

## 216<sup>th</sup> SPACE CONTROL SQUADRON



### MISSION

The mission of the 261th Space Control Squadron is to conduct offensive and defensive space control and space situational awareness missions to rapidly achieve flexible and versatile effects in support of global and theater campaigns.

### LINEAGE

216<sup>th</sup> Engineering Installation Squadron

Redesignated 216<sup>th</sup> Operations Support Squadron, *1 Apr 2008*

Redesignated 216<sup>th</sup> Space Control Squadron

### STATIONS

Hayward ANGS, CA

Vandenberg AFB, CA, *1 Apr 2008*

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

#### Service Streamers

#### Campaign Streamers

New Guinea

Luzon

Leyte

#### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

4 Oct 1944-4 Jul 1945

## EMBLEM



On a disc Sable, a terrestrial globe Azure, landmasses of the field, fimbriated and held by a sinister handed gauntlet Silver Gray, detailed of the first, issuant from the West Coast of California a contrail Gules, terminating in a flight symbol of the third, all encircled by seven

mullets Argent; all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "STRENGTH AND HONOR" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "216TH OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 flight symbol with contrail represents the emergence of the Air Force space operations mission in the California Air National Guard. The gauntlet holding the globe represents the unit's operational support to Joint Forces Component Command Space within the United States Strategic Command. The seven stars represent the seven Air National guard space units.

#### **MOTTO**

STRENGTH AND HONOR

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

98th Signal Company, Service Group is constituted and assigned to the 7th Service Group under the Air Service Command. The 98th will be activated on 01 Jan 1943 at Kellogg Field Michigan  
Activated effective 1 Jan 1943

17 Mar 1943 98th Signal Company, Service Group is assigned to the Fairfield Air Depot Control Area Command, as of 1 Feb, 1943

98th Signal Company, Service Group, is re-designated as the 1098th Signal Company, Service Group. Re-designated effective 04 May 1943

20 May 1943 1098th Signal Company, Service Group, is to transfer at the earliest practical date from Kellogg Field, Battle Creek, Michigan to Rentschler Field, Hartford, Connecticut for a permanent change of station amended to show destination of unit to be Barnes Airport, Westfield, Massachusetts instead of Rentschler Field, Connecticut

05 Sep 1943 1098th Signal Company, Service Group is to transfer to the San Francisco Port of Embarkation (SFPE) from Barnes Field, MA so as to arrive at the time determined by the Port Commander, for Shipment to arrive Camp Stoneman, CA, on 28 Oct 1943

28 Oct 1943 1098th Signal Company, Service Group, arrived Camp Stoneman, CA

1098th Signal Company, Service Group departed on the "NIEUW AMSTERDAN" 01 Nov 1943 and arrived in Australia on 18 Nov 1943

19 Nov 1943 1098th Signal Company, Service Group assigned to the 5th Air Force

1098th Signal Company, Service Group is entitled to battle credits for participation in the "NEW

## GUINEA CAMPAIGN”

1098th Signal Company, Service Group is entitled to battle credits for participation in the “LUZON CAMPAIGN”

04 Jul 1945 1098th Signal Company, Service Group is entitled to the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation for the period of 04 Oct 1944 to 04 Jul 1945.

25 Mar 1946 1098th Signal Company, Service Group will be inactivated at the earliest practical date

24 May 1946 112th Signal Light Construction Company is allotted to the State of California Air National Guard

112th Signal Light Construction Company is re-designated as the 615th Signal Light Construction Company, effective 24 May 1946

1098th Signal Company, Service Group is re-designated as the 615th Signal Light Construction Company, Avn and allotted to the National Guard, effective as of 24 May 1946

1 Jul 1948 615th Signal Light Construction Company is authorized to organize, effective 24 May 1946

Extended Federal Recognition to the 615th Signal Light Construction Company, effective 18 Jul 1948, 4th Air Force responsible for the administration and supervision of training this unit

