

89th COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The 89th Communications Squadron operates and maintains Senior Leader Command, Control, and Communications Systems in support of the President, Vice President, cabinet members, combatant commanders, senior leaders and Mobility Air Forces using the Executive Airborne Communications Network and the Government Network Operations Center. The squadron is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of the High Frequency Global Communication System used by senior leaders, government agencies, combatant commanders, and Mobility and Combat Air Forces around the world. The 89th Communications Squadron is the program manager for the Mystic Star program and operates the Chief of Staff of the Air Force's Information and Telecommunications System of the American Air Forces (SITFAA) network for 18 countries.

LINEAGE

89th Communications Squadron

STATIONS

Hanscom Field, MA, 27 Jun 1949-10 May 1951

Hanscom Field, MA, 14 Jun 1952-16 Nov 1957

Andrews AFB MD

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 2011-30 Jun 2012

EMBLEM

On a disc Celeste, a globe Azure gridlined Sable, encircled by a ring Argent debruised by a Pole Star in sinister chief Or, being grasped by a gauntlet assurgent from sinister base all Proper, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "RADIATING EXCELLENCE" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "89TH COMMUNICATIONS SQ" 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 mailed fist represents Air Force commanders who exercise command and control of aerospace forces and is oriented to the viewers' perspective. The globe is symbolic of the global operations of the unit in the aerospace arena. The orbiting star represents the command and control systems that the unit puts under the control of the Air Force commanders. The motto, "Radiating Excellence," captures the common theme of all unit command and control missions--to transmit information through radio frequency communications.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

6/9/2006 The Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency, commanded by Col. Kim M. Johnson, was realigned under the Air Force District of Washington Wednesday in a ceremony at Bolling. Maj. Gen. Robert L. Smolen, AFDW commander, served as the presiding official for the ceremony. "Today, the men and women of the Air Force District of Washington will observe the deactivation of the 11th Communications Squadron, the redesignation of the 89th Communications Squadron under the 89th Airlift Support Group (which will stand up June 19), the redesignation of the Air Force Pentagon Communications Agency under the Air Force District of Washington, and the subsequent activations of the 844th Communications Squadron and the 744th Communications Squadron," said General Smolen.

"Approximately nine months ago, we received additional guidance on the CSAF's (chief of staff of the Air Force's) vision for the AFDW. After several months of hard work the team developed a brief that sold itself to senior leadership. This communications vision is now a reality as a unit.

The challenge for all personnel in our new group is to take this opportunity and make a viable and meaningful asset providing beneficial information technology tools to the warfighter," said Colonel Johnson. The Air Force is looking for more resourceful and efficient ways to conduct business. By changing our mindset and behavior, we can define smarter ways to conduct business across the National Capitol Region, the colonel said.

According to AFDW officials AFPCA will serve as the AFDW's single communication and information service provider in the National Capital Region. Until now, these services were provided by AFPCA, the 89th Communications Squadron at Andrews AFB, Md., and the 11th Communications Squadron at Bolling. AFPCA is the Air Force lead agency for providing communications systems and services for Air Force headquarters, Office of the Secretary of Defense, the National Military Command Center and other agencies within the National Capital Region. AFPCA can trace its organizational lineage back to 1951. As part of the squadron activation portion of the ceremony, the 744th Communications Squadron at Andrews and the 844th Communications Squadron at the Pentagon were established. Lt. Col. Randy Robertson, former 89th CS commander, will serve as the new 744th CS commander. Mr. Paul Boland is the new executive director of the 844th CS. Mr. Boland previously served as the deputy commander of AFPCA.

The realignment of Air Force communications assets will result in a "single Air Force voice" whose main responsibility will be to work joint issues throughout the National Capital Region in support of the Global War on Terrorism, said General Smolen. This reorganization will increase communications reliability, survivability, information capabilities and user support. As a result of this, communications operations will be better by establishing unity of command, function and effort for day-to-day and contingency communications operations throughout the AFDW and Air Force National Capital Region's area of responsibility. "As a result of this reorganization, there will be enhanced network survivability as well as the enabling of seamless continuity of operations," said General Smolen. "It will eliminate redundancies and maximize interoperability and efficiencies."

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.