

244th COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

Peacetime Mission: Organize, train, man to attain and equipment optimum effective capability to carry out roles and tasks assigned by gaining command plans for utilization in the event of national emergency. State of Oregon Peacetime Mission: Provide organized & trained personnel for preservation of life & property and maintenance of order & public safety whenever required and so directed. Mobilization: Provide those organized and trained communications elements for the purpose of conducting operations support.

LINEAGE

244th Airways and Air Communications Service Engineering and Installation Squadron,
constituted and activated 1 Jul 1956
Received federal recognition, 7 Jul 1956
Redesignated 244th Ground Electronics Engineering and Installations Agency Squadron, 1 Jan
1959
Redesignated 244th Radio Relay Squadron, 1 Oct 1960
Redesignated 244th Mobile Communications Squadron (Contingency), 16 Mar 1968
Redesignated 244th Combat Communications Squadron (Contingency), 1 Apr 1976
Redesignated 244th Combat Communication Squadron
Redesignated 244th Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985
Redesignated 244th Combat Communications Squadron, 1 Oct 1986

STATIONS

Portland, OR

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Albert E. Garvin, 7 Jul 1956
Col Philip G. Saxton, 16 Mar 1968
Col Benjamin W. Faber, 1 Aug 1969
Col Joel S. Krausse, 1 Jun 1970

Col Benjamin W. Faber, 4 Jun 1971
LTC Mark E. Luedtke, 9 Feb 1973
Col Benjamin w. Faber, 1 Oct 1974
Col Gene A. Katke, 1 Jun 1977
Col Keith E. Hallmark, 1 Oct 1983
LTC Wayne A. Green, 1 Jun 1990

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

AFOUA 1 Jan 1974-31 Dec 1975

AFOUA 1 Jan 1987-30 Dec 1988

AFOUA 1 Jan 1983-31 Aug 1984

EMBLEM

On a light blue disc edged yellow a sphere with axis palewise the dexter half yellow grid lined black the sinister half black grid lines yellow overall in bend a red lightning flash. Attached above the disc a blank scroll edged yellow, attached below the disc a white scroll edged yellow with motto in black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The globe, half in daylight and half in darkness symbolized time. The globe on the blue background is symbolic of aerospace communications. The red lightning links the day and night and extends the dimensions of the world and beyond. The flash also denotes rapidity of action when called upon the defense of our country. (Approved, 9 May 1969)

MOTTO

DICE QUANDO ET UBI—Say when and where

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 244th Airways and Air Communications Service Engineering & Installation Squadron was organized on 7 July 1956. Major Albert E. Garvin was assigned as Commander. With his hand-picked personnel, he started a unit that would be known for its ability to meet and exceed all expectations and goals. The squadron consisted of three officers and 45 enlisted personnel. The commander was Major Albert E. Garvin, who had transferred from the 142 FG(AD). Most of the other members came from the 142 MATRON or the 142 ABRON.

1957 Having completed the formation of the 244th, it was time to start training. Personnel were

deployed to Headquarters AACS at Hamilton AFB, San Francisco, California and Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho for Annual Field Training. Three individuals were detached and sent onto Davis Monthan AFB, Tucson, Arizona, under the guidance of the 1887th AACS E & I Squadron, for joint installation and modification on AACS-type equipment. Communications personnel were assigned to the 143rd Communications Squadron.

1958 For the second phase of an intensive training program, the 244th personnel were assigned to Hamilton AFB, California for Annual Field Training.

1959, The members of the 244th were deployed to eight locations in three States for Annual Field Training. Teams were sent to Hamilton AFB, McClellan AFB, Travis AFB, Mather AFB, George AFB and Beale AFB, California; Rome AFB, New York; and McChord AFB, Washington. This was a 15-day active duty period with the advisory unit, 2867th GEEIA Squadron at Hamilton AFB, California.

Prior to 1959, the Oregon Constitution stated that commanders of Guard units were to be elected by the members of the unit. In the years prior to 1956, the election process became somewhat relaxed. Consequently, when Major Garvin was assigned to fill the position of Commander of the 244th GEEIA Squadron on 7 July 1956, everything seemed appropriate. In September 1959, it was noted that Major Garvin had not been elected to his command position and an election was subsequently held on 20 September 1959, which was the last election held by the Oregon National Guard.

In 1960, the 244th deployed to McClellan AFB, California for annual field training.

