

170th OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



LINEAGE

STATIONS

Offutt AFB, NE

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt. Col. Mark White

Lt. Col. Tami S. Thompson

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, parted per chevron reversed Gules, an eagle's head couped at the shoulder affronté Sable, crowned Argent, beak and eyes Or, pupil of the second debruised by two lightning bolts descendant from chief Yellow, terminating to center of a globe of the third, gridlined Silver Gray and between ten mullets of the fourth, five in dexter and five in sinister, arcing to base, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached below the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "170TH OPS SPT SQ" in Yellow letters.

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 lightning bolts emitting from the globe represent the global electronics warfare and intelligence mission of the unit. Two sets of five stars indicate the importance of the mission and the Squadron's association with the 55th Wing. The bald eagle, our national symbol, is indicative of power and alertness, two key elements of the unit's mission.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Activated, 2005 The Nebraska Air National Guard has established two additional units at Offutt AFB, Neb. The Headquarters 170th Group and 238th Combat Training Squadron were activated in July 2007 to support the active duty 55th Wing at the base. The 55th flies RC-135 and conducts intelligence-surveillance-reconnaissance missions. The new units join Offutt's 170th Operations Support Squadron (ANG), which was created in 2005.

On January 7, 2005, the Nebraska Air Guard once again made history with the official federal recognition of the new 170th Operations Support Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., the first Nebraska Air Guard unit to be activated outside of Lincoln. The new unit has an authorized strength of 80 Airmen who are responsible for training new crew members and supporting the flying operations of the 55th Wing, the largest wing in Air Combat Command. The 170th is the first of its kind – an associate unit supporting an active duty combat wing.

2007 Nebraska Air National Guard's presence at Offutt Air Force Base is about to receive an organizational boost. In a ceremony tentatively scheduled for July 6, the Air National Guard will activate the new 170th Group Headquarters and 238th Combat Training Squadron as part of the Nebraska Air National Guard. The units will join the 170th Operations Support Squadron, which has been operating at Offutt AFB as part of the 55th Wing, Air Combat Command's largest wing. The 170th OSS was the first Air Guard unit to associate with an active duty ACC wing. According to Col. Rick Evans, commander of the 170th OSS, the activations are part of an Air Force and Air National Guard goal to align Air Guard units directly with active duty Air Force organizations and to better position Air Guard personnel in units compatible with their federal missions. Evans said the activation of two additional units at Offutt AFB speaks volumes about the relationship that has been built between the Nebraska Air Guard and the 55th Wing in just a few years. "The 55th Wing is the Air Force's premier integrated wing," said Evans. "It employs members from all three military components of the Air Force: active duty, Guard and Reserve. In addition, Offutt Air Force Base has a large population of Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors who are part of the daily operations of the base and wing." "The 55th Wing has welcomed the Nebraska Air Guard as a mission partner and the relationship we have with them is solid and beneficial to both parties," Evans said. As part of the activation and reorganization of the Air Guard at Offutt, the 170th OSS will be separated into three units, said Evans. The 170th OSS will remain to organize Air Guard personnel performing such operations support activities as airfield management, flight records, scheduling, current operations and plans. The 238th CTS will be activated to organize Air

Guard personnel who are responsible for providing formal flying training to active duty and Air Guard crew members flying the OC-135, RC-135 and WC-135 aircraft assigned to the 55th Wing. The 170th Group headquarters will be activated to provide the command element for and administrative support to the two Air Guard squadrons and all Air Guard members assigned to Offutt AFB. Evans said that in order to create the new unit, the Air Force is reactivating the 170th Air Refueling Group formerly of the New Jersey Air Guard and redesignating it as the 170th Group assigned to the Nebraska Air Guard. Evans said the activations and reorganization will not result in a change of numbers of Air Guard members assigned to Offutt AFB. "This change is a realignment of our existing personnel at Offutt Air Force Base along functional lines, not a major shift in the Concept of Operations for what we actually do," Evans said. "Instead of being assigned to only one unit, our billets and people will now be split among three units." "The overall mission of the units and their members remains the same: to support the 55th Wing's global treaty verification, command and control, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance." 2007

2007 OFFUTT Air Force Base, Neb., got a boost July 6 when the state activated two new Air Guard units at Offutt AFB. In a ceremony scheduled held at the Patriot Club's Main Ballroom, Maj. Gen. Roger Lempke, adjutant general for Nebraska, accepted the colors of the newly activated Headquarters, 170th Group, and the 238th Combat Training Squadron from Nebraska Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy as new Air Guard units supporting the active duty 55th Wing. The units joined the 170th Operations Support Squadron currently stationed at Offutt AFB, bringing the total number of Nebraska Air Guard units stationed at Offutt to three. According to Lempke the reorganization meets two Air Force goals. It aligns Air Guard units directly with the active duty Air Force organizations they operate and train with and it positions Air Guard personnel in units compatible with their federal missions. "The 55th Wing has welcomed the Nebraska Air Guard as a full mission partner and the relationship we have with them is rock solid and beneficial to some pretty critical Air Force missions," Lempke said. Lempke said even though the unit has only been at Offutt for a few short years, it has already contributed substantially to the 55th Wing's mission. He said the new organizations have been tailored to better work with their partner units at Offutt AFB and will build upon valuable relationships already established between the Guard and the 55th Wing. Taking command of the new 170th Group was Col. Richard J. Evans III, Lincoln, the current commander of the 170th OSS. "This change is a realignment of our existing personnel at Offutt Air Force Base along functional lines, not a major shift in the Concept of Operations for what we actually do," said Evans. "The overall mission of the units and their members remains the same: to support the 55th Wing's global treaty verification, command and control, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance," Evans said. The 170th Group will provide the command element for and administrative support to the Air Guard units and personnel assigned to Offutt AFB. The 170th Group was formerly assigned to the New Jersey ANG as the 170th Air Refueling Group. Replacing Col. Evans as commander of the 170th OSS is Lt. Col. Mark H White, Bellevue, a native of Indiana. White was previously the director of Operations for the unit and has been a member of the Nebraska Guard since 2002. The 170th OSS partners with the active duty 55th OSS to provide a full range of support to 55th Wing flying operations. Lt. Col. Roland T. Janzen, Omaha, became the first commander of the new 238th Combat Training Squadron. Janzen is a California native and a member of the Nebraska Air Guard since 2000.

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.