

262nd NETWORK WARFARE SQUADRON



LINEAGE

Constituted and allotted as the 262nd Communications Squadron, Operations, to the National Guard Bureau, 26 Mar 1952

Federally recognized and allotted to the State of Washington, 1 Mar 1953

Redesignated 262nd Communications Squadron (Operations), 1 Jul 1955

Redesignated 262nd Communications squadron (Tributary Teams), 1 Oct 1960

Redesignated 262nd Mobile Communications Squadron, 16 Mar 1968

Redesignated 262nd Information Warfare Aggressor Squadron, 1 Apr 2002

Redesignated 262nd Network Warfare Squadron

STATIONS

Bellingham Municipal Airport, Washington, 1 Mar 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

252nd Communications Group, 1 April 1953

Military Air Transport Service, 1 October 1960
Air Force Communication Service, 1 July 1961

COMMANDERS

LTC Samuel W. Peach, 1 Aug 1948
Maj Herbert C. Taylor, Jr. 1 Apr 1968
LTC Bruce R. Jacobson, 20 Jul 1969
LTC Samuel A. Wilson, Oct 1972
LTC James G Miller, 10 Aug 1976
Maj Harold R. Raymond, 1 Sep 1978
Maj Robert W. Miller, 12 Feb 1979
LTC David W. Keller, 12 Oct 1980
LTC Thomas A. Glubrecht, 1 Jan 1984
LTC James S. Corbin, 28 Feb 1986
LTC Neil A. Currie, 11 Sep 1994
LTC Gary M. Phillips, 7 Sep 1996
Maj Herbert G. Porter, 3 Jun 2001

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jan 1973 to 30 Sep 1974
1 Jan 1979 to 31 Dec 1980
1 Jan 1983 to 31 Aug 1984
1 Jan 1987 to 30 Dec 1988

AFOUA 1 Jan 1974-31 Dec 1975

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

Blue and 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 globe signifies the worldwide deployment capabilities of the unit. The eagle represents the mission of the Air force and the aircraft and personnel involved in defending the United States. The eagle grasps an electronic flash symbolizing the communication link the squadron provides for the flying mission.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

262 NWS conducts worldwide network security operations to improve the DoD Global Information Grid and the Air Force's network security posture. Recent high-level assessments include the White House Communications Agency, US Central Command, Space Command and European Command. They also participate in on-going responses to Air Force and DoD cyber incidents--all amidst an increasing number of federal and state directed assessments.

The unit formed as a detachment of the 143d Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron in Seattle, part of the newly-formed Air Defense Command. Originally, the unit was a tenant of the Army National Guard, occupying a corner of its State street armory. Three WWII vets were principally responsible for establishing the unit: Lt Sam Peach, Lt George Boynton, and TSgt Joe Schrey. As the unit's first Air Technician, TSgt Schrey was the "work horse" responsible for establishing and maintaining the squadron in those fledgling years. In June of 1949, for its first field training, the unit was assigned to the 636th AC&W squadron, the only equipment being the AN/CPS-1 radar set. But if the new squadron didn't have gasoline, it would run on adrenalin, and the pioneer unit's determination to do a lot with a little gave rise to an unofficial motto: "We have done so much for so many for so long with so little that now we can do everything for everybody with nothing." In 1950, the government built the Guard a new armory at the airport, at a cost of \$70,000. The unit had little chance to use the new facility since the next year, on May 1, 1951, the entire unit was activated.

The squadron had finished two fifteen day summer training sessions when general order 43, issued from HQ 4th Air Force at Hamilton AFB, CA called nearly 100 members to a 21 month tour of extended active duty in the Air Force. George Boynton recalled "The squadron went on active duty on May 1, 1951, and by the end of the month was on board ship for Alaska. The Port of Embarkation inspectors waived the requirement that every airman must have four months of active duty training before going overseas, waived requirements for shots, even waived requirements that the men be completely uniformed. The squadron commander remarked as the ship pulled away from the pier: They waived everything but goodbye." Once aboard the USNS Beaudoin, members sailed to Whittier, Alaska, and arrived at Ladd Air Force Base, Fairbanks (later renamed Fort Wainwright). They received defense training from the 4th Infantry while awaiting assignments to various sites along the Alaska DEWLINE system. Distant Early Warning locations included Murphy Dome, Galena, Utopia, and St. Lawrence Island, as well as Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage. Utopia was a radar site on the side of a mountain, one of the more remote in the DEWLINE chain. Murphy Dome, near Fairbanks, was the primary remote site for mobilized troops from Bellingham. At an altitude of 4200 feet, winds at the outpost reached 135 mph, with temperatures to minus 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

During the time of the Korean conflict, the Bellingham unit remained detachment of the 143d AC&W squadron in Seattle, commanded by Major Brice. Lt Samuel Peach served in Bellingham until 1967, when he was transferred to 252d Group, to the post of Deputy Commander. CMSgt Dick Farmer served with the squadron during its mobilization in 1951-52. He joined the unit in 1950, became First Sergeant in 1961, and worked as a technician until his retirement in 1987.

