

## 710 COMBAT OPERATIONS SQUADRON



### MISSION

The mission of the 710 Combat Operations Squadron is to deliver precise, reliable, and full-spectrum joint airpower command, control, and communications capabilities, including strategy development, detailed planning, target development, weaponing, Air Tasking Order production, operational-level execution and assessment to the joint force through proficient use of the weapons system applications and hardware that comprise the AN/USQ-163 Falconer Air Operations Center (AOC). The 710 COS is aligned for training to U.S. Air Forces, Central Command. When deployed, 710 COS members provide continuity and expertise to augment the active duty AOC force.

The AN/USQ-163 AOC weapon system is the senior element of the Theater Air Control System. It provides the Combined Forces Air Component Commander with the capability to plan, task, execute and assess airpower and space power in support of the Combined Force Commander's campaign plan.

Personnel: 127 authorized (105 Traditional Reservists, 22 Active Guard Reservists)

### LINEAGE

710 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron constituted, 3 Nov 1952

Activated, 8 Dec 1952

Inactivated, 1 Nov 1983

710 Combat Operations Squadron constituted, 6 Feb 2004

Activated, 1 Mar 2004

710 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron and 710 Combat Operations Squadron consolidated, 3 Jun 2004. Consolidated organization designated 710 Combat Operations Squadron.

### STATIONS

Cape Prince of Wales (later, Tin City) AFS, AK, 8 Dec 1952-1 Nov 1983  
Langley AFB, VA, 1 Mar 2004

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

160 Aircraft Control and Warning Group, 8 Dec 1952  
548 Aircraft Control and Warning Group, 1 Feb 1953  
11 Air Division, 8 Apr 1953; 5060 Aircraft Control and Warning Group, 1 Nov 1957  
11 Air Division, 1 Oct 1959  
5070 Air Defense Wing, 1 Aug 1960  
Alaskan Air Command, 1 Oct 1961  
531 Aircraft Control and Warning (later, 11 Tactical Control) Group, 15 Nov 1977-1 Nov 1983  
610 Regional Support Group, 1 Mar 2004  
940 Operations Group

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Mark A. McGinley  
Col Hector Cruz

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jan-30 Nov 1977  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1978  
1 Jul 1982-[1] Nov 1983

### **EMBLEM**



On a disc Azure three lightning flashes issuant from base Gules, the center flash in pale tipped with an arrow point Or, the other flashes in chevron reversed, the flash in dexter pointing to a sword point down blade Silver Gray, hilted and pommeled of the third handled of the second, the flash in sinister pointing to a stylized bald eagle issuant from sinister of the last, detailed Argent, beaked Yellow eyed of the field; all within a narrow border Black. Attached above the disc, a Silver Gray scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "EVERY THEATER OUR STAGE" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Silver Gray scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "710TH COMBAT OPERATIONS SQ" in Black 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 colors within the design represent the American Flag and patriotism, pride in country, service, and Squadron. The eagle represents the national symbol and the Squadron's commitment to the nation's defense. The sword represents the striking power the unit directs to accomplish the mission. The lightning flashes symbolize the functions of the unit and its worldwide mission. (Approved, 11 Jul 2005)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 710 COS was activated on March 1, 2004, at Langley Air Force Base, Va. The squadron is one of the Air Force Reserve Command's two AOC augmentation units. Only a year after it began hiring, the 710th Combat Operations Squadron played a key role in the largest joint and combined exercise involving live and virtual simulations in the nation's history. Forty-eight members of the 710<sup>th</sup> deployed from their home at Langley Air Force Base, Va., to Nellis AFB, Nev., for about two weeks in support of Joint Red Flag 2005. Altogether, more than 10,000 people from all four military branches, along with troops of some coalition forces, took part in the exercise, which officially ran March 14 through April 2.

The purpose of Joint Red Flag, which was conducted at 44 different sites nationwide, was to develop improved joint training and experimentation capabilities. While at Nellis, the Reservists operated out of the Combined Air Operations Center, a facility featuring eight theater-sized screens and scores of computers used to provide the combined forces air component commander with up-to-the minute, time-critical weather, intelligence and surveillance information that allowed him to make informed decisions. Specialized teams and a cadre of support personnel kept the CAOC running 24 hours a day, providing war fighters with the realism of an actual operational theater. "I think an exercise of this magnitude draws a lot of attention, and you've got to have your game face on," said Maj. James Ward, senior offensive duty officer.

All of the parts have to work together to be effective, he said. "Our guys gave 120 percent, and it showed." During the exercise, aircrews, working primarily out of Nellis, Kirtland AFB, N.M., Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas, and Hurlburt Field, Fla., flew 350 to 400 sorties each day, said Lt. Col. James Murray, 12th Air Force project officer. "That isn't really out of the norm; however, when you combine that with the 600 to 700 constructive sorties and 850 virtual sorties we're

flying, it's very busy." Colonel Murray explained that virtual training refers to crews participating in the exercise by using simulators at various locations.

Constructive sorties, he said, are computer-aided simulations controlling a wider span of forces that play out much like a person sitting at a computer playing a video game. The colonel explained that constructive simulations are especially valuable because they allow people in some cases to participate in the exercise without leaving their home. This reduces training costs, he said, while providing very realistic training. The Reservists didn't mind the busy 24-hour schedule.

"The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war," said Col. Jeffrey Mineo, 710th COS commander. "We must remember that if we train like we fight, when war comes knocking, we'll be ready. Red Flag tested us to our limits, and I am impressed by the outcome of this exercise. We have a first-rate team of war fighters." Lt. Col. Douglas Hall, 710th director of operations, said the exercise was a great learning experience. "We covered the entire gamut of deployment, execution and redeployment and really had a wonderful opportunity to wring out our processes," Colonel Hall said. "Our personnel quickly adapted to the battle rhythm and integrated themselves into their respective CAOC divisions."

To enhance the realism of the exercise, members of the 710th processed through a mobility line prior to the deployment. Mobility team chief Maj. Bryan Runion, who spearheaded the process, noted that "it went very well, exceeding our expectations. It showed how far we've come in only a year. The key was building a good working relationship with our active duty readiness counterparts in the 1<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing."

When the exercise commenced, members of the squadron's Combat Plans Division went to work developing the air tasking order, a critical document used to ensure participants are up to speed on every facet of the war. "I think we expertly, professionally and almost effortlessly integrated with our active-duty counterparts," said Lt. Col. Ronald Graves, strategy guidance team chief. "We showed up as unknowns and left as valuable contributors." "The CAOC is an extremely complex machine with many interwoven, working parts," said Colonel Hall. "Everyone has an essential job to perform to make the 72-hour air tasking order cycle flow smoothly." The squadron's Reservists were also responsible for collecting and analyzing data to provide up-to-the-minute information on location of enemy forces.

"For a fictitious scenario, the exercise had a fairly realistic feel, providing an opportunity to work through all of the processes we would encounter in an actual CAOC," said Maj. Tammy Woodruff, intel cell chief. The Reservists were extremely positive about their participation in the exercise. "I believe everyone came away from this experience with a real appreciation for our mission," said Tech. Sgt. Sheri Jordan. Maj. John Kuczka said he felt the exercise was just what he needed to be ready for war.

"The exercise simulated fighting a war against an enemy much better equipped and more powerful than any we've faced in the past 20 years," he said. "Work on the CAOC floor was intense. They kicked it up a notch and kept us hopping. All in all, it was a great experience, and the training was excellent." Joint Red Flag was the culmination of several small exercises the squadron conducted during its first year of existence. "The exercise provided a great opportunity for our squadron members to receive training in a robust CAOC environment," Colonel Graves said.

"Providing CAOC-trained war fighters is 'our bread and butter,' so this training opportunity was invaluable." As the 710th enters its second year of operations, the squadron is still recruiting new

members in almost every specialty. "After one year, we are over 60 percent manned," Colonel Mineo said. "We have several positions available for war fighters who want to advance their full-time and part-time careers in the operational level of war fighting." 2005

Tin City AFS, AK

Latitude: 65-34-32 N, Longitude: 168-00-38 W

Call Sign(s): Dragnet

710 Tin City AFS, AK FPS-3, FPS-20A FPS-93A; FPS-117 Apr-53 Originally known as Cape Prince of Wales because of its geographic location. FPS-20 installation in 1958 delayed due to tramway weight limitations. The AN/FPS-117 radar installed in the summer of 1984; now considered a Long Range Radar Site (LRRS).

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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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.