

1964 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

1964 Communications Squadron was designated and organized, 1 May 1962

Redesignated 1964 Communications Group, 1 Oct 1962

Redesignated 1964 Information Systems Group, 1 Oct 1984

Redesignated 1964 Communications Group, 1 Nov 1986

STATIONS

Tan Son Nhut Airfield (later, Tan Son Nhut AB), South Vietnam

Ramstein AB, West Germany, 28 Mar 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

Son Southeast Asia Communications Region

Pacific Communications Area, 30 Jun 1971

European Communications Area (later, European Communications Division; European Information Systems Division; European Communications Division), 28 Mar 1973

2005 Information Systems Wing (later 2005 Communications Wing), 1 Jul 1986

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Kenneth Keyte, 1 May 1962

Lt Col John M. O'Reilly, 23 Apr 1963

Col Gilbert H. Bertie, 28 Oct 1963

Col Erwin F. Matelski, 2 Dec 1964

Col Lewis L. Bradley, Jr., 7 Jan 1965

Col Charles Y. Shultz, Jr., 20 Jan 1966

Col Louis A. Raeke, Jr., 10 Dec 1966

Col James M. Neff, 1 Sep 1967
Col Howard R. McKendrick, 2 Aug 1968
Col Ivey J. Lewis, 9 Jul 1969
Col Joseph H. Weeks, 15 Mar 1970
Col Robert E. Sadler, 6 Jul 1970
Col Forrest K. Looney, 27 Jun 1971
Col Telford S. Eggleston, 16 Jun 1972
Lt Col John Paul Hyde, 10 Feb 1973
Lt Col Joseph W. Felock, 28 Feb 1973
Col Charles W. Flippo, 1973
Col Harley P. Roberts, 1975
Col William E. Winlemiller, 1977
LTC James L. Parker, 1 Nov 1978
Col Allen W. Gray, 20 Dec 1978
Col Kenneth R. Reiff, Jul 1980
Col Clarence R. Smith, 31 Jul 1982
Col Clarence J. Kelley, 2 Jul 1985
Col Joe B. Warren, 27 Jul 1987
Col Jack E. Stratford, Jr., 2 Sep 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Advisory
Vietnam Defense
Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
VN Air Offensive Phase II
VN Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air/Ground
VN Air Off, Phase IV
TET 69/Counteroffensive
VN Summer-Fall, 1969
VN Winter-Spring, 1970
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI
Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor

1 Jul 1964-30 Jun 1965

1 Jul 1965-30 Jun 1966

1 Jul 1966-30 Jun 1967

1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969

1 Jul 1969-30 June 1970

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1971-30 June 1972

1 Jul 1972-27 Mar 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1976-31 Dec 1976

1 Jan 1981-31 Dec 1982

Republic of Vietnam GC with palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM

The mailed fist holding the olive branch and supporting the representative elements of the unit mission is significant in that it represents our unit mission and its combat environment. The division of the emblem by ultramarine blue and golden yellow signifies that our mission goes on night and day. The red in the flight facility tower symbolizes brick and its solidity which is depicted in the color of the Defense Meteorological Satellite representing a solid and firm asset to the unit mission. The green olive branch represents our efforts to keep peace by providing the reins of command through communications. The microwave tower represent the unit's main mission, communications with the flight facilities tower being representative of the immense mission of air traffic control. The satellite represents our Defense Meteorological Satellite mission and our unit's capability for outer space communications. The rays emanating from the parabolic antenna atop the microwave tower are representative of the diverse and varied mission of the group. Each ray is symbolic of a specific unit mission; telephone, teletype, microwave, cryptographic/digital subscriber terminal element, secure voice communications, long range navigation, maintenance and operations of the communications mission in Federal Republic of Germany.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

1 May 1962, AFCS activated the 1964th Communications Squadron at Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam. Lt Col Kenneth Keyte was its first commander. In October, this unit was elevated to group level and was given responsibility for four detachments in Vietnam and two in Thailand. As air operations increased in Southeast Asia, and as it became apparent that extended use of

contingency gear was inefficient, efforts increased in 1963 to transfer most navigational aids and air traffic control facilities from the 1st Mobile Communications Group to the 1964th Communications Group.

Teletype circuits in Southeast Asia caused many problems in 1962 due to serious logistics deficiencies. Premature deployment of nonsupportable new equipment in the lush jungle environment resulted in poor performance. Lack of air conditioning for the sophisticated, heat-sensitive equipment and the general lack of proper supply support for all equipment added to these troubles. Despite this situation, however, the teletype centers operated by the 1964th Communications Group at Tan Son Nhut, South Vietnam, handled 1,775,000 messages in 1963.

During the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam in May 1973, the Air Force inactivated the 2135th CS, located at Ramstein AB, Germany, and activated the 1964th CG to preserve the heritage of this outstanding communications unit. Air Force Communications Command organized the unit as a type one group reporting directly to HQ European Communications Division. Since then, several significant administrative changes have occurred. AFCC reorganized 178 units in Europe on Oct. 1, 1984, to combine data automation with existing communications organizations. It named the new, combined unit at Ramstein the 1964th Information Systems Group.

On Jan. 1, 1986, AFCC further expanded the group to include the directorate of Combat Information Systems, European Information Systems division. The mission of the 1964th now included the Worldwide Military Command and Control System. Along with this merger came the realignment of the unit under the 2005th Information Systems Wing in July 1986.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 25 Jun 2021
Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Major Command history. A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage. Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.