

216th OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



LINEAGE

216th Engineering Installation Squadron
216th Operations Support Squadron, *1 Apr 2008*

STATIONS

Hayward ANGS, CA
Vandenberg AFB, CA, *1 Apr 2008*

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

Awarded for participation in the "NEW GUINEA CAMPAIGN"

Awarded for participation in the "LUZON CAMPAIGN"

Awarded for participation in the "LYETE CAMPAIGN"

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Awarded from the President of the Philippines for service in the Philippines from the period of 04 Oct 1944 to 4 Jul 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

•••• Awarded 31 Dec 1981

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.

EMBLEM 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

216 Operations Support Squadron

- **Mission – Provide battlespace situational awareness to warfighters through integration with Joint Space Operations Center (Associate unit)**
 - **Training and Standards & Evaluation Continuity**
 - **Generate Space Tasking Order**
 - **Monitor Space C2, ISR, and Weather**
 - **Embedded deployable team to support Space-based systems**
- **Location – Vandenberg AFB**
- **Command – AFSPC**

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.

The primary mission of the 216th Operations Support Squadron is to organize, train and equip

space, intelligence and communications professionals who provide operation support functions for the Joint Space Operations Center to include:

Operations training

Standardization/evaluation

Instruction and certification

Development of weapon system tactics, techniques and procedures

Development and deployment support for evolving space missions

Operations surge or exercise support

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 146th 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 of 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 ltr 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.

216th Electronics Installation Squadron History for Fiscal Year 1975:

Dates: 1 October 1974 to 31 September 1975

This is the combined history of the 216th Electronic Installation Squadron for the fiscal year 1975. The information for the year 1975 was obtained from news releases, Letters of Appreciation and photographs from history files that were scanned and captured by Senior Master Sergeant (retired) Benjamin Quen. Information compiled by Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Jack Davis. Note: The 216th was still called "Electronics Installation Squadron" at this time. The designation was later changed to "Engineering Installation Squadron".

Commander: LtCol George R. Abbott First Sergeant: SMSGT Winston L. Nelson

CMSGT Benjamin Thiel CMSGT James L. Shearer

Significant Events/Personnel Changes:

LtCol Donald W. Strauch replaced LtCol

George R. Abbott as Squadron Commander.

The 216th received the Commanding General's California Air National Outstanding Unit award for 1974.

Left to Right: Brigadier General Walter Leonardo (Deputy Adjutant General, CA Air Force Division), Major General Frank J. Schober Jr. (California State Adjutant General), LtCol George R. Abbott (Commander 216th Electronics Installation Squadron), Colonel F. E. Holsclaw (Commander 162nd Mobile Communications Group).

The trophy shown above was displayed at the 216th until it was transferred for display at the 216th Operational Support Squadron at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

MANNING: Authorized: 11 Officers and 153 Airmen

Current Strength: 12 Officers and 140 Airmen

PROJECTS:

Almaden Air Force Station CA: Antenna Maintenance

Installation of RIVET Switch Equipment

Beale AFB, CA: Antenna Pre IRAN/IRAN

ILS Equipment Removal

Chico AFS, CA: Antenna Pre IRAN/IRAN

Ground Radio IRAN

Fort Leavenworth, KS: Engineered removal of Meteorological Equipment

Fresno ANGB, CA: Base Cable Plant Engineering

CCTV Engineering

Inside Plant Equipment PMI
Telephone Cable Installation
George AFB, CA: Communications Cable Installation
Hamilton AFB, CA: Inside Plant PMI
Intercom System Installation
Telephone Cable Maintenance
Hill AFB, UT: Antenna Pre IRAN/IRAN
Rivet Switch Equipment Installation
Autovon Equipment Installation
Telephone Cable Installation
Los Angeles ANGS, CA: Telephone Cable Plant Engineering
Mather AFB, CA: Antenna Pre IRAN/IRAN
Intrusion Alarm Installation
Telephone Cable Maintenance
McClellan AFB, CA: Antenna Pre IRAN/IRAN
Travis AFB, CA: Antenna Pre IRAN/IRAN
Metreological Cable Maintenance
Vandenberg AFB, CA: Telephone Cable Maintenance
ACTIVE DUTY AUGMENTATION:
Kirtland AFB, NM: 1 person, 90 days
McClellan AFB, CA: 2 personnel, 164 days
Vandenberg AFB, CA: 1 person, 227 days
Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO: 1 person, 93 days

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.

