

# 202<sup>nd</sup> ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

202<sup>nd</sup> Communications Maintenance Squadron Organized, 7 Dec 1952

Redesignated 202<sup>nd</sup> Ground Electronic Engineering Installation Agency Squadron, 1 Nov 1966

Redesignated 202<sup>nd</sup> Electronics Installation Squadron, 19 Apr 1971

Redesignated 202<sup>nd</sup> Engineering Installation Squadron, 1982

## STATIONS

Macon, GA

## ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

1Lt Eldridge B. Chester, Oct

LTC George E. Smith, Dec 1952

LTC George W. Finison, Dec 1974

LTC William F. Kelsay, Nov 1981

LTC John D. Haughout, Aug 1985

LTC Tomas W. Batterman, Dec 1989

LTC Clyde E. Fulton, Dec 1993

LTC Mark C. Thomas, Mar 1998

LTC William E. Day III, Mar 2001

LTC Deborah Nazimiec, Sep 2003

Maj William A. Lipko 16 Oct 2005

**Lt. Col. Michael Rumsey**

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Units Awards

1978-1980

1990-1991

1993-1995

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

Global Technicians Anytime – Anywhere

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 202d Engineering Installation Squadron can mobilize to provide combat communication installation and support anywhere in the world. The unit provides its own in house Information Technology, Personnel, Vehicle Maintenance and Material Control functions. This outstanding team support ensures the squadron is ready to deploy when the time comes.

The unit supports all major commands and real world contingencies including United States Air Force Europe and CENTAF. The unit also responds to emergencies and natural disasters both overseas and throughout the United States.

In peacetime operations, the 202d supports more than nine Air National Guard Bases and 21 Geographically Separated Units (GSU) throughout the southeastern part of the United States. The unit deploys in small installation teams such as Ground Radio, Cable, Antenna Construction, Wideband and Staff Support Teams. At any given time the unit has 25 percent of its member deployed to various locations around the United States in support of on going installations.

The 8226th Air Base Squadron was organized at Cochran Field, Macon Georgia on 3 October 1952. The acting Commander was First Lieutenant Eldridge B. Chester, a WW II veteran. The first Non Commissioned Officer was Sergeant Dennis F. Thompson. Together, Lt Chester and Sergeant Thompson recruited nine enlisted men before the first Unit Training Assembly on 9 November 1952.

The 8226th Air Base Squadron was reorganized on 7 December 1952 and named the 202nd Communications Maintenance Squadron, commanded by Captain George E. Smith and First Sergeant, MSgt Earl C. Hunnicutt. The squadron was authorized 13 officers and 94 airmen. The unit attained full strength within one year. After helping get the unit off to a great start, Lt. Chester became the new squadron's first Operations Officer. Sergeant Thompson became the First Sergeant in 1956.

The first summer camp was held at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. Personnel were assigned to various electronics shops on base for training with the regular Air Force troops. Summer training encampments with the gaining command, Air Force Logistics Command were conducted at

Griffiss Air Force Base, New York during the years 1955-1960.

The unit was reorganized on 1 November 1966, and called the 202nd Ground Electronic Engineering Installation Agency Squadron (GEEIA) with personnel strength of 23 officers and 294 airmen. The officer strength was later reduced to 17.

On 19 Apr 1971 the unit was reorganized again and assigned to Air Force Communications Service (AFCS), with personnel strength of 14 officers and 252 airmen and became the 202d Electronics Installation Squadron.

In 1982, the 202d changed to its present name, 202d Engineering Installation Squadron. The unit's mission of engineering, installation, removal and relocation of Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) information systems has change slightly over the years.

In October 1993, the 202d Engineering Installation Squadron was assigned to Air Force Material Command and the Electronic Systems Center.

Today the unit has approximately 140 people in a variety of Air Force Specialty Codes including Ground Radio, Wideband, Cable, Antenna Construction, Engineering, Drafting, Workload, Logistics and Command Support.

