

# 1 AIR AND SPACE COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS SQUADRON



## **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

The 2063 Communications Squadron designated and organized, 1 Jul 1962  
Redesignated 2063 Communications Group, 1 Nov 1970  
Redesignated 2063 Communications Squadron, 1 Apr 1973  
Redesignated 2063 Information Systems Squadron, 1 Oct 1984  
Redesignated 2063 Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 1986  
Redesignated 7100 Communications Squadron, 1 May 1991  
Inactivated, 1 Jun 1993  
Redesignated 1 Air and Space Communications Operations Squadron, 5 May 2003  
Activated, 22 May 2003

### **STATIONS**

Lindsey AS, Germany, 1 Jul 1962-1 Jun 1993  
Ramstein AB, Germany, 22 May 2003

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

Central European Communications Region  
European Communications Area (later, European Communications Division; European Information Systems Division; European Communications Division), 30 Jun 1972  
2005 Communications Group (later, 2005 Information Systems Group; 2005 Information Systems Wing; 2005 Communications Wing), 1 Apr 1983  
7100 Combat Support Wing, 1 Oct 1990-1 Jun 1993

USAFE Air and Space Communications Group, 22 May 2003  
86 Air and Space Communications Group, 1 Sep 2004  
435 Air and Space  
Communications Group, 16 Jul 2009  
86 Air and Space Communications Group, 1 Sep 2004  
435 Air and Space Communications Group, 16 Jul 2009

## **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Joseph D. Koger, 1962  
Lt Col Dean F. Bengston, 1964  
Maj Joe T. Billman, 21 Nov 1966  
Col Darvin L. Trout, 1968  
Col Lloyd P. Anna,  
Maj William J. McGrath (Interim), 1973  
Maj Gabriel A. Pons, 8 Aug 1973  
Maj William J. McGrath, 15 Dec 1974  
Maj David L. Viau, Jul 1975  
Maj G. Weltin,  
Col Frank K. Purdy, Jr., 22 Apr 1982  
Maj Richard J. Patterson, 5 Jun 1984  
Lt Col Joel E. Shepard, 28 Jun 1985  
Maj Melvin D. Flack, 8 Jul 1987  
Maj Porter B. Clapp, Jr., 2 Jul 1990  
Lt Col Jessica Haugland

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jan 1977-31 Dec 1977  
1 Jan 1978-31 Dec 1978  
1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device  
15 Jan 2004-31 Oct 2005

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation  
(Apollo Manned Space Flight) 1 Jul 1967-22 Jul 1969

## Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan-31 Dec 1977

1 Jan-31 Dec 1978

1 Jan 1985-31 May 1986

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 1991-31 May 1993

1 Nov 2005-31 Dec 2006

1 Jan-31 Dec 2007

1 Jan-31 Dec 2008

16 Jul 2009-31 Dec 2010

1 Jan-31 Dec 2011

## EMBLEM



2063 Information Systems Squadron patch: The three fleur-de-lis symbolize the squadron's close association with the City of Wiesbaden, Germany. The lightning bolt represents the power of communications: the squadron's base mission. The tower represents a landmark in Wiesbaden.



2063 Communications Squadron patch



1 Air and Space Communications Operations Squadron emblem: on a disc Azure, issuing from sinister chief an American bald eagle stooping Proper, its feet emitting three lightning flashes arcing toward dexter base Or, the two outside flashes surmounted by the wing tips and all three flashes depressing a demi-globe in dexter base tilting bendwise Vert, gridlined Sable; all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "1ST ASCOS" 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 signifies the worldwide scope of the unit's mission. The eagle is symbolic of our nation and its freedom. The eagle has lightning flashes emitting from its talons, significant of the communications capabilities and command and control the unit has within the Major Command. (Approved, 5 Aug 2003)

**MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

AFNEWS, 13 DEC 2023 By Senior Airman Madelyn Keech 86th Airlift Wing Public Affairs- Ramstein Air Base has a long history, with many supporting units ensuring the mission gets done. The 1st Air and Space Communications Operations Squadron is one of those units. From July 1962 - June 1993 the 2063rd Communications Squadron, out of Lindsey Air Station in Wiesbaden, Germany, provided secure communications support to commanders spanning across NATO. The squadron was later reactivated in May 2003, reassigned to Ramstein AB and given the name it still honors today.

