

## 965 AIRBORNE AIR CONTROL SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 965 Airborne Air Control Squadron provides command and control support for all U.S. and allied aircraft that need it within their area of operation. Aircrews comprised of more than 18 members operate the E-3 Sentry to monitor the skies with its 30-foot rotating radar to relay important information.

The Sentry is comprised of four sections. Together, they run the airborne warning and control system. The four sections are made up of flight deck members, technicians, controllers and the surveillance team. Members of the flight deck are responsible for the overall conduct of flight operations and placement of the aircraft. A team of technicians operate the aircraft mission systems and stand ready to repair any equipment that malfunctions during the flight. A surveillance team is constantly tracking everything on the radar and passes the most useful information to the controller team. Controllers are constantly communicating with other aircraft in order to make sure air traffic doesn't conflict with each other. They also provide guidance to fighter pilots and ensure tactical dominance is maintained.

### LINEAGE

595 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 29 Jan 1943

Activated, 16 Feb 1943

Inactivated, 1 May 1944

165 Liaison Squadron (Commando) constituted, 9 Aug 1944

Activated, 3 Sep 1944

Inactivated, 3 Nov 1945

965 Airborne Early Warning and Control Squadron, constituted 28 Apr 1955  
Activated, 8 Aug 1955  
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1971  
Redesignated 965 Airborne Warning and Control Squadron, 28 Feb 1978  
Activated, 1 Jul 1978

595 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 165 Liaison Squadron (Commando) and 965 Airborne Warning and Control Squadron consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retains 965 Airborne Warning and Control Squadron designation

Redesignated 965 Airborne Air Control Squadron, 1 Jul 1994

### **STATIONS**

Mountain Home, AAfld, ID, 16 Feb 1943  
Moses Lake AAB, WA, 10 Apr 1943  
Drew Field, FL, 5 Nov 1943–1 May 1944  
Asansol, India, 3 Sep 1944  
Tamu, Burma, 14 Oct 1944  
Yazagyo, Burma, 6 Nov 1944  
Asansol, India, 27 Nov 1944  
Kawlin, Burma, 28 Dec 1944 (detachment operated from Inbaung, Burma, 3–22 Jan 1945)  
Ye-U, Burma, 10 Jan 1945  
Shwebo, Burma, 22 Jan 1945  
Asansol, India, 21 Feb 1945  
Sinthe, Burma, 14 Mar 1945  
Asansol, India, 25 Apr–6 Oct 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 1–3 Nov 1945  
McClellan AFB, CA, 8 Aug 1955–30 Jun 1971  
Tinker AFB, OK, 1 Jul 1978

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

396 Bombardment Group, 16 Feb 1943–1 May 1944  
1 Air Commando Group, 3 Sep 1944–3 Nov 1945  
552 Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing, 8 Aug 1955–30 Jun 1971  
552 Airborne Warning and Control Wing (later, 552 Airborne Warning and Control Division; 552 Airborne Warning and Control Wing; 552 Air Control Wing), 1 Jul 1978  
552 Operations Group, 29 May 1992

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1943–1944  
C-64, 1944–1945  
L-5, 1944–1945  
RC-121, 1955–1963  
EC-121, 1963–1971

E-3, 1978–1979, 1984

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Charles S. Reed, #1957

LTC Robert A. Nuanes, 1 Jun 2001

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

India-Burma

Central Burma

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

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

Panama, 1989–1990

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jul 1969–30 Jun 1970

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1961–30 Jun 1963

15 Apr 1965–1 Jul 1966

2 Jul 1966–1 Jul 1968

1 Jul 1970–30 Jun 1971

[1 Jan 1984]–30 Jun 1984

1 May 1985–30 Apr 1987

1 May 1987–30 Apr 1989

1 Dec 1989–1 Dec 1991

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966–28 Jun 1971

### **EMBLEM**



On a Blue disc edged with a narrow Black border, arising in base a Black mountain with three White peaks surmounted by an eagle in descent, (head, neck and tail feathers White, body, upper legs and beak Yellow, lower legs, eye, claws, and details Black) grasping a Yellow lightning bolt; in the top of the disc an arc of three White five-pointed stars. (Approved, 31 Jan 1979;

replaced emblem approved, 4 Sep 1956) Emblem designed by Lt Neutz.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **HONORS**

