26 NETWORK OPERATIONS SQUADRON

MISSION

The 26 Network Operations Squadron (26 NOS) operates the Air Force portion of the Global Information Grid and provides computer network defense for the Air Force enterprise network. The squadron provides mission assurance to active duty, Reserve, and Guard forces through unfettered, unhampered, and unimpeded access to the Air Force unclassified and classified networks; and to enable mission assurance by diligently operating the Air Force enterprise gateway boundaries, providing the secure connectivity for predator missions, global satellite feeds, and battle planning for war operations and cyber defense, and providing situational awareness of critical Air Force networks and systems that allows precision bombing, strategic attack, and interdiction.

In addition to operating and defending the Air Force Enterprise Network Increment 1 (AFNET INC 1) Gateways, the 26 NOS provides command and control and computer defense for more than 250 locations, with more than 1,100 wide area network circuits supporting warfighting efforts while executing 24/7 sustainment of all Air Force active duty, Air Force Reserve, and Air National Guard Non-Secure Internet Protocol Router/ Secure Internet Protocol Router services.

With a team of more than 160 military, civilian, and contractor members, the 26th NOS is skilled in the areas of network operations, network security, and network support. The members provide cyber capabilities to the warfighters through operation, management, and defense of Air Force Gateways; directing day-to-day protection of Air Force global information grid networks; controlling and defending Air Force enterprise gateway boundaries; delivering cyber battlespace situational awareness; developing and executing countermeasures in response to hostile cyber attacks; analyzing AF GIG performance; issuing temporary network addresses and domains; and scheduling Air Force network maintenance.

The Authorized Service Interruptions Team serves as the focal point for ASI coordination between Air Force and outside agencies. The team provides daily situational awareness to leadership and Air Force organizations during the daily senior duty officer briefing. They schedule maintenance actions for AFNET INC 1 to include all actions affecting the 16 Air Force gateways and maintenance for all network service delivery points for the Air Force. The team acts as the focal point for outside agencies to include the Defense Information Systems Agency. The team monitors ASIs for more than 600 circuits and provides situational awareness for more than 200 mission assurance efforts.

The Boundary Protection Team provides boundary protection at the enterprise level. This team manages firewalls, Web proxies, proxy AV and load balancers at the AFNET INC 1 gateways. They also manage the boundary equipment for non-Air Force base global command and control system sites. Overall, the boundary protection team analyzes traffic, monitors for anomalies, identifies possible malicious activity, and provides situational awareness.

The Crew Operations Section includes 26th NOS crew commanders, operations controllers, and the Authorized Service Interruptions Team. The crew section is the focal point for 26th NOS operations. They are responsible for the management and direction of daily operations affecting over 600 circuits, 16 gateways, two IMS networks, and three local networks. Through the responsibility charged to the crew commander, they provide situational awareness to senior leadership on circuit outages, bandwidth utilization, ASIs, and the status of AFNET Inc 1 resources.

The Domain Name System Team manages Air Force-level DNS naming convention for the Air Force, maintains a name server record for all Air Force name servers in the af.mil zone and provides technical support for the Air Force domains and sub-domains. They handle the tactical Internet provider addressing assignments. The team provides ranges of Internet Protocol to warfighters to assist them in real-world emergencies, deployments and exercises.

The Enterprise Network Applications Team coordinates circuit upgrade requests with Air Force Network Integration Center Long Haul. ENAT provides network situational awareness by monitoring bandwidth utilization and network trends, providing commercial off-the-shelf software and locally developed tools and providing robust analysis reports for internal and external customers.

The Information Assurance Team constantly ensures the security posture of the Air Force networks to enable confidentiality, integrity, availability, non-repudiation, authentication in accordance with the 26th NOS mission. The IA team is also responsible for the certification and accreditation of the networks and circuits. In addition, the IA team is accountable for the execution and tracking of AFNetOps orders published by the 624th Operations Center.

The Project and Integration Group helps design, test, and implement new infrastructure for the Air Force Network. This group provides tier-3 engineering support for the 26th NOS. The

members of this group perform evaluations of new solutions and provide recommendations to appropriate personnel. Part of the 26th NOS gateway recovery team, this group must be ready to deploy at a moment's notice to any Air Force gateway to restore from any type of outage.

The Router Team monitors and maintains the service delivery points and service delivery systems on all Air Force active duty, Reserve and Guard bases as well as the 16 Air Force gateways on the Air Force networks. This team helps troubleshoot and resolve issues which deal with the sites connecting out through the AFNET Wide Area Network on a daily basis. They work jointly with the Integrated Network Operations and Security Centers. Additionally, the router team maintains a close working relationship with DISA for circuit issues and upgrades.