As the only ACOS in the Air Force, the 1st has supported the 435th Air Ground Operations Wing since their redesignation in 2009 by enabling integrated theater air operations, while also ensuring the ACOS mission is executed effectively. "Our mission is simple - deliver and defend enterprise and tactical C5ISR capabilities to enable the kill chain, anytime, anywhere," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Phillip Alvarez, 1st ACOS commander. "This is the importance of the squadron; it brings intelligence to the fight." Command, control, communications, computers, coalition, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C5ISR) technology enables the warfighter to gain information dominance and decisive lethality, Alvarez explained. "It's the 'nervous system' of the military, a collection of systems when used collectively to enable the "muscle" side of the military; weapon systems, platforms and troops," Alvarez said.

The ACOS is divided into five sections to comprehensively accomplish their mission: global command and control systems, infrastructure, joint worldwide intelligence communications systems, security, and the theater network operations center. These sections synchronize to complete C5ISR capabilities within the U.S. Air Forces in Europe - Air Forces Africa, U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command, and U.S. Air Forces Central Command areas of responsibility. "The effectiveness of airpower depends on Airmen ensuring assets are employed efficiently and effectively to achieve commander's intent," said Chief Master Sgt. Brian Herre, 1st ACOS senior enlisted leader, referencing the Air Force Doctrine Publication 1-1. "Operations in denied, degraded and disrupted environments require flexible and adaptive Airmen who maintain unity of effort by exercising the philosophy of mission command, based on trust, shared awareness and shared intent."

Shared intent, trust and innovation have propelled 1st ACOS to the forefront of operations as an operational integrator. "When you combine the intelligence systems we provide, along with the ability to have situational awareness of the battlefield using global command and control and with BlackNet and coalition network support, you get the CJADC2 (Combined Joint All Domain Command and Control) the warfighter needs" said Alvarez. Since July 2022, the 1st ACOS has had the official authority to operate their BlackNet, subsequently accelerating the U.S. Air and Space Force missions, and effectively applying the agile combat employment doctrine efforts supporting USAFE missions.

BlackNet is an all-network transport system capable of operating in all environments, Alvarez explained. After over 10 years in development, it has allowed 1st ACOS personnel to access the network in austere locations by combining methods of communication such as satellite, cell coverage, fiber optic or ethernet. "We started BlackNet based on a need to quickly provide Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance data to our most forward-based warfighters," Alvarez said. "What we found through the process is BlackNet is a gamechanger and epitomizes the prior Chief of Staff of the Air Force's call to accelerate change or lose. Expanding the use of

BlackNet for the DoD creates game changing potential to the way warfighters communicate, enabling new levels of connectivity and communication that were previously impossible. By leveraging a combination of technologies such as wireless networks, cloud computing, military satellites, commercial satellites and fiber networks, BlackNet can provide seamless connectivity and reliable, resilient communications even in contested or degraded environments.”

The 150 Airmen and DoD civilians who currently make up the ACOS team continue to show the world their desire to enhance and grow the Air and Space Forces capabilities. “Our ACOS family is made up of Airmen, Civilians and Contractors who maintain machine-like proficiency while at the same time innovating for the future. While BlackNet provides the reliable and resilient transport, our enterprise rights and capabilities, network operations center, global command and control systems and partner integration are our core capabilities. To see the various capabilities of our squadron coalesce into a unit capable of creating Air Force level change and enabling the joint warfighter with CJADC2 is truly a testament to their work and dedication” said Alvarez.

In its 61 years as a squadron, the teams’ dedication has earned them many awards including 11 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with a Combat ‘V’ Device, and a Navy Meritorious Unit Citation for its support during the Apollo Manned Space Flight Program. “I have the privilege of leading 150 of the world’s finest Airmen, civilians and contractors, and I am really focused on making sure that we take care of them and their families,” Alvarez said. “They are the biggest asset to the success of our mission.” Delivering on its slogan, “The Best Done Better,” the 1st ACOS uses teamwork and innovation to be flexible and achieve the mission to deliver, operate and defend C5ISR capabilities.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

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