1961 During annual field training, the 244th established communications between Salem and Camp Rhea, Oregon. At this time, the 252nd Combat Communications Group included the 142nd Communications Squadron and the 244th Radio Relay Squadron, Portland, Oregon; the 262nd Communications Squadron, Bellingham, Washington. Also training with the units was the 221st Radio Relay Squadron, Garland, Texas. This was the first time that the 252nd Combat Communications Group trained as a combined unit. Personnel and equipment were deployed to relay sites at Mt. Hood, Naselle AFS and Mt. Hebo AFS, Oregon.

During the Annual Field Training (AFT) in August 1962, the 244th personnel participated in Operation Longhaul, an exercise designed to recover broken communications in case of a natural disaster or nuclear attack. The 244th had personnel at Camp Rilea, Cowan Peak and BAW FAW L.O., Oregon as well as Camp Murray, Rattlesnake Ridge, Keechelus Ridge, Peoh Point L.O., Ephrata, Colockum Pass, Odessa, Sprague and Four Lakes, Washington. Messages originating at Four Lakes, located just outside Spokane, Washington, were transmitted to Camp Rilea and then were transmitted to Sacramento, California, Louisiana and Washington, D.C.

During the Columbus Day Storm, 12 October 1962, the 244th furnished lighting, heating and cooking capability to the Waverly Baby Home and the Old Folks Nursing Home. They also kept the water pump operating in Blue Lake.

The 244th was the first squadron to establish on-site housing (trailers), cooking (one cook to each site with food ration runs), and recreation (sports equipment and library books). This proved to be less expensive than off-site housing (motels) and contract food service, which was the established procedure used by other squadrons.

In August 1963, the 244th participated in Longhaul II, a communications exercise which included units across the States. A radio relay system stretched from McChord AFB to Yakima Military Reservation via Crawford Mountain Lookout and Bebe Mountain in Washington, to TVOR, Portland International Airport, Mt. Hood, Shaniko and Condon AFS, Oregon, to Bickleton and Yakima Ridge, Washington. Two relay sites were operated by the 221st Radio Relay Squadron, Garland, Texas.

For the August 1964 Annual Field Training, the 244th was involved in exercise Joint Return, a four-state network with Oregon, Washington, California and Nevada. The Northwest relay began at Portland International Airport to Skamania, Hood River and Moro, Oregon, and Status Pass, Ahtanum Ridge, Yakima Firing Center, Othello, Hog Ranch Ridge to Larson AFB, Washington.

On 22 December 1964, the local area flooded, and the 244th provided assistance at Portland International Airport to help keep the State Alpha-Golf Net operational 24 hours a day during the crisis. The 244th provided an Air Technician at The Dalles from 22 to 25 December, for the Alpha-Golf Net operation.

1965 During Annual Field Training August 1965, the 244th Radio Relay Squadron was part of Operation Relay Race, an eight-state teletype communications network. Redmond, Oregon was the focal point for the exercise. Messages passing through Redmond were transmitted on to relay points at Yakima and Bickleton, Washington; Grizzly, Shaniko, Moro, Mt. Hood, Lava Butte, Paulina Peak, Walker Mountain, Cloud Cap, Moore Park, Klamath Falls and Stukel Mountain, Oregon; and Ball Mountain and Siskiyou County Airport, California. There were connecting stations at Grand Forks, North Dakota, Rapid City, South Dakota, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Colorado Springs and Denver, Colorado, Sacramento, California and Garland, Texas.

Gummed Label was the name for Annual Field Training 1966, with the purpose of increasing mobilization and operational effectiveness by providing realistic training. Relay points were set up at Camp Rilea, Wickiup Mountain, TVoR, PIA, Crown Point and Gordon Butte, Oregon; Augspurgen Mountain, Lone Pine Butte, Ahtanum Ridge and Yakima Firing Center, Washington.

1967 During the beginning of 1967, the 244th prepared for exercise Kittyhawk. Unit members spent approximately 200 man-days in preparation for the exercise, converting radio relay vans to terminals, and other activities. Kittyhawk was cancelled in June because of the Mideast crisis.

In lieu of Operation Kittyhawk, Annual Field Training consisted of one week of in-garrison training and one week of deployed training at Camp Bonneville, Washington. A new Federal requirement was issued, requiring 40 hours of riot training for every guardsman. It helped to fill the loss of Operation Kittyhawk during the AFT period.

1968 On 16 March 1968, the 244th Radio Relay Squadron was redesignated as the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron (Contingency). On this same day, command was passed from LTC Garvin to Major Philip G. Saxton.

One-third of the 244th participated in exercise Guard Strike II, which was conducted at Volk Field, Wisconsin and O'Hare IAP, Illinois. Major Saxton stated that "the unit, for the very first time, experienced the problems of working into a live exercise in Guard Strike II, while the support people and personnel cross-training were able to place themselves in a pure academic training atmosphere and concentrate thereon."