During local training exercises known as Lightning Warrior and Peach Star the members of the 202d deployed to a variety of sites around the United States. These exercises mirror the actual real world deployment requirements of the 202d. Exercises allow the members the training opportunity to pack equipment and supplies as if they were deploying to some far off location around globe. The equipment is checked, loaded on the trucks and or aircraft for deployment to sites. Once in place the members of the group go about the business of what they do best, providing combat communications installations and support. These exercises are complete with scenarios the Guardsmen can possibly encounter during real world deployments including mock chemical attacks.

When the flood of the century devastated the Middle Georgia region in 1994 the 202d was called to State Active Duty. The members of the unit offered a helping hand by evacuating local residents, providing communications equipment to emergency personnel and delivering hundreds of thousands of gallons of drinking water to flood victims.

Supported the Olympics in Atlanta, received the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, 1996

In June 1998 members of the unit were called upon to deploy to Davis Monthan Air Force Base to install Combat Information Transport System. The three-month project was a total force effort involving, the active duty Air Force and Air National Guard. While at Davis Monthan, the 202d conducted a Peach Star exercise combining peacetime workload with Chemical Warfare Defense Readiness Training.

Participated in Hurricane Floyd preparation. 2000

The 202d Engineering Installation Squadron was presented its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award at ceremonies held on March 25, 2001 in the Air Museum. Major General David B. Poythress applauded the accomplishments of the Macon-based unit and attached the ceremonial streamer to the 202nd guidon. The awarding of the AFOUA was followed by an official change of command ceremony for the Macon-based Air Guard Squadron when Maj. William E. Day III replaced Lt. Col. Mark C. Thomas as Unit Commander. The 202nd Engineering Installation Squadron is cited for exceeding its mission requirements and standards in operations, training, production, and logistics and community service. Only two EIS units in the Air Force were selected for the prestigious unit award. The 202nd is the only Georgia Air National Guard unit to receive the AFOUA this year. Following the AFOUA ceremony, Lt. Col. Day, a 15-year veteran of the Georgia Air National Guard, who is a Systems Engineer for Lockheed Martin Corporation at the U.S. Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, formally assumed command. Maj. Day served on active duty with the Army from 1972 until his separation in 1979. He received his commission in May 1981 and was assigned as an Aerospace Instrumentation Engineer at the Air Force Geophysics Laboratory at Hanscom Air Force Base, Massachusetts. In October of 1985, he joined the Georgia Air National Guard's 129th Tactical Control Squadron in Kennesaw, GA. where he was an Air Weapons Controller until 1996. Major Day transferred to the 202d Engineering and Installation Squadron as Chief of the Engineering Branch prior to his selection as the 202d EIS Commander. 2002

2002 More than three hundred unit members, spouses, friends and alumni of the 202nd Electronic Installation Squadron in Macon joined with Georgia's Adjutant General and Mrs. Poythress and Maj. Gen. Wick Searcy and Mrs. Searcy in celebrating the unit's 50th anniversary. The gala ceremony was held amidst the backdrop of many classic aircraft at the Warner Robins Air Museum. Lt. Col. William E. Day, 202nd Commander presided over the formal dinner and the dance that followed. Maj. Gen. David Poythress was the guest speaker for the evening and applauded the unit for its long and distinguished history that included four Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards. Poythress told guests that the 202nd represented one of the nation's foremost EIS units and that its accomplishment parallels those of the Georgia Air National Guard. Gen. Poythress noted that the week began with the historic activation of the 116th Air Control Wing at Robins, the first "total force" wing in the Air Force, and ended with the historic celebration of the 202nd 50th Anniversary. More than fifty 202nd "alumni" were on hand to join in the celebration, including Staff Sergeant Sandra Calhoun, the first woman to enlist in the 202nd in 1972. Also, on hand was Technical Sergeant Judy Davis, the first female to retire from the 202nd.

