

TACTICAL COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



MISSION

LINEAGE

Tactical Communications Region
Tactical Communications Area
Tactical Communications Division

STATIONS

Langley AFB, VA, 1 Jan 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj William L. Day, 26 Feb 1943
Lt Col John S. Anderson, 7 Jan 1944
Col Charles W. Gordon, 1 Jun 1948
Col Jess R. Guthrie, 30 Jun 1951
Col James D. Flashman, Jun 1953
Col Norman J. McGowan, 1 Aug 1955
Col Marshall H. Strickler, 13 Jul 1958
Col Albert J. Lacy, 13 Jan 1959
Not Manned, 16 Nov 1962
Col Francis B. Morgan, 1 Jan 1963

Col Joseph G. Buel (Interim), 4 Jun 1964
Col Sam L. Huey, 25 Jun 1964
Col William Donica, 18 Jul 1966
Col Charles E. Williams, Jr., 15 May 1969
Col George L. Madera (Interim), 14 Feb 1970
Col Ivey J. Lewis, 29 Mar 1970 (killed in plane crash, 17 Apr 1970)
Col Clifton S. Ridgway, 15 Jun 1970
Col John M. Bolger, 30 Aug 1971
Col Robert F. McCarthy, 8 Jul 1974
Col John P. Hyde, 7 Feb 1977
Col Ray G. Green, Jr. (Interim), 4 Aug 1980
Col Duncan W. Campbell, 25 Aug 1980
Col William L. Sickenberger, 11 Oct 1982
Col Albert J. Edmonds, 15 Jan 1985
Brig Gen Bruce J. Bohn, 24 Jun 1988

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater (World War II)

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The globe represents the Tactical Communications Division's global mission in support of Tactical Air Command. The stylized form over the globe represents an advanced aircraft entering the 21st century and the division's support of the Tactical Air Command's future. It also represents the forward movement of the division through professionalism and expertise into the 21st century, The lightning bolt represents the division's binding force between command and control.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Tactical Communications Division was established as the Northeastern Airways Communications Area on 22 February 1943, and activated at Presque Isle, Maine, 26 February 1943, assigned to Army Air Forces. The Northeastern Airways Communications Area was reassigned to the Flight Control Command on 4 May 1943, and on 14 July 1943 reassigned to the AACS Wing with a redesignation to North Atlantic Airways Communications Area on 6 November 1943. On 7 February 1944 the North Atlantic Airways Communications Area moved to Grenier Field, New Hampshire, and was disestablished on 15 May 1944. The 52d AACS

Group was established 14 May 1948 and organized at Mitchel AFB, New York, on 1 June 1948, assigned to 1st AACS Wing (later, 1800 AACS Wing; Continental AACS Area). The 52d AACS Group was redesignated the 1802d AACS Group 1 October 1948, redesignated the Northeastern AACS Region 1 November 1957, and on 8 May 1961 discontinued and inactivated. The Tactical Communications Region was established and activated on 16 November 1962, assigned to Air Force Communications Service (later, Air Force Communications Command). The region was organized at Langley AFB, Virginia, on 1 January 1963. The Tactical Communications Region was redesignated Tactical Communications Area 8 August 1967. On 10 February 1981, the Tactical Communications Area was reestablished/consolidated with the North Atlantic Airways Communications Service Region and Northeastern AACS Region, and on 1 June 1981 redesignated Tactical Communications Division. As a result of the automated data processing/communications merger, the Tactical Communications Division was redesignated Tactical Information Systems Division on 6 July 1984 and redesignated back to Tactical Communications Division on 1 November 1986.

On 1 October 1978, the abbreviation "TACCA" vice "TAC" for TAC Communications Area went into effect. The Tactical Communications Region was formed in 1963 as the first major communications organization with a "tailored" mission of supporting the communications needs of a single major command: TAC.