The 244th Mobile Communications Squadron was tasked with operating the radio relay link between Glenview NAS and O'Hare IAP, Illinois, as well as the link between Glenview NAS and Volk Field, Wisconsin during the second week of Guard Strike II.

During a state emergency (snow storm), 29 January to 3 February 1969, the 244th supported Douglas County with a Sno-Cat crew. Master Sergeant Arthur W. Luft and Master Sergeant Richard S. Mill delivered 7,500 pounds of hay and feed to stranded livestock.

LTC Krause assumed Command of the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron on 1 June 1970.

The 252nd Communications Group conducted their own training exercise, Annual Field Training 1970 (AFT 70). The training exercise included the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron and the 142nd Mobile Communications Squadron. This exercise was held to improve skills and abilities to provide effective communications services. This exercise also provided a multi-capacity communications system designed to serve simulated customers at Portland IAP, Camp Rilea, Bonneville and Astoria, Oregon as well as Garland Texas and Fort Lewis, Washington. In addition, live aircraft were being controlled through our flight facilities' organizations at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Yakima Firing Center and Spokane, Washington. Primary communications included HF/SSB, UHF/FM microwave, multiplex HF and tropospheric scatter, which provided both voice and teletype capability.

This system covered 428 airline miles of communications in the Northwest, 150 of which were the responsibility of the 244th. 244th Mobile Communications Squadron personnel and equipment were located at the following sites: Camp Rilea, Oregon North Head (Ilwaco), Washington Logger Peak (Raymond), Washington Dayton Peak (Shelton), Washington Fort Lewis, Washington. The Fort Lewis complex had the capability of handling 12 separate voice and/or teletype channels, with full reroute flexibility, as well as a command/ control channel. Our switchboard serviced 31 local telephones and trunk lines to all major command locations in the 252nd Mobile Communications Group system.

For the second time, Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin W. Faber assumed Command of the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron on 4 June 1971.

The 244th participated in Sentry Guardstrike IV, for Annual Field Training 72. The exercise was headquartered at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, with deployments to Vale, Bald Mountain, Elkhorn, Black Butte, Baldy Mountain, Shaniko and Mt. Hood, Oregon.

Major Mark E. Luedtke assumed Command of the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron on 9 February 1973.

In August 1972 while sitting atop a pile of logs on fire watch, LTC Luedtke had an idea. With pen in hand, he started to formulate a proposal to establish an agreement with the Forest Service to provide communications support during forest fires. He figured this would be a good way to help in a state emergency as well as to provide realistic training for the members of the 244th.

When he was finished writing, he sent the proposal to Oregon National Guard Headquarters. It was not until August 1976 that the proposal would become reality and, in 1977, put into practice.

The 244th Mobile Communications Squadron participated in exercise CVESTACS II, headquartered at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho. The 244th deployed equipment and personnel to Gowen Field, Fairchild AFB, Yakima Firing Center, Mica Peak, Saddle Mountain, Ahtanum Ridge and Greyback Mountain, Washington. Other remote locations included relays at Big Lookout Mountain and Mt. Emily, Oregon and Table Rock, Washington.

Other members of the 244th deployed to Fort Hood, Texas for participation in Gallant Hand 73, and were also deployed to Anderson Mountain, Texas.

244th personnel and equipment were deployed to Camp Rilea, Oregon in support of exercise WESTACS III. The communications network extended from Fairchild AFB, Washington to Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho.

For the third time, LTC Benjamin W. Faber assumed Command of the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron on 1 October 1974. Colonel Garvin said, "Maybe he'll get it right this time."

The 252nd Mobile Communications Group was awarded the AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD for the period 1 January 1974 to 31 December 1975, with the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron sharing in the award.

'COLD' was the word for exercise Jack Frost 75, in which the 244th participated during January-February 1975. The exercise drew units from the active duty Army, Navy and Air Force, the Reserves and National Guard and the Canadian Armed Forces. The 244th Mobile Communications Squadron was designated as the project unit from within the 252nd Mobile Communications Group, with the responsibility of establishing a link from Eielson AFB to Pedro Dome, Alaska, an Alaskan communications system "White Alice" site. The 244th also supplied personnel to help with the expanded workload in the Eielson AFB Communications Center and CEMC. In addition, the 244th supplied a secure Communications Center and personnel to support the Joint

Unconventional Warfare Task Force participating in the exercise at Elmendorf AFB. The capability and experience demonstrated by the 244th personnel resulted in an AAC request for their participation in the planning and engineering phases of exercise Jack Frost 76.

The 244th participated in Gallant Shield 75 in New Mexico and Texas during April 1975. Personnel were deployed to McGregor Range Camp, Biggs Army Field, Wade Hill, Holloman AFB and Kirtland AFB, New Mexico.

In less than eight months, the 244th participated in its THIRD exercise. Annual Field Training in July-August 1975 was in support of the 153rd TAC Control Group tactical exercise in Washington and Oregon. The 244th deployed its main complex to Camp Rilea, and personnel and equipment to relay sites Crawford Mountain, Grass Mountain, Capitol Peak, Grant County Airport and Raven's Roost, Washington, with a communications team at PIA, Oregon. The overall system provided telephone, teletype and voice channels in support of the tactical control of aircraft, utilizing Portland ANG, Oregon and Yakima Firing Center, Grant County Airport, McNary Field and McChord AFB, Washington.

As part of its ongoing response to meeting community needs whenever possible, the 244th participated in "Operation Second Wind." Air and Army National Guard men and women helped local high school students collect food for the needy. Members of the 244th also took part in "Summer 75," which involved transporting city youth organizations to recreation and learning activities.

Effective 1 April 1976, the 244th Mobile Communications Squadron (Contingency) was redesignated as the 244th Combat Communications Squadron (Contingency)

On 1 April 1976, Major Katke was assigned as Commander of the newly formed 244th Combat Communications Flight.

1976 was another busy year for the 244th Combat Communications Squadron. To lead off the year, the 244th participated in exercise Jack Frost 76, another 'COLD' exercise to test personnel and equipment in Alaska's cold weather. The 244th was responsible for all communications at Pedro Dome, and other personnel were deployed to Eielson AFB and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

The second exercise for the 244th was Bold Eagle 76 in January and February at Nellis AFB, Nevada. This was a USCINCAFRED-sponsored field training exercise, which tasked the 252nd Combat Communications Group to provide equipment and personnel for communications support of an Air Defense Weapons Operations Center (ADWOC) at Nellis AFB, Nevada.

A third exercise, Brave Shield XIV, in which 93 personnel participated, was held during the period 14 through 18 August at Yakima Municipal Airport, Yakima Ridge, Ahtanum Ridge, Deep Creek AF Station (Fairchild AFB, Washington) and McChord AFB, Washington.

The Military Department of the State of Oregon and the Mt. Hood District of the U.S. Forest Service concluded an agreement proposed by LTC Luedtke, whereby 244th personnel would support the U.S. Forest Service communications during major fires.

The 244th supported the Oregon ANG/HAP camp at Camp Rilea. The Oregon Air National Guard and the Housing Authority of Portland were winners of the George Washington Freedom Medal.

Major Gene A. Katke assumed Command of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron on 1 July 1977.

For the third consecutive year, the 244th Combat Communications Squadron went to Alaska to participate in Jack Frost 77. Personnel and equipment again were deployed to the north and once again, the 244th performed so well that many endorsements, one after another, were received for a job well done. The 244th Combat Communications Squadron received a Certificate of Excellence from the United States Readiness Command, MacDill AFB, Florida, in recognition of professional performance and dedication to the success of Jack Frost 77.

In June 1977, Annual Field Training was conducted at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington as part of a 252nd Combat Communications Group exercise. The 244th had sites at Four Lakes, Griffin Peak and Walla Walla City-County Airport. The Annual Field Training was conducted under the Operational Readiness Inspection/Communications Evaluation guidelines. Volunteers from the 244th helped with ANG/HAP camp at Camp Rilea, and it was termed as the "finest ever."

A call for help from the U.S. Forest Service was received by the 244th on August 2, 1977. Acting on an agreement which had been concluded in August 1976, the 244th sent five radio relay teams to establish communications from the base camp, southwest of Estacada, with relays at Larch Mountain, Whale Head Mountain, Oak Grove, RAAB Camp and Gresham, Oregon.

For some of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron personnel, Annual Field Training 1978 was at Camp Rilea, Oregon under the direction of the 252nd Combat Communications Group, commanded by Colonel Milton H. Towne. Units of the 252nd Combat Communications Group located in Spokane, Seattle, Bellingham and Tacoma, Washington attended the training session, as well as Air Guard Communications from Anchorage, Alaska.

Twenty-six members of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron went to southern Nevada-California to participate in Brave. Shield XVII. The 252nd Combat Communications Group was tasked with supplying communications for the Opposition Air Force. The 244th had personnel deployed to Table Mountain, Nevada, Irwin relay, perched on the barren hills of southeastern California, and Lane Peak, out of Barstow, California.

Six members of the 244th went to Jever AB, Germany. The 252nd was tasked with communications support of exercise Coltonel Stoltk, the deployment of a tactical fighter unit from Moody AFB, Georgia to Jever AB, Germany. The period of deployment was from 23 August

through 2 September 1978. Jever Airbase is a German Air Force (Luftwaffe) base near the town of Jever, which is a few miles from the coast of the North Sea, northwest of Wilhelmshaven in Lower Saxony.

On 9 August 1978, a 3500-acre fire was burning in the Ochoco National Forest, east of Prineville. On 12 August, the 244th Combat Communications Squadron was called to set up a communications network for the Youngs Butte Fire. The communications system was established from Prineville (control point) to Mud Springs Fire Camp, with relays at Lookout Mountain, Spanish Peak and Battle Creek Mountain.

The 244th Combat Communications Squadron received the OREGON AIR NATIONAL GUARD OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD for 1979.

The 244th participated in JCS exercise Brave Shield XX, conducted at the Yakima Firing Center 11-15 August 1979. Small contingents of personnel and equipment were deployed to Yakima Municipal Airport, Hog Ranch, North Fort Lewis and Coffin Ranch, Washington, with the majority of the unit deployed to Yakima Ridge. The mission was to manage and host a major relay function, serving all Air Force and Army elements east of the Cascade Mountains.

Personnel and equipment worked in temperatures of 44 degrees below zero, with a wind chill factor of -109 degrees, during exercise Jack Frost 79. The 244th received many letters of commendation for an outstanding job and contributions to the exercise.

The 244th also participated in JCS exercise Team Spirit 79, which was the single largest peacetime exercise conducted in the PACOM. Exercise Team Spirit 79 demonstrated the ability of United States and Republic of Korea forces to work together. While the other units participating in the exercise went to Korea, the 244th went to Travis AFB, California.

The 252nd Combat Communications Group received the AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD for the period 1 January to 31 December 1980, with the 244th Combat Communications Squadron sharing in the honor. This was the SECOND award for the 244th.

This year personnel from the 244th took advantage of the opportunity to go to Korea for exercise Team Spirit 80. Personnel were deployed to Cheong Ju AB and Kimhae AB, Korea.

The 244th Combat Communications Squadron started the year with an exercise conducted 25 March to 8 April. Personnel and equipment were deployed to Holloman AFB, New Mexico by military airlift.

Twenty-one members (Major Hallmark and his 20 knights of the desert) participated in the Rapid Deployment Joint Task Force exercise Bright Star in Cairo, Egypt, from 2 November to 6 December. The "Air Reservist" magazine had only one thing to say about the 244th: "Twenty-one unit people took their switchboard to Egypt for exercise Bright Star 82 and bedazzled the exercise Commander."

Two members of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron, who assisted an Air Force Deployment to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, were recognized for their efforts by Colonel M.H. Harpster, DCS for Combat Communications for the Tactical Communications Division.

In September, the 244th provided four generators in support of a maritime surveillance test of the E-3 (AWACS). Two members of the 244th spent four days on the Pacific Ocean on a 63-foot fishing trawler, operating the generators.

Members of the 244th again participated in ANG/HAP camp at Camp Rilea, Oregon.

Members of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron were to be found on terrain 6,000 feet high at Rodman relay, southeast of Barstow, California. They were there in support of JCS exercise Gallant Eagle 82. From 21 March to 7 April, members of the 244th provided communications for the Joint Task Force Air Forces commander and Marine Forces commander. Personnel and equipment fought winds of 125 knots, snow and tough field conditions all around. Despite all the miserable conditions, the 244th drew compliments on their highly professional performance.

The 244th Combat Communications Squadron received the United States Readiness Command JOINT READINESS CERTIFICATE FOR EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE during Joint Readiness Exercise Gallant Eagle 82. "The performance of the 244th demonstrated the readiness and professional ability the U.S. Readiness Command has come to expect from their partners in the National Guard." The squadron received many letters which stressed outstanding performance and professionalism by members of the 244th.

LTC Keith E. Hallmark assumed command of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron on 1 October 1983.

Personnel from the 244th also participated in NATO JCS beginning 4 May, and deployed to Nea Makri, Greece; Torrejon, Spain; Gioia del Colle, Italy; Eskishir and Incirlik, Turkey.

In July, three members of the 244th deployed to March AFB, California for participation in SAC exercise Global Shield 83. They augmented the exercise with a TSC-60 Communications Control and Maintenance Team.

Deploying to Greece and Spain, personnel from the 244th also participated in exercise Coronet Moat 83.

The 252nd Combat Communications Group received the AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD for the period 1 January 1983 to 31 August 1984, with the 244th Combat Communications Squadron sharing in the award. This is the THIRD time that the 244th has received this recognition.

The 244th had the opportunity of participating in many exercises this year. Personnel and equipment were deployed to: Philippines, Turkey, Alaska, North Carolina.

A request for help was received on 7 July from the U. S. Forest Service, asking the 244th to provide communications support for a forest fire in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Sites were established at the Mt. Hood Forest Service Supervisor's office in Gresham, a fire base camp at Ripplebrook Ranger Station, Larch Mountain and Whale Head Mountain. Four wideband radio teams were deployed.

Another Mt. Hood National Forest fire occasioned the deployment of four wideband teams to establish sites for "Bozo" at Mt. Hood Forest Service Supervisor's office in Gresham, Larch Mountain, Goat Mountain, and Bozo Fire Camp, east of Estacada on the north fork of the Clackamas River. TSgt Gail Spaulding of the 244th located and reported a second small fire, which the Forest Service later named the "Spaulding Gulch Fire."

1986

On 7 November, the name of the 244th Combat Information Systems Squadron was changed back to the 244th Combat Communications Squadron.

Personnel and equipment were deployed for participation in JCS exercise Gallant Eagle 86 at Mojave, California.

244th personnel participated in exercise Team Spirit 6, conducted in South Korea.

244th personnel, participating in Combat Challenge 86, deployed to Patrick AFB, Florida, home of the 2nd Combat Communications Group.

The U. S. Forest Service called upon the 244th to provide communications during efforts to combat what would come to be known as the "Eastern Oregon Fires."

The month of August marked the largest peacetime mobilization that the Oregon National Guard had experienced. On 3 August, the first call for help on a forest fire was received. Selected personnel were contacted, and two relay teams mobilized with four radio terminals, complete with ground power and life support. They met Forest Service officials at the John Day Supervisor's Office Coordinating Organization (SOCO). The 244th's job was to provide communications from fire camps to SoCo. One fire, named "Deardorff Fire," was located in a canyon near Deardorff Creek, so the 244th established the Deardorff Relay. Another fire was burning which was designated "Scalp Fire," and a relay was established at Fall Mountain. Both relays were linked to the SOCO at John Day.

On August, the Scalp Fire was controlled, and the relay teams were released. Before they arrived home, another request for help was made by the Forest Service. Help from the 244th was needed in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, with the SOCO at Baker. The relay team was reprovisioned with additional equipment and manpower, and proceeded back to the Eastern

Oregon fires. Their turnaround took less than ten hours. A radio relay was established at Anthony Butte for the "Clear Fire," with the SOCO at Baker, and a radio relay at Chicken Hill to the base camp at Cable Meadows.

The crew at the Anthony Butte relay spotted a lightning-generated fire approximately one-quarter mile from the site. The Forest Service was notified but was unable to respond in time, so TSgt Gary Chandler extinguished the fire by himself.

The Deardorff Fire was renamed as the "ABC Lightning Fire," and the communications team was released. Their next assignment was the "Buckhorn Complex" fires in the Wallowa National Forest, with the SOCO located at LaGrande.

By 13 August, the Forest Service was no longer naming individual fires but instead, designated geographical areas in which numerous fires were burning. An additional radio relay team was sent from Portland to assist the team from the ABC Lightning Fire in establishing communications from LaGrande to Mt. Emily, with relay to Elk Mountain and into the fire camp at Thomason Meadows. After the Clear Fire relay team was demobilized, they were sent to help with the Buckhorn Complex fires. Communications were extended from the Thomason Meadows fire camp with a relay at Wong Creek, down a steep ravine near Imnaha, to another fire camp called Pumpkin Creek. This placed the 244th communications radio relay teams in the Hell's Canyon National Forest. For this entire period of time, all requests from the Forest Service for communications support were handled by the 244th Combat Communications Squadron and Flight. The fires grew larger, prompting deployment of additional Air National Guard units to help with Forest Service communications.

The 244th Combat Communications Squadron received the AIR FORCE OUTSTANDING UNIT AWARD for the period 1 January 1987 to 31 December 1988. This was the FOURTH award for the unit

The 244th was called upon to help with the Tepee Butte Fire, burning north of Joseph, Oregon. Personnel and equipment were deployed to establish relay sites at Elk Mountain and Table Mountain.

1989

Personnel of the 244th Combat Communications Squadron participated in Combat Challenge 89 and seven JCS/NATO exercises.

The 252nd Combat Communications Group was tasked to support exercise WINTEXCIMEX at locations in Turkey, Germany and the United Kingdom. 244 th personnel and equipment were deployed to Balekishir and Sivrihisar, Turkey, Lindsey AFS, Germany, and Mildenhall AFB, United Kingdom.

Members of the Squadron participated in AFT 1.2.3.4.5., an Annual Field Training exercise held at Lindsey AFS, Germany. This was a 1st Combat Communications Group-sponsored exercise.

Personnel who were assigned to this location performed duty as a processing point for other exercises operating in Europe.

244th personnel deployed to Denmark for an exercise conducted at Karup AS, Denmark. This was a NATO exercise operated jointly by the Royal Danish Air Force Headquarters, Tactical Air Command, and a United States Air Force Tactical Air Control System.

The 252nd Combat Communications Group was tasked to support exercise Display Determination 89. Personnel from the 244th deployed to sites in northwestern Turkey, providing tactical air control support for air operations.

Renovation of Building 145 began, with estimated completion in January February 1991. The 244th began moving in October 1989 and has been in a transit status, having moved from one location to another for an estimated ten times and as many as three more times in 1991 before the 244th finally settled down in one location -- Building 145.

1991

On 22 January, we moved into our new, old home.

COLD was the word for exercise "Jack Frost 75" which the 244th participated in during Jan-Feb 1975. The exercise drew units from the active duty Army, Navy and Air Force and the Reserves and National Guard and the Canadian Armed Forces. The 244th Mobile Communications Squadron was designated as the project unit from within the 252d Mobile Communications Group with the responsibility of establishing a link from Eielson AFB to Pedro Dome, Alaska, an Alaskan Communications System "White Alice" site. The 244th also supplied personnel to help with the expanded work load in the Eielson AFB Communications Center and CEMC. In addition, the 244th supplied a secure Communications Center and personnel to support the Joint Unconventional Warfare Task Force participating in the exercise at Elmendorf AFB. The capability and experience demonstrated by the 244th personnel resulted in an AAC request for their participation in the planning and engineering phases of exercise JACK FROST 76.

1 July 1985 our unit was redesignated as the 244th Combat Information Systems Squadron (CISS), with no change in station authorized strength or gaining command. The 13-14 July Unit Training Assembly was an 8-hour operational UTA, An in-ranks inspection, Commander's Call and Social Actions/Drug and Alcohol Abuse Training class was accomplished on 13 July, Training was provided in the proper operation and maintenance of mission equipment.

The 244th CISS has a cooperative agreement with Mount Hood National Forest Service to provide communications support for forest fire operations. On 7 Jul 85 we were requested co provide communications for a fire operation in the Mount Hood National forest (Code named June Bug). We deployed four wideband radio teams involving 15 air technicians. The mission was completed on 10 July 85. At approximately 1915 on 7 Jul 85 Lt Col Keith Hallmark was contacted by Julie Rodriguez of the Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor's office to request the 244 CISS to provide

communications support for a forest fire that is currently being fought in the Mt. Hood National Forest. Lt Col Hallmark called Lt Col Opitz and Major Rowat of the Oregon Military Department to clear this request for support as per the 1976 written agreement. Lt Col Opitz and Major Rowat both concurred and the recall of technicians began.

The four communications sites to be supported are:

Mt Hood Forest Service Supervisor's office at 2955 NW Division, Gresham, OR

Fire basecamp at Ripplebrook Ranger Station, OR.

Larch Mountain, OR (wideband relay site).

Whalehood Mountain, OR (wideband relay site).

Four wideband radio teams were deployed from Portland IAP at approximately 2330 on 7 Jul 85. Fifteen Air Technicians of the 244 CISS and 244 CISF were called out to support this request. Lt Col Hallmark is providing command and control at PIA and the other fourteen technicians are deployed to the sites. Current status of communications systems is 2 voice hotlines and 1 commercial dial line are operational from the Mt Hood National Forest Service Supervisor's office in Gresham, OR to the fire basecamp at Ripplebrook Ranger Station, OR. This deployment will terminate when we are contacted by the Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor's office that they no longer need our communications support.

On 25 Jul, 85 we were again asked to support a forest fire operation, this time in an area east of Estacada in the vicinity of the north fork of the Clackamas River (Code named Bozo). Four wideband radio teams involving fifteen air technicians were deployed. The mission was terminated on 28 July 85. At 1700, 25 July 1985, MSgt Craig Hovey, 244 CISS Admin/Personnel Supv was contacted by Ms. Julie Rodriguez of the Mt Hood National Forest to request support for a forest fire south east of Estacada in the vicinity of N. Fork Clackamas River. MSgt Hovey notified Duty Officer at Mil Dept. in Salem, Lt Col Hallmark, unit commander, and initiated recall of technician fire teams

The 3-6 August Unit Training Assembly was used in conjunction with Annual Field Training to conduct a practice Operational Readiness Inspection. Specifically, these two days were used for an Initial Air Response Mobility Exercise in which unit Type Code Team chiefs and members prepared individual UTC packages for a simulated air mobile configuration. This effort went very well.

Annual Field Training started on 3 August with the unit converting the UTC packages prepared on 3-4 August to road mobility configuration. Three convoys deployed to Camp Rilea and packages were sent to four remote sites. During 8-10 August our unit linked with the 256th Combat Information Systems Squadron for three days for a practice Operational Readiness Inspection. We were inspected by Detachment 4, 1816 Reserve Advisor Squadron (LtCol Bonjourni and four Air Force Advisors) plus five persons selected from among our unit's quality control inspectors. The ORI was conducted to provide a realistic training opportunity for inexperienced personnel. Some areas needing improvement were identified but overall achievement was commendable

14 August 1986 Gallant Eagle exercise was very successful, not only from The JCS point of view but also from the performance of the 252 members. Our convoy survived its long drive in both directions with only minor problems. It got off to a shaky start on 8 July, but there is always that "learning curve". Our tents were set up alongside of the 5th CCG tents and we all worked as a team. We deployed people to augment and Learn the ropes in the 9th AF CFP (CEMS) and in the 5 CCG CFP (CISMO).

We loaned vehicles to the 5 CCG at a radio relay site, provided a TCF person to the TACC TCF to support their mission. Overall, communications exercise wide was excellent, there were over 100,000 messages transmitted of the 40,000 players, 16k were facilitators in support areas and 2K were exercise controllers. There were three deaths (safest exercise yet); 30 million gallons of jet fuel used, 200000 gallons of water reprocessed too much reliance fixed telephones and problems in logistics and the Joint Deployment System

The Squadron Headquarters deployed to Gowan Field Idaho and shared management of the communications complex with the 261st Mobile Com Sq (California) and the 262nd Mobile Com Sq (Washington).

One AN/TRC-97, the TTC-22 Switchboard, and two AN/TRC-61's were deployed to Fairchild AFB, WA with 20 personnel.

At Yakima Firing Center an AN/TRC-61, FM terminal and a TSC-15 HF radio were employed with 20 personnel. The remainder of the unit equipment and personnel were deployed to four (4) remote relay sites at: Mica Penh, AN/TRC-97; Saddle Mountain, AN/TRC-36 (2 ea); Ahtanum Ridge, AN/TRC-36; Greyback Mountain, AN/TRC-36. The 244th was tasked to manage the prime communications circuit between Fairchild AFB, WA and Gowen Field. This circuit, AF-1 was the AN/TRC-97 circuit with relays at Big Lookout Mountain, Oregon; Mt Emily, Oregon; and Table Rock, Washington; and terminals at Fairchild AFB and Gowen Field. This circuit provided telephone, teletype and voice channels for the tactical control of aircraft utilizing Yakima Firing Center and Sailor Creek, Idaho. All circuits functioned exceptionally well.

NOMENCLATURE	AUTH	ON HAND
TROPOSPHERIC SCATTER GEAR AN/TRC-97A	2	0
RADIO RELAY TERMINAL SETS, AN/TRC-61	5	5
RADIO RELAY SETS, AN/TRC-61		10
2.5 TON 6X6 TRUCKS	15	15
.5 TON 4X4 6 PASSENGER PICKUP	15	0
SUB .5 TON 4X2 6 PASSENGER PICKUP		0
ECONOLINE PICKUP		0
STATION WAGON		1
WRECKER		1
SNOW CAT		1
M-109 SHOP VAN		1
TRAILER, TANK, GAS 600 GALLON	2	1

TRAILER, TANK, WATER, 400 GALLON	2	2	
TRAILER, CARGO, 1.5 TON	15	15	
EMU-10 GENERATOR	30	6	
SUB PU-286, 5KW GENERATOR		0	30
GGC-10AC GENERATOR	0	2	

AUTHORIZED	8 OFFICERS	194 AIRMEN	0 CIVILIANS	202 TOTAL
ASSIGNED	8 OFFICERS	165 AIRMEN	0 CIVILIANS	173 TOTAL

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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.