

PACIFIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

Pacific Communications Area
Pacific Communications Division

STATIONS

Hickam AFB, HI, 1 Dec 1974

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Gordon A. Blake, 15 Mar 1943
Col Wallace G. Smith, 1 Jun 1948
Col Charles B. Overacker, 1 Sep 1948
Col Frederick L. Moore, 23 Mar 1951
Col George M. Smith, 2 Mar 1952
Col Frederick L. Moore, 24 Mar 1952
Col Donald P. Graul, 18 May 1953
Col John B. Bestir, Jul 1957
Col Carl P. Waiter (Interim), 16 Jun 1958
Brig Gen Bernard M. Wootton, 23 Jul 1958
Col James H. Wainer, 15 Jun 1961

Col Samuel J. Whitsitt (Interim), 19 Jan 1963
Brig Gen Norman L. Peterson, 1 Apr 1963
Col Francis B. Morgan (Interim), 1 Apr 1965
Brig Gen Anthony T. Shtogren, 5 Jun 1965
Brig Gen Harold R. Johnson, 31 May 1968
Brig Gen George J. Iannacito, 8 Jul 1970
Brig Gen William R. Yost, 1 Mar 1974
Brig Gen William G. MacLaren Jr., 30 Jun 1975
Col Howard H. Smith, 15 Jun 1978
Brig Gen David E. Rippetoe, Jr., 12 Jul 1978
Col Samuel J. Greene, 1 Jun 1979
Col William M. Rainwater (Acting), 14 Jul 1981
Col David B. Bartholomew, 26 Jul 1981
Col Robert H Ludwig, 6 Jul 1982
Col Wayne E. Schramm, 4 Jun 1984
Col Richard B. Ensign, 30 Jun 1985
Col David J. Warren, 24 Jul 1987
Col Vincent Majkowski, 14 Jul 1989

HONORS

Service Streamers

Asiatic-Pacific Theater, Korea

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The emblem depicts the division's role in providing command and control communications for aerospace forces in the Pacific. The lightning bolt represents the division's capacity and determination to provide immediate communications for the United States' national command authority in the Pacific. The globe is representative of Air Force Communications Command's worldwide mission and Pacific Communications Division's interface with global communications networks and services. The North Star and Southern Cross represent the Northern and Southern hemispheres in which the division provides services and allude to the broad horizons which circumscribe the division's region of responsibility. Each of the four stars in the Southern Cross represents one of the four military services for which Pacific Communications Division provides communications support. The yellow and ultramarine blue are Air Force colors and further suggest the wealth of resources in the Pacific Region and the vast blue waters linking our shores.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The AACS history traces the function of providing communications services at Hickam by military personnel as far back as 1938 when Air Corps personnel of unidentified unit(s) operated the "Airways Radio Net" in cooperation with the Civil Aeronautics Authority (CAA). By March 1939 the "Net" was being controlled by the communications officer of the 18th Wing (later, 18th Bombardment Wing). The first identifiable "communications unit" established at Hickam was the Air Corps Detachment, Communications, Hawaii (constituted on 15 November 1940; activated on 1 January 1941; redesignated: 7th Air Corps Squadron, Communications [Regional Control) on 18 November 1941; 7th Airways Communications Squadron, Regional, on 10 October 1942; and 7th Army Airways Communications Squadron on 10 November 1943; disbanded on 15 May 1944). When activated, this unit was controlled by the Hawaiian Department. On 22 February 1943, the 7th Squadron was reassigned to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, under control of the Director of Communications. With the discontinuance of the Director of Communications, the squadron was reassigned to the Flight Control command on 4 May 1943, and finally to the Army Airways Communications System Wing (later, Army Airways Communications System) on 14 July 1943. In February 1944, the War Department informed the various air forces and commands of the AAF that the units then constituted and operating as permanent party overhead at AAF installations would be disbanded. Those units would be replaced by Army Air Forces Base Units, organized by the commanding generals of the various air forces and commands (the beginning of the MAJCOM-controlled units). These units were to be identified as numbered Army Air Forces Base Units with a parenthetical functional description immediately following the word "Unit." The 7th AAC Squadron was disbanded on 15 May 1944, The personnel of the 7th Squadron furnished the cadres for at least two units organized effective 15 May 1944: the 91st AAF Base Unit Section N (145th AACS Squadron) and the 91st AAF Base Unit, Section O (146th AACS Squadron). These units were assigned to the 91st AAF Base Unit, Section L (70th AACS Group). In July 1945 the 91st AAF Base Unit, Section S (HQ, 71st AACS Group) moved from New Caledonia to Hickam, and the 91st AAF Base Unit, Section M (HQ, 70th AACS Group) moved from Hickam to Guam. Section N (145th AACS Squadron) was reassigned to Section R (71st AACS Group). At the same time HQ AACS moved to replace lettered Sections with separate numbered AAF Base Units for the group and squadron level organizations. The 91st AAF Base Unit, Section N (145th AACS Squadron) was replaced by the 775th AAF Base Unit (145th AACS Squadron) on 20 July 1945. On 1 June 1948 the 145th AACS Squadron organized and replaced the 775 AAF Base Unit (145th AACS Squadron), which was subsequently discontinued on 3 June 1948. This organizational action was the beginning of the 1957th Communications Group.