01 Dec 1948 4th Air Force relieved from assignment ADC, and assigned Continental Air Command

1949 LTC Robert Zeus becomes Commander.

615th Signal Light Construction Company attached to 146th Composite Wing, 1 Nov 1950 for administrative and logistical support and operational control

26 Jan 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company moved from the Lockheed Air Terminal, Burbank, CA to Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, CA

2 Apr 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company attached to 146<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Group for administrative and logistical support and operational control

By direction of the President, under authority conferred by the Selective Service Extension Act of 1950 (Public Law 599, 81st Congress) (AF Bul 24, 1950), the 615th Signal Light Construction Company, Aviation, Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, California, and members there of the Air National Guard of the United States are ordered into the active military service of the United

States, effective 01 May 1951, to serve therein for a period of twenty-one (21) consecutive months, or such other period as may be authorized by Law, unless sooner relieved: assigned to Continental Air Command, effective 01 May 1951

08 May 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company, avn is relieved from direct assignment to ConAC and re-assigned to 4th AF ConAC upon being ordered into active duty

12 May 1951 Alert for movement from Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, CA to foreign service for PCS shipment

24 May 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company will be moved at approx strength of 5-O, 73-EM from Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, CA through NYPE thence to Bremerhaven, Germany for further movement as directed by CIC, USAF shipment No is 9150-C R/D is 12 Jun 1951: this is a PERMANENT change of station, after arrival at overseas destination, will be relieved from assignment to Continental Air Command and will be assigned to United States Air Force in Europe

12 Jun 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company departed Metropolitan Airport, Van Nuys, CA

07 Jul 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company arrived in Bremerhaven, Germany (PCS)

07 Jul 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company arrived Wiesbaden Military Post, Germany (PCS)

10 Jul 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company relieved from assignment to 4AF-ConAC and assigned to 12AF-USAFE effective

28 Nov 1951 615th Signal Light Construction Company, Aviation will be re-designated 615th Communications Construction Squadron and re-organized on or about 20 Dec 1951 in accordance with T/O&E 1-2234, 25 May 1950. with authorized strength of 7-O, 198-EM

20 Dec 1951 The 615th Signal Light Construction Company is re-designated and re-organized assigned to 12AF-USAFE

23 Dec 1951 Effective 23 Dec 1951, the 615th Signal Light Construction Company is relieved from assignment to 12AF-USAFE and assigned to 2nd Communications Group

1952 216th Communications Construction Squadron was relocated to Hayward ANGB.

16 Jun 1952 Effective 16 June 1952, the 615th Signal Light Construction Company will be re-organized in accordance with authorized strength o 7-O, 198-EM.

16 Jun 1952 615th Signal Light Construction Company re-organized

Feb 1953 615th Signal Light Construction Company is relieved from active military service in the United States Air Force, less personnel and equipment, effective 1 Feb 1953, and will revert to State Control. Will revert to control of the State of California. Ref. DAF Itr 322 (AFOMO 276h) 15 Dec 1952. Returned to state control.

1953 LTC John K. O'Neil replaces LTC Robert Zeus as Commander.

01 Feb 1953 615th Signal Light Construction Company is re-designated to the 216th Communications Construction Squadron effective 01 Feb 1953 authorized strength of 5-O, 101-EM. Attached to the 146th Fighter Bomber Wing for administration and operational control.

1956 The Air Force gaining command for the 216th Communications Construction Squadron is Hq ConAC (Continental Air Command).

1958 Maj. John S. Nettleton replaces LTC John K. O'Neil as Commander.

1959 The Air Force gaining command for the 216th Communications Construction Squadron is Hq GEEIA under AFLC (Air Force Logistics Command).

01 Jan 59 216th Communications Construction Squadron was re-designated the 216th GEEIA Squadron.

1962 LTC George R. Abbott replaces Maj. John S. Nettleton as Commander.

1970 The Air Force gaining command for the 216th GEEIA Squadron is Air Force Communications Command

01 May 1970 The 216th GEEIA Squadron was re-designated 216th Engineering Installation Squadron.

1975 LTC Donald W. Strauch replaces LTC George R. Abbott as Commander.

31 Dec 1981 216th Engineering Installation Squadron was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1982 216th Engineering Installation Squadron performed it's first overnight combat camp at the Sepulveda ANGS, CA.

1983 216th Engineering Installation Squadron participated in Exercis Ulchi Focus Lens at Osan AB, Korea.

1984 216th Engineering Installation Squadron participated in Team Sprit 84 at Osan AB, Korea.

1987 216th Engineering Installation Squadron participated in Team Sprit 87 at Osan AB, Korea.

1988 LTC Warren H. Taniguchi replaces LTC Donald W. Strauch as Commander.

1990 216th Engineering Installation Squadron participated in Team Sprit 90 at Osan AB, Korea.

1992 216th Engineering Installation Squadron participated in Healthy Falcon 92 at Kingsley Field ANGS, OR

1993 216th Engineering Installation Squadron participated in Team Sprit 93 at Osan AB, Korea.

1993 216th Engineering Installation Squadron deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany to perform project work.

Mar 1993 The gaining command for the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron located at Hayward ANGS, California will change from AFCC to AFMC.

1994 216th Engineering Installation Squadron deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany to perform project work (KRAFTIG COMM).

1995 LTC Leonard Pringle replaces LTC Warren H. Taniguchi as Commander.

1996 LTC Neil Nakatsuka replaces LTC Leonard Pringle as Commander.

2000 216th Engineering Installation Squadron deployed to Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shift. This project was in direct support of Operation Southern Watch.

16 Oct 2001 Members of the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron were activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. These unit members were deployed to Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory. Diego Garcia was the launching point for the Air Campaign over Afghanistan after the attack of 11 Sep 01. This was the first time since WWII that unit members were activated in a war time contingency.

Members of the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron were activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. These unit members were deployed to the Baghdad Airport, Iraq

LTC Kenneth Whitman replaces LTC Neil Nakatsuka as Commander.

2005 216th Engineering Installation Squadron deployed to Ramstein AB, Germany to perform project work (Kabel Fest).

17 Jul 2005 Effective 17 Jul 2005, the gaining command for the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron located at Hayward MAP, California will change from AFMC to ACC.

Mar 2007 LTC Jody Finnefrock replaces LTC Kenneth Whitman as Commander.

30 Aug 2007 By order of the Secretary of the Air Force, the following unit will be redesignated on or about the date shown. The gaining command changes from Air Combat Command to Air Force Space Command.

09 Sep 2007 Final Unit Training Assembly (UTA) and re-mission ceremony of the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron was held at the Hayward ANG, CA.

216th Engineering Installation Squadron Early in 2005 the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron moved from the south end of the station to the Hanger. Previously, the 234th Combat Communications Squadron occupied the hanger until their re-mission in 2004. Engineering moved into the east wing of the second floor. The Command Section, personnel, and Information Management occupied the west wing of the second floor. The wire section moved into the east side of the hanger floor while the electronic section went to the west side. Supply moved into the south end of the hanger and vehicle maintenance took over the Vehicle maintenance facility. In addition to the history of the Hanger, we seemed to have inherited a ghost! It's been said that "Chesty", a veteran of WWII still occupies the hanger. If he does, I sure there were tears in his eyes when he realized that those in uniform will longer be occupying the Hanger.

MISSION 216 Operations Support Squadron Climb, dismantle, maintain, and install antennas, telephone poles, and towers. We provide fix-based communications, engineering, and computer-aided drafting for our many customers. Install twisted-pair cabling, fiber optic cabling, phone lines (copper), and electric lines. Dig ditches, trench, and pull cable through conduit, ceilings, floors, and walls. In addition to installing fiber, fusion splice connectors to the ends of fiber optic cabling. mount racks, hubs, and other networking equipment. engineer local area networks, and produce drawings.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.