The Northeast (later, North Atlantic) Airways Communications Area formed in February 1943 to assume control over communications activity and facilities of the 8th, 15th, and 17th Airways Communications Regions. Stations were located in northeastern United States, eastern Canada, Greenland, Newfoundland, and Iceland. With the disbandment of the 15th Airways Communications Squadron in mid- December 1943, the area of the 15th Airways Communications Region, controlled by the squadron, was distributed to other regions, including the newly assigned 24th Region. Communications facilities and services spread across the Atlantic to Ireland and England, growing from 33 in February 1943 to 55 by January 1944. Area headquarters began moving from Presque Isle to Grenier on 17 December 1943 and officially transferred to the new base in February 1944. The 24th Region (and its operating squadron) transferred from the Area two days before the Area was disestablished on 15 May 1944, to be replaced by the 90th AAF Base Unit (6th AACS Wing).

The 52d AACS Group (later, 1802d AACS Group; Northeastern AACS Region) replaced the 702d Air Force Base Unit at Mitchel AFB, New York, on 1 June 1948. It provided operation and maintenance of communications and navigational aids at all squadrons and detachments within its sphere of influence, plus air traffic control and flight checking facilities. The establishment experienced several reorganizations during its lifetime, sometimes gaining and sometimes losing geographical area and units. By mid-1955, the group's major effort involved operation and maintenance of navigational aids. From 1957 to late 1960 it provided flight services at Olmsted AFB, Pennsylvania. A major reorganization in 1961 leading to the formation of Air Force Communications Service as a major command brought about the merger of the Northeastern AACS Region, primarily with the North Atlantic AACS Region except for units in the Carolinas, which passed to the Southeastern AACS Region. From 21

April to 8 May 1961, all but one of the region's units were under control of other regions; the single unit-1851st AACS Facilities Checking Flight—remained under Northeastern AACS Region control to 8 May 1961.

The Tactical Communications Region formed in 1963 as the first major communications organization with a "tailored" mission of supporting the communications needs of a single major command: TAC. The structure of the region (later, area) thus paralleled the field structure of TAC, whose units received the benefits of the communications and navigational-aids facilities operated and maintained by the communications establishment. The establishment commander also served in a dual role as the Headquarters TAC Deputy for Communications and Electronics, and thus exercised control over certain tactical control, aircraft control and warning, and similar tactical support units not a part of the Tactical Communications Region (later, Area). In the dual role, the establishment commander and his staff also played key roles in major TAC operations, exercises, and activities such as the movement of tactical forces to the Dominican Republic in 1965-1966.

From January 1963 until August 1967, the two numbered air forces of TAC (Ninth and Twelfth) were supported by "Deputy Region Offices" at Shaw AFB, South Carolina, and Bergstrom AFB, Texas. From August 1967 to June 1971, the area had two subordinate communications regions-9th and 12th—to support these numbered air forces: but in June 1971, the regions were replaced by detachments of the area headquarters and the area resumed direct control of all of its components.

In addition to its support of regular TAC forces, the area assumed training responsibility in 1 May 1966 for all Air National Guard mobile communications and mobile flight facilities in the United States. Several such ANG units were assigned to the area during 1968-1969 following a mobilization in response to the seizure of the USS Pueblo by North Korea. In February 1981, the North Atlantic Airways Communications Area, the Northeastern AACS Region, and Tactical Communications Area were consolidated into a single organization which subsequently, on 1 June 1981, was redesignated Tactical Communications Division

On 1 January 1963, AFCS activated its first organization that provided direct support to an individual command when it established the Tactical Communications Region with headquarters at Langley AFB, Virginia. This new region assumed responsibility for the operation and maintenance of all fixed base ground communications, air traffic control, and navigational aids to support the operation of the Tactical Air Command. The formation of this region marked the end of the rapid, phased growth of AFCS and the command paused to consolidate its gains.

On 1 July 1963, in an effort to simplify internal command channels, reduce the number of intermediate contact points, and lower costs, AFCS deactivated three of its communication regions located within the United States: the Midwestern, Southeastern, and Southwestern Regions. The command also redesignated the North Atlantic Region as the Eastern Region and

the Continental Region became the Central Region. Five years later, on 1 July 1968, AFCS redesignated its European, Africa, and Mid East Areas as the European Communications Area.

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.