

1st COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON



MISSION

The 1st Communications Construction Squadron performed maintenance and construction for all of Northeast Air Command which included Labrador and Greenland.

LINEAGE¹

1st Communications Construction Squadron

STATIONS

Griffiss AFB, New York

Pepperell AFB, Newfoundland, Canada

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Vincent R. Biondino

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

¹ Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS²

The linesman is the mainstay of the entire operation. The linesmen are composed of seven man crews, each crew led by a crew chief. The men dig holes for the new poles which are installed along the communication lines. Jack hammers as well as manual labor are employed in digging the holes. Conditions vary where these poles will be located. One day the linesmen will erect a pole in solid granite, while the next day they will put one up in waist-deep mud. When Conditions won't permit the actual digging of a hole, alternate plans of operation are put into effect. If the granite can't be moved by either jack hammer or just plain muscles, rock cribs are constructed to hold up the poles. A rock crib is built from short poles, placed around the bottom of the pole and then filled with rocks. As for the men themselves, they live in Jamesway huts. The structures, made of spun glass insulation covering a wooden frame, measure 16 by 16 by 8, have wooden floors and house an average of four to five men. Each Hut is equipped with electricity, an oil heating stove, wash basins for shaving and single folding beds. Shower units with hot water and washing machines are in separate buildings. Each camp also has three squad tents. One tent doubles as a dining hall and movie theater, the second serves as the kitchen and the third as the supply tent. Fishing and movies are about the most popular off-duty past times.

In addition to the linesmen, there are other men in the camps that form an integral part of the organization. Cooks prepare their meals on gasoline field ranges and can be expected to serve meals at any hour of the day, when the linesmen return from their job. Purifying water, spraying the camp site to rid the area of mosquitoes, and treatment of bumps and bruises are some of the duties on the medic on the job at the camp. Power generators, water pumps and maintenance of the speeders is the responsibility of the camp mechanic, while the camp supply man has the job of coordinating the supply needs and requesting delivery of the supplies by a certain date.

² Merritt B. Scharnweber. Website "*First Communications Construction Squadron in Newfoundland 1952 to 1954.*"