216 EIS History Fiscal Year 1996 (Dates: Oct 1 1995 to Sept 31 1996)

This is the combined history of the 216th Engineering Installation Squadron for the fiscal year 1996. The information for the year 1996 was obtained from workload databases maintained by Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Janine Garcia (Supervisory Engineering Technician/Workload Controller), photographs from history files that were scanned and captured by Senior Master Sergeant (retired) Benjamin Quen. Information compiled by Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Jack Davis.

Commander: LtCol Leonard Pringle

Commander: LtCol Neal Nakatsuka

Detachment Commander: Major Christopher Gideon

Detachment Commander: Major Neal Nakatsuka

Significant Events/Personnel Changes:

Major Neal Nakatsuka replaced Major Christopher Gideon as Detachment Commander early in the fiscal year and then was promoted to LtCol and became Commander of the 216th later in the year. Engineering Installation Units sometimes have a Commander that is a traditional guardsman and a Detachment Commander that is a full-time civil service employee and guardsman. Sometimes both of these positions are filled by the same person. That was the case when LtCol Nakatsuka first became the full-time civil service Detachment Commander and then became the Commander, holding both positions. TSGT Jack Davis replaced TSGT Gregory Sonier as the Electronics Technician. TSGT Sonier remained a traditional guardsman in the unit.

The 216th participated in several large projects and exercises this year, including the AFCESA LAN project and Vandenberg AFB, CA and Won Gone III exercise in Korea. The AFCESA LAN project at Vandenberg was a very large project led by the 215th EIS in Everett Washington. The 216th sent over 30 people on this project. Several other EI units participated in this project as well. The Antenna Shop continued doing numerous antenna Preventative Maintenance Inspections and antenna repairs this year throughout the state. The Radio Shop started the practice this year of sending radio troops out on the antenna inspection and maintenance projects in order to get vital training for the radio troops. The radio troops got hands-on training performing Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR) checks on the radios. Capturing this test data on the radio/antenna systems each year can track the health of the entire system and help to diagnose potential problems. Members of the 216th attended several Lightning Force Academy courses this year. The Lightning Force School was still in it's infancy at this time. This school was set up to provide Engineering-Installation-specific training. Air Force Engineering and Installation troops attend the same Technical schools that Air Force maintenance troops attend and the specific training to perform installations was not available as a one-source school until the Lightning Force Academies were created. Several of these classes were taught at Mountain Home AFB and McClellan AFB at this time. Since then, a Guard Lightning Force Academy has been established at the 211 EIS in Pennsylvania. Most of the Engineering Installation training for both the guard and the active duty are taught there now.

Vandenberg AFB, CA: AFCESA ATM Installation

Boron FAA Radar Site, CA, AN/GRC 171 Radio Installations for U.S. Customs. The site survey

for this project was done in fiscal year 1996. The installation was completed in 1997

Hickam AFB, HI, Temporary Relocation of Passenger Terminal Communications Engineering

Sepulveda ANGS, Cable Repair (Engineering)
Mill Valley FAA Radar Site, CA, HF Radio Installation
Finley AFB, ND, FARR Cable Installation:
Ontario ANGS, CA, METNAV PMI:
Kingsley ANGB, OR, Cable Upgrade
Monterey, CA, LAN Engineering and Installation
Channel Islands, ANGB, CA, METNAV PMI
Moffett FAF, CA, D-Brite Radar Installation
Reno ANGB, NV, Engineering and LAN Cable Upgrade
Mt. Laguna FAA Site, CA: TSV/T/M Panel Installation
Paso Robles, FAA Site, CA: TSV T/M Panel Installation
Sierra Army Depot, FMQ-13 Maintenance:
Travis AFB, CA: AFCESA LAN Engineering
Freeman (Germany) 9 Dec 95 to 25 Apr 96
WON GONE III, Republic of Korea
UICHI Focus 96, Korea
Windy Deployer 96, Rhein mein AB, GE

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 ANGS, 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.



Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 12 Oct 2010
Updated: 15 May 2012

Sources
AFHRA
US Army Institute of Heraldry

