

1972 COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

1972 Communications Squadron designated and organized, 20 Aug 1965

Redesignated HQ 1972 Information Systems Group, 1 Jan 1986

Redesignated 1972 Communications Group, 1 Nov 1986

STATIONS

Da Nang Airport, South Vietnam

Eglin AFB, Florida, 13 Mar 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

1964 Communications Group

Southern Communications Area, 13 Mar 1973

Continental Communications Division, 1 Jun 1981

Research & Acquisition Information Systems Division (later, Communications Division), 1 Jan 1986

COMMANDERS

Maj Dan Rose, 20 Aug 1965

Maj Hugh F. Sealer, 6 Oct 1965

Maj William M. Perry, 5 Nov 1965

Capt Robert S. Rayfield, 8 Aug 1967

Maj Everett G. Graves, 11 Aug 1966

Lt Col Marvin E. Nagel, 26 Jul 1967

Lt Col Richard D. Bottom, 13 Nov 1967

Maj Hugh McKelligott (Interim), 28 Sep 1968

Lt Col Alvers I. Singleton, 20 Oct 1968

Lt Col Wicklift H. Home, 17 Oct 1969

Lt Col Jack L. Timmins, 9 Jan 1970

Lt Col Roger C. Duke, Jr., 28 Dec 1970

Lt Col Charles E. Shepherd, 15 Jan 1971
Lt Col Clyde F. Bunch, 11 Jan 1972
Maj F. D. Gilbert, 30 Dec 1972
Lt Col J. Drew Coleman, Jr., 13 Mar 1973
Maj Richard N. Fleck, 29 Mar 1974
Maj Lawrence. G. Dapra, Jr., 8 Mar 1974
Lt Col Clarence R. Smith 24 Jun 1974
Lt Col Curtis A. Preston, 14 Aug 1980
Lt Col James D. Jones, Jr., 18 May 1984
Lt Col James Joste, 8 Aug 1986
Lt Col Anthony W. Bell, Jr., 9 Jul 1988
Col M. Gary Wilson, 11 Jul 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam Defense
Vietnam Air
Vietnam Air Offensive
VN Air Off, Phase II
VN Air Off, 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 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 Jun 1970
1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1971-30 Jun 1972
1 Jul 1972-27 Mar 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1975-31 Dec 1975
1 Jan 1976-31 Dec 1976
1 Jan 1980-31 Dec 1981
RVN GC w/P
1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM

The white clouds represent the highest form of maintenance formed. The ultramarine blue control tower is symbolic of flight facilities. The dark red lines are symbolic of cables beneath the ground, and of the blood spilled in Vietnam. The golden yellow lightning bolt represents the Communications-Electronic Branch while the white column represents the support of command and administration.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

During the peak war years in Southeast Asia, the 1972d shared with Bien Hoa and Tan Son Nhut ABs the honor of handling the most air traffic control operations in South Vietnam

Early in 1968, the United States Army mounted a major campaign in Southeast Asia, which required a massive airlift of troops and equipment to specified combat areas. To support communication requirements for this buildup, AFCS deployed portions of the 5th Mobile Communications Group to Southeast Asia on a temporary loan basis. The AFCS tradition of being the first in and the last out of combat areas was once again fulfilled during the Tet Offensive in January 1968. Since 1966, communicators from the 1st Mobile Communications Group had supported Special Forces and Marines at Khe Sanh. When the base came under attack early in 1968, AFCS communicators left only when the Marines abandoned the base for tactical reasons. Throughout the seige, a team from the group kept tactical air navigation equipment operating. When the facilities were destroyed during the heaviest enemy attacks, they were quickly replaced so that vital navigational aids for the critical airlift support to Khe Sanh was maintained. The highest military combat award for gallantry in action ever received by a member of AFCS, the Silver Star, was presented to SSgt Vernon Gentry, of the 1st Mobile Communications Group for actions at Khe Sahn in February and March, 1968. SSgt Gentry, an air traffic control team chief assigned to the 1972d Communications Squadron, exposed himself to hostile fire in an effort to keep vital navigational aids at Khe Sanh in operating condition.

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.