Macon's 202nd Engineering Installation Squadron recently received real world training when its members assisted Byron, Ga., in restoring radio operations by repairing a portion of an emergency services antenna blown down by tornadic winds which whipped the area. The unit, based only 20 miles north of the small middle Georgia city, was already participating in an annual statewide hurricane response exercise, when Lt. Col. Deborah Nezimiec, 202nd commander, was notified that the unit should prepare to deploy to Byron. Following the initial call from the city, Georgia's Joint Operations Center obtained a quick set of approvals from the Adjutant General and Maj. Gen. Scott Hammond to assist the city. Once in the city, Air Guard

engineers surveyed the damage and made minor repairs and hardware adjustments to the antennas. They also began preparing the ground work for raising the downed tower. While only 80 feet of the 150-foot tower could be repaired, it provided a temporary solution that restored mobile radio capability for Byron. The 202nd's response, said Major William Lipko, the detachment commander of the 202nd underscores the ability of units to respond quickly along with resources and a high degree of expertise to an emergency situation. "We're glad to be able to help the local community in times of need, especially during natural disasters", said Lipko, "that's one of the reasons we're here." 2007

2011 The move was an emotional one for the 202nd Engineering Installation Squadron of the Georgia Air National Guard, which officially made Robins its new home Sept. 1. For the past 59 years, unit members had called the six-acre compound at the Middle Georgia Regional Airport home. Its facilities in Macon, which included a building dated from World War II, were a comfortable reminder of generations of memories. "We left a lot of history out there, but we got a serious upgrade," said Lt. Col. Bill Lipko, detachment commander. "We're here, and we love it." Lipko was referring to the squadron's new accommodations, currently in a move-in phase in the former 116<sup>th</sup> Air Control Wing headquarters. The move was the result of a 2005 BRAC announcement. Offices and work stations throughout the building are filled with dozens of boxes, equipment and furniture. Lipko estimated it can take up to a year for everything to be properly configured. If you're not familiar with the 202nd EIS – one of 16 such squadrons throughout ANG – its team of enlisted and officer engineers, drafting, cable and electronics professionals design and install communications infrastructure. A few of their duties include building antennas, towers, fiber optics, and surveillance, access control and intrusion detection systems anywhere in the world. Of the squadron's 111 current members, 42 are deployed fulfilling a six month requirement for both Joint Expeditionary and U.S. Air Forces Central Command taskings. Some will start coming home this month, with all due back by November. "The interesting thing that we're doing in our community – and for the first time in its history – is we're working for the Army," said Lipko. The 202nd is part of a rotation with two other Guard units currently in Afghanistan working alongside the Army's 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, Task Force Spartan. A total of 79 in this particular group, Task Force 300, are being led by the 202nd squadron commander, Lt. Col. Doug Walker. Although the unit has been deploying since Sept. 11, Lipko noted that working for the Army has opened up a new experience by being outside the wire at forward operating bases where attacks can happen at any time. "We're doing the same job we've always done, but in a different environment," he said. "Our Airmen attended the same Combat Skills Training as their Army counterparts prior to this deployment." Among its many roles, the 202nd takes care of communications infrastructure for 27 other locations, including 165<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing in Savannah, and ANG units in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Always active in the community, they also assisted with other Guard units during the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, the 1994 flood in Macon and Hurricane Katrina. In the last few years, a few interesting activities included establishing radio sites in Incirlik, Turkey, which helped extend communications for the airlift mission into Iraq, as well as building low-frequency antennas in the Azores, complete with 12 100-foot towers. Now settling into three locations at Robins – with its administrative wing in Bldg. 2078 work stations in one area sit empty. The squadron's entire section of drafting and engineering personnel is overseas. A multipurpose training room is teeming with furniture, cabinets, plaques, trophies, boxes overflowing with squadron memorabilia, and posters depicting photos dating to the 1950s. Lipko added that it can

take time to verbally communicate exactly what the squadron's many accomplishments and duties are, so plans are to help tell the 202nd story through pictures. He wants to make their new home a showcase just like it was at their old location. "We are transplanting our history. Those pictures really mean a lot to us," he said. "Once all members return, we will begin preparing for an operational readiness and unit compliance inspection, and settling into our new life at Robins." Time in the states will be short – once the inspections are complete; it will be time to deploy and do it all over again. Just like its squadron patch says, "Global Technicians, Anytime-Anywhere."

**2005 2 Sep** The 202d Engineer & Installation Squadron, Georgia ANG, deployed twelve personnel and two trucks to Gulfport CRTC to support hurricane relief efforts.



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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources

Unit History. Georgia Air National Guard. 1941-2000. Fine Books Publishing Co. Charlotte NC. 2000.