The Pacific Communications Division was constituted/established as the Pacific Airways Communications Area on 22 February 1943 and activated 15 March 1943 at Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii, assigned to Army Air Forces. The Pacific Airways Communications Area was reassigned to the Flight Control Command on 4 May 1943 and to the Army Airways

Communications Service Wing 14 July 1943 through 15 May 1944, when it was disestablished.

The 7th Airways and Air Communications Service (hereafter, AACS) Wing was established on 14 May 1948; organized on 1 June 1948 at Tokyo, Japan, and assigned to Airways and Air Communications Service (later, AFCS, AFCC). The 7th AACS Wing redesignated 1808th AACS Wing on 1 October 1948. Location changed to Fuchu AS Japan 15 May 1956 and remained until 19 January 1957 when it moved to Wheeler AFB, Territory of Hawaii (later, Hawaii) 20 January 1957. Redesignated Pacific AACS Area on 1 November 1957 and Pacific Communications Area on 1 July 1961. Location changed to Hickam AFB, Hawaii, on 1 December 1974. Reestablished and consolidated 10 February 1981 with Pacific Communications Area. This consolidated establishment redesignated HQ Pacific Communications Division on 1 June 1981. HQ Pacific Communications Division redesignated HQ Pacific Information Systems Division 15 August 1984 and back to HQ Pacific Communications Division 1 November 1986.

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES: Began operating as an area on an unofficial basis in December 1942, but officially from 15 March 1943. While only ten AACS stations were in the Pacific area in January 1943, this number increased tremendously as the war expanded into new areas requiring AACS facilities and services. The Area and its squadrons (each operating an airways communications region) were replaced in mid-May 1944 by the 91st Army Air Forces Base Unit. After replacing the 91st Air Force Base Unit on 1 June 1948, the 7th (soon, 1808th) AACS Wing endured many months of trying to provide essential air traffic control and communications services and navigational-aids facilities and services with too few people, many of whom were inadequately trained. The wing's last people and equipment withdrew from China (Shanghai) in April 1949. The Korean war, beginning in late June 1950, brought an influx of personnel and new facilities to Korea and elsewhere, and many of these facilities were required to operate 24 hours daily. The 1809th AACS Group initially absorbed the Korean workload, but in July 1951 a new group (the 1818th) was formed for Korean operations. Wing strength declined again after hostilities ended in Korea, but improvements in communications, air traffic control, and navigational-aids facilities and services continued. Beginning 4 December 1956, when an advanced echelon moved, and continuing through May 1957, when final echelons moved, the wing shifted its primary base of operations from Japan to Hawaii. Shortly thereafter, the wing was redesignated as the Pacific AACS Area, and the group based in Japan became the Far East AACS Region. The Area began assuming responsibility for operating and maintaining PACAF base communications facilities and services in 1959, and on 1 January 1962 the Area and its major units assumed C-E staff functions for PACAF and that command's primary tactical forces. Increased communications requirements began to emerge in Southeast Asia in 1961, and on 8 January 1962 the Southeast Asia Communications Region was established to control operations in that area. The Pacific Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency Region was absorbed by Pacific Communications Area in May 1970, giving the Area new responsibilities for pre-engineering, facility installation engineering, and installation of C-E and meteorological facilities throughout the Pacific. In 1971 and 1972 several reorganizations of the Area resulted in the inactivation of the Southeast Asia Communications Region and Far East Communications

Region, and the creation of new groups to handle the Area's far-flung communications responsibilities. In February 1981 the World War II Pacific Airways Communications Area and the existing Pacific Communications Area were consolidated into a single establishment which, on 1 June 1981, was redesignated Pacific Communications Division.

Between 1971 and 1973, AFCS eliminated its regions, or intermediate headquarters organizations, in compliance with continuing Air Force budget austerity. When Headquarters AFCS inactivated the 9th and 12th Tactical Communications Regions, all their groups and squadrons, henceforth, reported directly to the Tactical Communications Area headquarters, making that organization similar to the Northern and Southern Communications Areas. The Alaska Communications Region was inactivated and its activities were assumed by the 1931st Communications Group, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska. Even though the Pacific Communications Area remained the largest AFCS organization, its two subordinate regions were also inactivated and its groups assumed some of the intermediate headquarters functions. Finally, the four regions reporting to the European Communications Area were eliminated and the groups and squadrons reported directly to the area headquarters. Eventually, this consolidation saved several hundred manpower spaces since only a few expanded support staff spaces were required to provide the necessary communications-electronics support to a particular command headquarters or base organization which an AFCS unit served. With this reorganization, the command structure had four echelons: headquarters at Richards-Gebaur AFB, areas reporting to the command headquarters, groups and squadrons that reported to areas and command headquarters, and squadrons, detachments and operating locations that reported to any of the first three echelons.

Continental Communications Division headquartered at Griffiss AFB, New York, and a new Engineering Installation Center with its headquarters at Oklahoma City AFS, Oklahoma. At the same time, the ground communications-electronics installation equipment, or scheme warehouse, and the scheme management functions were consolidated at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, while the 1815th Test Squadron moved from Scott AFB, Illinois, to Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The 1931st Communications Group in Alaska was realigned from Headquarters AFCC to the Continental Communications Division. As part of the reorganization, the Strategic Communications Area, the Tactical Communications Area, the European Communications Area, and the Pacific Communications Area were all redesignated divisions to conform to the new structure better suited to meet the envisioned needs, advanced technology, and complexity of the eighties.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.