

HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

Strategic Communications Area
Strategic Communications Division

STATIONS

Offutt AFB, NE, Jun 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Bernard M. Wooton, 1 Jun 1948
Col Robert W. Griffin, 1 Nov 1948
Lt Col Wayne E. Jones, 10 Jul 1950
Col Casper R. Offringa, Oct 1952
Col Edwin L. Wood, 20 Nov 1954
Col Emory F. Kelly, 1 Feb 1957
Col Thew J. Ice, Jr., 11 Aug 1958
Col Guy H. Rockey, 31 Jul 1961
Col Elmo A. Elliott (Interim), 15 Jun 1963
Col David S. Woods, 1 Jul 1963

Col Raymond K. Childress (Interim), 19 Jul 1965
Col Charles U. Brombach, 2 Aug 1965
Col Nelson S. Brooks, 1 May 1968
Col James M. Neff, 1 Sep 1968
Col Gerald L. Prather, 1 Jul 1976
Brig Gen John T. Randerson, 18 Jul 1977
Brig Gen John T. Stihl, 28 Jul 1982
Col Robert H. Ludwig, 18 May 1984
Brig Gen Stancil L. Dilda, Jr., 26 Aug 1986

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The Strategic Communications Division is tasked with providing communications support to the Strategic Air Command. In doing so, the Strategic Communications Division must provide Strategic Air Command with communications around the world, as represented by the globe; with the utmost of speed, as represented by the lightning bolts. Strategic Air Command bombers and the missile fleet must have the most modern and effective means of communications to launch their weapons systems. The division fulfills this requirement by providing communications support with the full range of available systems including earth orbiting satellites.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Established as 51st Airways and Air Communications Service Group on 14 May 1948. Organized at Hamilton AFB, California, on 1 June 1948, and assigned to 1st AACS Wing (later, 1800th AACS Wing; Continental AACS Area). Redesignated 1801st AACS Group, 1 October 1948; redesignated Western AACS Region, 1 November 1957. Reassigned to Airways and Air Communications Service (later, Air Force Communications Service) and redesignated Western Communications Region, 1 July 1961. Inactivated on 1 May 1970. Consolidated 10 February 1981 with Strategic Communications Area (established as Strategic Communications Area on 2 April 1976; activated on 30 June 1976) at Offutt AFB, Nebraska, and assigned to Air Force Communications Service (later, Air Force Communications Command). Consolidated establishment redesignated Strategic Communications Division, 1 June 1981. Redesignated HQ Strategic Information Systems Division 6 July 1984, and redesignated back to Strategic Communications Division on 1 November 1986.

The 51st (soon, 1801st AACS Group replaced the 701st Air Force Base Unit at Hamilton AFB, California. on 1 June 1948. It operated and maintained communications and navigational aids at squadron and detachment locations throughout the western United States and performed air traffic control there as well. The group performed flight service operations at Hamilton AFB from April 1957 to February 1961, operated and maintained base communications at many non-SAC bases beginning early in 1962, and performed flight-checking operations from June 1948 to September 1949 and from July 1953 to March 1963. It underwent numerous reorganizations and realignments of its geographical area during its active life. It became Western AACS Region in November 1957 and Western Communications Region in July 1961. Inactivated on 1 May 1970 following another AFCS reorganization. At that time most of its units were absorbed by the new Northern and Southern Communications Area, with the region headquarters staff being absorbed by Detachment 3, Headquarters, Northern Communications Area.

Strategic Communications Area activated in June 1976 when AI-CS assumed full responsibility for SAC communications support. AFCS units at 13 SAC-hosted bases transferred to the new Area. At 14 other bases communications groups and squadrons, until then operated by SAC, transferred to the new Area.

The new Area's field structure paralleled that of SAC's, with AFCS commanders serving as communications- electronics officers on the SAC units' staffs. The Strategic Communications Area commander served in the dual role of Director of C-E, DOS/Operations. HQ SAC. The commanders of the Area's major units served on the staffs of SAC's numbered air forces and divisions, while communications squadron commanders served as C-E officers on the staffs of SAC wings.

The new Area provided "tailored" communications support for all SAC units, initially in the United States but later extending into overseas areas. The Area's components operated and maintained communications, electronics, air traffic control, and air-space management systems and the facilities required to support the global SAC role.

In February 1981 the Western Communications Region and Strategic Communications Area consolidated as a single establishment, with subsequent redesignation as Strategic Communications Division on 1 June 1981.

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.