

# 244<sup>th</sup> COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



## LINEAGE

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

## STATIONS

Portland, OR

## ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

Maj Albert. E. Garvin, *7 Jul* 1956  
Maj Philip G. Saxton, #1969  
*Maj Vernon E. Black*  
*LTC Wayne A Green*  
*LTC Gene A Katke*  
LTC Benjamin W. Faber  
Maj Mark E. Luedtke, 9 Feb 1973

## 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. (Approved, 9 May 1969)

### **EMBLEM 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.

### **MOTTO**

DICE QUANDO ET UBI—Say when and where

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

Military 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.

The 244 CCSq was organized on July 7, 1956 as the 244 Engineering and Installation Squadron, reporting to the Air Force Airways and Air Communications Service. 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.

From the very outset the 244th was a "can do" unit. Among the first to embark on an illustrious career was an airman who was destined to become the commander of the 244th and is, at this writing, a Brigadier General selectee. He has been appointed as Assistant Adjutant General for Air, for the State of Oregon. Col. Gene Katke is the only original member of the 244th still active in the Oregon Air Guard. Col. Katke, is not the only former 244th commander who has succeeded. Col. Ben Faber went from the 244th to command the 252 Combat Communications Group. When Col. Faber attempted to retire, the Guard Bureau requested an age waiver and asked that he extend an additional year in order to complete a group reorganization that he had begun. When Col. Faber left the Air Guard he was selected as a director of FEMA.

More recently, former 244th commander Lt. Col. Keith Hallmark has been assigned to the ORANG headquarters. It was during Lt. Col. Hallmark's tenure that the 244th earned two

Outstanding Unit Citations and in 1988 received a comment from the Inspector General that the '244 CCSq was one of the very best cons inspected in recent years." These three commanders accounted for four Outstanding Unit Citations for the 244th in the last 15 years.

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 to 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 Rodriquez 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 communications sites being supported are:

Mt Hood Forest Service Supervisor's Office, 2955 Division, Gresham, OR

Larch Mountain (Wideband Relay Site)

Goat Mountain

Bozo Fire Camp Estacada, OR

Four wideband radio teams were deployed from Portland IAP at approximately 2100, 25 Jul 85. Fifteen air technicians including one AGR of the 244 CISS and 244 CISF were called out to support this request. One team, originally deployed to Goat Mountain returned to PIA at approximately 1400, 26 Jul 85. The fourth team was determined to be unnecessary to the present situation. All appropriate offices at PIA and the Military Dept have been contacted regarding the event. This deployment will terminate when we are notified by the Mt. Hood National Forest Supervisor's office that they no longer need our communications support

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 shakey start on 8 July, but there is always that "learning curve". Our tents were set up a along side of the 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 200,000 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 a 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	10
2.5 TON 6X6 TRUCKS	15	15
.5 TON 4X4 6 PASSENGER PICKUP	15	0
SUB .5 TON 4X2 6 PASSENGER PICKUP	0	2
ECONOLINE PICKUP	0	4
STATION WAGON	1	1
WRECKER	1	0
SNOW CAT	1	0
M-109 SHOP VAN	1	0
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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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources