

728 AIR CONTROL SQUADRON



MISSION

The 728 mission is focused around providing air control (radar) services for combat air operations. Officially, the 728th provides a mobile, combat rated, senior radar element of the Theater Air Control System for worldwide contingencies. Additionally the 728th provides combat and control of joint air operations by conducting surveillance identification, weapons control, battle management and theater communications data link.

LINEAGE

728 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 728 Tactical Control Squadron
Redesignated 728 Air Control Squadron
Inactivated, 17 May 2013

STATIONS

Turner AFB, Georgia
Pope AFB, NC, 2 Nov 1950-15 Jan 1951
Shaw AFB, SC, 12 Jun 1956-15 Aug 1977
Eglin AFB, FL, 15 Aug 1977

ASSIGNMENTS

MISSION EQUIPEMENT

TPS-75
TPS-43

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Randy Nelson, 2001
Lt Col Scot D. Shively, Aug 2003

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc parted per pale Celeste and Azure, issuing from base a demi-globe parted per pale of the field counter changed, gridlined Sable, supporting a stylized bat parted per pale of the third and Argent counter changed, his eyes as a radar of the fourth detailed of the third, langued Gules, in chief two lightning bolts Or; all within a narrow Black border. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "POISED FOR PEACE" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "728TH AIR CONTROL 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 two colors of the field represent day and night operations. The counterchanged globe symbolizes fair and foul weather. The counterchanged stylized bat signifies battle management functions of theater air defense during night and day, data link management, surveillance, identification and air battle execution. The bat's radar eyes represent the means to search the sky to accomplish tactical unit functions. The lightning bolts symbolize the high speed exchange of combat communications and fused data crucial to joint tactical operations.

MOTTO

Demons

OPERATIONS

After 62 years of operations, the 728th Air Control Squadron at Eglin AFB, Fla., completed its last mission and is now preparing for inactivation, announced base officials. Members of the unit provided communications and data to a four-ship sortie of F-35s from Eglin's 33rd Fighter Wing during the final mission on Jan. 31, according to the base's Feb. 7 release. "Talk about going out on top," said Lt. Col. Jon Rhone, 728th ACS commander, of supporting the F-35s. He added, "People will always remember our history, but they will also remember the last thing we did." Last year, Air Combat Command decided to stand down the squadron after receiving direction from Air Force leadership to reduce the number of US-based control and reporting centers from three to two. The squadron was assigned to Eglin from 1992 to 2008. Unit members are now carrying out inactivation procedures. The official inactivation ceremony is slated for May 17, 2013

Members of the 728th Air Control Squadron, the "Demons," held the unit's inactivation ceremony at Eglin AFB, Fla., according to a base release. The standdown took place on May 17, following the Air Force's decision last year to reduce the number of US-based control and reporting centers from three to two. "This does not mean the end of the 728th ACS or its legacy," said Col. Alexander Koven, commander of the 552nd Air Control Group, the squadron's parent organization, in the May 20 release. "The Demons on active duty will move to other squadrons where they can take the spirited skills they received here and apply them to new locations," he said. The squadron's 240 remaining members are slated to leave Eglin by year's end, states the release. Until then, they will function as a detachment of the 552nd ACG, which is based at Tinker AFB, Okla. The squadron, which traces its history back to 1950, was among the first units to operate radar in the Air Force, states the release. 2013

728th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron (ECM)
Donaldson AFB (Greenville), South Carolina
Relocated: Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina
Redesignated: Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron (TAC)

Detachment 3
Langley AFB, Virginia (1956/1957)

USAF Unit Histories
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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.