Operational training unit, Mar–Aug 1943; replacement training, Aug 1943–May 1944. Evacuation and light transport services for ground forces in Burma, 6 Oct 1944–23 Apr 1945. Long range surveillance, late 1950s. Rotated aircrews to Southeast Asia, c. 4 Apr 1965–c. Jun 1971. Not operational, c. Sep 1979–1 Jan 1984. Combat support in Panama, 20 Dec 1989–24 Jan 1990 and in Southwest Asia, 17 Jan–6 Mar 1991.

The 965 Airborne Early Warning and Control Squadron was activated on February 16, 1943 as the 595 Bombardment Squadron and from its participation in World War II carries two campaign streamers. These streamers are for the India-Burma campaign and for the Central Burma campaign. On August 8, 1955 it was designated as a unit of the 552 Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing, with headquarters at McClellan Air Force Base, Calif. The squadron, equipped with propeller-driven EC-121D Super Constellation aircraft, was a unit of the Aerospace Defense Command. It also flew TC-121 and C-121 aircraft.

The mission of the 965 Airborne Early Warning and Control Squadron included supporting Strategic Air Command and Military Airlift Command operations through airborne early warning and control and anti-submarine patrols.

From 1965 to 1971 the unit actively participated in the "Big Eye" (later "College Eye") task force in Southeast Asia. The squadron was inactivated June 30, 1971.

Redesignated the 965 Airborne Warning and Control Squadron, the unit was activated July 1, 1978, as the third E-3 operational squadron of the 552 Airborne Warning and Control Wing. Flying the E-3 Sentry aircraft, the squadron stood ready to provide early warning and command and control anytime it was needed, anywhere in the world. However, the unit was placed in a "without personnel and equipment" status Sept. 1, 1979, to more effectively employ 552 Airborne Warning and Control Wing resources.

The 965 AWACS was reestablished Jan. 1, 1984, due to increased commitments and taskings within the 552 Airborne Warning and Control Division.

Crew members from the unit rotate periodically in support of National Command Authority taskings, as well as taking part in various composite force exercises throughout the world such as Red/Green Flag.

On July 1, 1994 the squadron name was changed from the 965 Airborne Warning And Control Squadron to its present designation.

The E-3 has become an instrument of national foreign policy because of its ability to go anywhere in the world on short notice without itself introducing weapons into the situation. The crews of the 965 AACS stand ready to deploy at any time should the need arise

24 November 2004 – Members of the 552 ACW deployed to Manta, Ecuador in South America. The 965 AACS flew the first missions in this war against drugs. The initial plan was to rotate one or more E-3s and support personnel in and out of Ecuador every 60 days in support of civil law enforcement's effort of stopping the flow of illegal drugs from Latin America into the United States and Canada.

15 November 2004 – 12th Air Force (12 AF) activated the 965 Expeditionary Airborne Air Control Squadron (EAACS) in support of the President of the United States' (POTUS) attendance at the Asian-Pacific Economic Coordination Conference in Santiago, Chile. Lieutenant Colonel Gregory M. Guillot served as Detachment Commander for the deployment.

Three aircraft and 159 personnel deployed from the 965, 960th and the wing's reserve component, the 970 AACS. The 965 EAACS met all military objectives during the first E-3 deployment to Santiago, Chile. On 23 November 2004, the squadron redeployed to home station.

28 Aug 2008 - 9 Jan 2009 – The 965 AACs deployed to ADAB in support of OIF taskings. The 965 AACS flew 178 Sorties for a total of 1903.7 hours during this deployment.

2 Sep 2009 - Members of the 960 AACS and 552 MXG deployed to ADAB in support of AFCENT taskings.

3 Jan 2010 - Members of the 965 AACS and 552 MXG deployed to ADAB in support of AFCENT taskings.

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Air Force 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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *552 Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing. 1957.*