

## 219<sup>th</sup> ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON



### MISSION

Federal Mission: Mobilize and deploy authorized resources and supporting assets to accomplish installation, repair, and/or replacement of communications facilities and nav aids.  
State Mission: Project life and property during civil disorders and natural disasters.

### LINEAGE

219<sup>th</sup> GEEIA Squadron, 1 Oct 1960

Redesignated 219<sup>th</sup> Electronics Installation Squadron, 1 May 1970

Redesignated 219<sup>th</sup> Engineering and Installation Squadron, 1 Jul 1981

### STATIONS

Tulsa, OK

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### COMMANDERS

LTC Fritz Velines

Maj Coy Day, 1987

LTC Cyriacks

LTC Carvajal

LTC Cook

LTC Duke

LTC Michael D. Shultz

LTC Keely

LTC Williams

LTC William McIlwaine, #1985

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**

**MOTTO**



The gear represents the engineering capabilities of the unit bird; color orange for Safety First. The poles and lines represent the mission while the remaining colors gold and ultramarine blue represent the USAF. This was accomplished under the leadership of the 219th GEEIA commander Major John Dowds. In the entry of the unit a stained glass replica of the emblem remains as a reminder to the entire heritage it represents. Crafted by MSgt (Ret) Gary Anderson. Authorization of the Oklahoma Scissor Tail Fly Catcher 219th emblem was approved in 1965.

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**

The unit was Federally recognized as an Oklahoma Air National Guard unit, the 219th Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency Squadron on 1 Oct 60.

The 219th supported the famed Air Force special program, "Talking Bird," from March 61 to Dec 72.

We participated in Fast Race I in 1966 and Fast Race II in 1968. The unit, in conjunction with

the "Talking Bird," also heavily supported the "River Switch" program.

1 Apr 1970, Oklahoma's GEEIAs were reassigned to the Air Force Communications Systems.

It was reorganized and redesignated as the 219th Electronics Installation Squadron (AFCS) 1 May 70. In May of that year all GEEIA squadrons were redesignated as electronic installation squadrons, or Els, with the 205th and the 219th squadrons stationed at Will Rogers Air National Guard Base. Made up of highly trained specialists, the EI squadrons were responsible for erecting antennas, installing cable systems and ground radios, or reconstituting and repairing communication facilities anywhere in the world.

The 219th assisted state law enforcement officers at the Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester, OK during the 1973 prison riots.

A nine man engineering cell was added 1 Aug 73.

The 219th EI Sq was authorized an operating location at Tulsa International Airport, OK, 16 Aug 78.

During May of 1980 plans were being made for a study on the move of the 219th E.I. Squadron from Oklahoma City to Tulsa. This study was approved by the Adjutant General and the results of this were to be forwarded to National Guard Bureau.

The unit was then authorized to relocate to Tulsa, as permanent change of station on 1 Jan 1982.

On 1 Jul 1982 the 219th was transferred to the Tulsa Air National Guard.

**2005 12 Sep** The 219 Engineering & Installation Squadron, Oklahoma ANG, deployed three personnel in Title 32 to NAS JRB New Orleans to help establish initial communications capability.

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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.