The Standards/Evaluation Team ensures operational training and operators meet Air Force and unit standards. Through scheduled and no-notice evaluations, standardization and evaluation identifies deficiencies in training, processes, and procedures. It works closely with operations training and crew operations to solve problems and streamline processes.

The System Administration Team manages approximately 650 systems across three networks in support of Air Force network operations. Utilizing enterprise network administration and monitoring tools, the team provides support minimizing downtime on the Air Force network and ensures all assets are operationally functional, secure and remain up to date. The system administration team is also responsible for developing custom software applications.

LINEAGE
1987 Communications Squadron designated and organized, 1 Jun 1966
Redesignated 1987 Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jan 1986
Redesignated 1987 Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 1986
Redesignated 3415 Communications Squadron, 1 Apr 1991
Inactivated, 28 Jun 1994
Redesignated 26 Network Operations Squadron, 11 Aug 2009
Activated, 18 Aug 2009

STATIONS
Nakhon Phanom RTAFB, Thailand, 1 Jun 1966
Lowry AFB, CO, 31 Oct 1975-28 Jun 1994
Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex, AL, 18 Aug 2009

ASSIGNMENTS
1974 Communications Group, 1 Jun 1966
Northern Communications Area (later, Continental Communications Division), 31 Oct 1975
Air Training Information Systems (later, Air Training Communications) Division, 1 Jan 1986
Lowry Technical Training Center, 1 Oct 1990
3415 Support Group, 1 Feb 1992-28 Jun 1994
26 Network Operations Group, 18 Aug 2009

COMMANDERS
Capt Edward J. Phenicie, 1 Jun 1966
Capt Stanley M. Lowry, 27aug1966
Maj Daniel F. Coogan, 11 Jul 1967
Lt Col Richard C. Mursch, 19oct 1967
Lt Col Roderick W. Coward, 4sep 1968
Maj Harry R. Stowe, Jr., 21 Jan 1969
Lt Col Charles A. Kovacs, 8 Jan 1970
Lt Col Peter K. Densmore, 13 Jan 1971
Lt Col Carl A. Meyer, 2 Jan 1972
Lt Col Paul J. Werner, 11 Jan 1973
Lt Col Antonio Ocampo, 13 Jan 1974
Lt Col Paul E. Brandt, 4 Jan 1975
Maj Roger L. Snyder, 1975
Cpt Perry M. Immerman, 20 Jun 1977
Maj Leslie G. H. Tripp, Jr., 1977
Lt Col Mark A. Hulburt, 1981
Lt Col George C. Hitt, 1982
Lt Col Michael H. Mount, 15aug1984
Lt Col Steve F. Stevens, 17oct 1984
Lt Col Gordon F. Jantz, 11 Jul 1986
Maj Billy D. Palmertree, 16 Mar 1989

HONORS
Service Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Presidential Unit Citation (Southeast Asia)
1 Nov 1968-1 May 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
22 Oct 1968-30 Jun 1970
1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970
1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971
1 Jul 1971-30 Jun 1972
1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973
1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2012

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1-30 Jun 1966
1 Jul 1967-30 Jun 1968
1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1969
1 Jan 1976-31 Dec 1977
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990
1 Oct 2012-30 Sep 2013
1 Oct 2013-30 Sep 2015

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards
1 Oct 1988-30 Sep 1989
1 Oct 1992-28 Jun 1994

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Jun 1966-28 Jan 1973.

EMBLEM

The golden yellow of the ring and scroll represents the quality of personnel in the Air Force and

in the squadron. The blue represents the sky, which is the main area of operation of the Air Force. The silver area in the lower area of the patch is a silhouette of Lowry AFB and the local area. This area and the towers represent the fact the 1987th Communications Squadron supports the Lowry Technical Training Center and Lowry AFB mission, as well as Air Force Accounting and Finance, Air Reserve Personnel Center and the surrounding areas. The mountains in the background symbolize the general location of the unit. (Approved, 19 Mar 1982; latest rendering, 1 Apr 2021.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS
Cyberspace Weapon System Fully Operational Air Force Intranet Control (AFINC) became the first cyberspace weapon system to reach full operational capability in early January. AFINC replaced and consolidated more than 100 regionally managed disparate Air Force network entry points into 16 centrally managed access points bolstering cyber defense and security. The 26th Network Operations Squadron, at Gunter Annex in Montgomery, Ala., serves as the "first line of defense" for the Air Force network, said Col. Pamela Woolley, commander of the 26th Cyberspace Operations Group. "The 26th NOS team is responsible for more than one billion firewall, web, and email blocks per week from suspicious and adversarial sources," she said. "Our network is under constant attack and it is a testament to the dedication of our 26th NOS team that our network reliability and traffic flow remains consistently high."2016