1977
Col Lynn F. Robinson, 24 Jun 1977

LTC Ardean M. Shafer (Acting), 30 Jun 1980
Col Robert H. Ludwig, 15 Jul 1980
Col Phillip K. Heacock, 1 Jul 1982
Col Ronald L. Davidson, 1 Jun 1984
Col Harvey L. Dent, 20 May 1987
Col Ronald L. Paxson, 11 Jul 1989

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1959-30 Jun 1961

27-30 Mar 1964

8 Jul 1966-1 May 1967

2 May 1967-1 Jan 1968

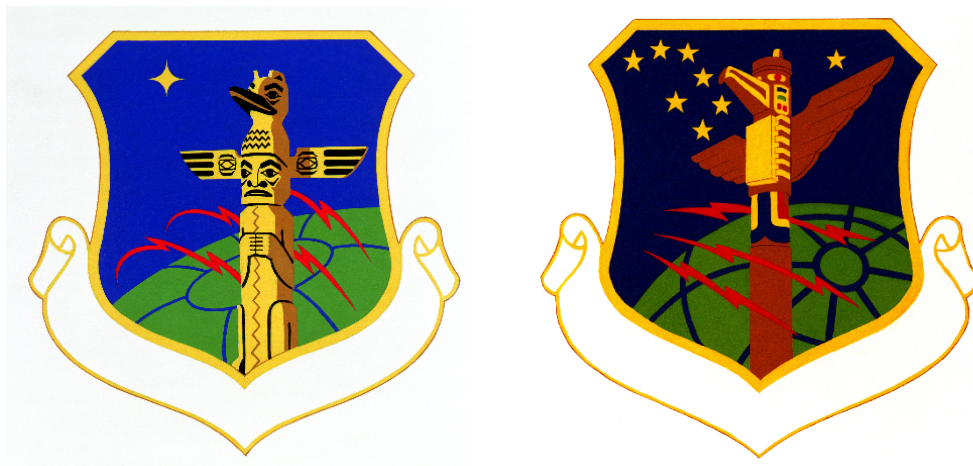
14-21 Aug 1967

1 Jan-31 Dec 1968

10 Feb 1979-10 Feb 1981

1 Jan 1984-1 Jan 1985

EMBLEM



Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of

operations for the Air Force. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Big Dipper, from the Alaskan flag, and the totem pole symbolize the Air Force Communications Command's worldwide mission and farther indicates the location of the wing. The electronic flashes, from the Air Force Communications Command emblem, signify the aerospace communications mission; and the North Star suggests the air traffic control mission emphasizes the arctic location of the wing.

Azure, issuing from sinister base a demi-globe Celeste, gridlined Sable, surmounted by a sword bendwise point to dexter chief Argent, hand guard, hilt, grip and pommel Or, emitting from the sword point four lightning bolts, two to chief and two to dexter Gules; all within a diminished border of the fifth. **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 sword represents the unit's direct support of combat operations. The four lightning bolts symbolize the Wing's total force representation of the 3rd and 5th Combat Communication Groups, the Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard associate units. The globe signifies the unit's willingness to deploy anywhere in the world at a moment's notice to ensure that communications are delivered to the deployed warfighter in support of USAF operations. (Approved, 5 Apr 2010)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Cyber Family Adds Communications Wing: Air Force officials activated the service's first combat communications wing, the 689th CCW, during a ceremony Oct. 5 at Robins AFB, Ga. The unit, which provides expeditionary and specialized communications, air traffic control, and landing systems to enable US and coalition operations in austere, forward environments, falls under 24th Air Force, USAF's new cyber operations organization that stood up in August at Lackland AFB, Tex. Air Force Space Command is the parent organization of 24th AF. Nationwide, the 689th CCW will have approximately 6,000 active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve Command personnel, along with civilian and contractor support. The Sun News of Macon, Ga., reported Tuesday that the 689th CCW will add about 40 active duty airmen to Robins.

Air Force Space Command announced that it will inactivate the 3rd Combat Communications Group at Tinker AFB, Okla., as part of the Air Force's overall force structure changes to meet the Obama Administration's new strategic guidance. "The inactivation of the 3rd CCG is part of a larger Air Force effort to shape the force," said Col Joseph Scherrer, commander of the 689th Combat Communications Wing at Robins AFB, Ga., the group's parent organization. As part of the new strategy, "the Air Force is reducing deployable communications capabilities to match the reduction in combat air forces, added Scherrer. The group's inactivation will affect 600 military billets at Tinker. Airmen from the group will transition to other units, said Scherrer. With the inactivation of the 3rd CCG, the 689th CCW will be left with one group: the 5th CCG at Robins. 2012

The 689th Combat Communications Wing furled its colors during an inactivation ceremony at Robins AFB, Ga., on June 12, according to a base release. The inactivation is part of the Air Force's planned force structure changes included in the President's Fiscal 2013 budget. "New technology that is smaller and requires less manpower to set up and operate, combined with our ability to leverage enterprise capabilities is enabling the Air Force to provide a similar (combat communications) capability with significantly less personnel," 689th CCW Commander Col. Joseph Scherrer said. The two civilians assigned to the wing will transfer to the 5th Combat Communications Group at Robins and the 33 military members either will be reassigned, retire, or separate, states the release. The President's budget also directed the Air Force to stand down the 3rd Combat Communications Group at Tinker AFB, Okla.—a move that is expected to take place in September. It will impact about 700 airmen. "Our primary responsibility right now is to take care of our airmen and their families as they transition to other units," said Scherrer. The 689th CCW was activated in 2009 as a subordinate of the 24th Air Force—USAF's cyber arm. 2013

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

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.

Major Command history. A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage. Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.