From June of 1952 to February of 1953, as airmen were intermittently released from extended active duty, they were assigned to the Air National Guard Station at Boeing Field. In 1953, the Bellingham unit was mustered out of federal service, and converted to a communications squadron. On March 1, 1953, General Order 7, Adjutant General, State of Washington, federally recognized the Bellingham detachment as 262d Communications Squadron, Operations.

Table of Organization 1-2253 authorized a strength of 8 officers and 93 airmen; 2 officers and 57 airmen were assigned. Colonel Erickson S. Nichols, USAF, arrived from Hamilton AFB, California to conduct a federal inspection of the facility on March 1, 1953.

At that time the 262 had two full-time employees and a regular Air Force instructor, Captain P.T. Carter. The unit met the first two Tuesdays and the third Sunday of each month. In 1953, a reporter wrote of the radio shack: "The radio department of the Air National Guard armory at Bellingham Airport is an important one. Twice a day contact is made with ten stations in the state network of Air Guard facilities, passing on communications and other business." Men between the ages of 17 and 18 and a half were eligible to join, the article continued, with age limits higher for eligible veterans. The career roster included "jobs as cryptographers, and in maintenance and operation of radio, teletypewriter, and telephone equipment."

In March of 1954, authorized strength increased by four airmen, and in June, not yet having the privilege of basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas, Flights A and B left from Bellingham for two weeks of training at McChord AFB. The primary equipment was the AN/GRC-26 radio set, a piece of equipment the unit was "destined to live with for several years." This was the first annual training since the unit had returned from mobilized service, and saw an AT turnout strength of 2 officers and 68 airmen.

1955 brought "Operation Minuteman," a nationwide test of Guard readiness. The one day "Nationwide Guard Drill" mobilized more than 340,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen. On July first, the unit was redesignated as the 262nd Communications Squadron (Operations) by GO (General Order) 19. Later that month, field training at McChord again relied on the stalwart radio set, but with the increased attendance of 6 officers and 76 men. On the first of August, GO 14 again reorganized the unit, bringing authorized strength to 8 officers and 100 men.

In 1956, the unit added an 1800 square foot expansion to the armory "to house a communications operations center and additional storage." Socially, members reached out to the community, sponsoring a Queen candidate for Bellingham's Blossom Time Tulip Festival. At that time, the unit's mission was defined as: To train as a military organization to be able to be effectively utilized as a Mobilization Day Force; To be prepared to function at the order of the Governor of the State of Washington in times of any emergency, civil or military; To achieve and maintain a level of operational effectiveness which will enable the unit to provide the necessary communications support for any Air Force organization to which it may be assigned or attached. The squadron at that time was "organized in sections or teams covering functions of: installation, operation and maintenance of communications center, telephone, teletype, and radio."

During July annual training at McChord AFB, radio was still the major player, but administrative, supply, drafting and woodworking sections also trained separately at the camp. The main

objectives at the AT were on the job training (OJT) with Air Force personnel from McChord, and a basic military training school for airmen "who had not previously attended an ANG encampment or had not had prior military service." Basic military training took place under supervision from the McChord NCO Academy, and included a ten mile forced march, as well as aerial flight and carbine range qualification. In the wake of the AT, historical officer, 2d Lt Floyd M. Jackson, and SSgt Richard Farmer prepared an after-actions report. In the "Comments and Recommendations" section, Jackson noted a training shortfall. Two crucial pieces of radio equipment were not available for field training because "no cargo trucks are authorized to make these equipment mobile." 2d Lt Jackson suggested that "mobility of all authorized equipment is needed if that equipment is to be effectively used during unit training assemblies and used at all during field training exercises." In words that would prove prophetic, he envisioned the unit's future in combat communications: "The squadron is ready for operating experience as a separate communications element, independent of a host unit." Such an organization, he maintained, "would contribute greatly to individual and unit morale." 2d Lt Jackson further sketched out the rough requirements for restructuring comm. Such a plan, he continued, "would require another unit in group to serve as distant end, to provide both ends of a training circuit." "It would be even more advantageous if the exercise called for participation by all relay and operating squadrons assigned to the 252d Communications Group."

1957 took the unit further afield for training at Parks AFB, CA. Seven officers and 76 men took the bus to Seattle and the train to Oakland for annual training, with the radio set again the prime equipment. "Training," emphasized "familiarization with network procedures with signals being transmitted by voice, key, and teletype."

By 1958, reservists had Lackland AFB privileges, and received "the same training given to regular Air Force recruits." A news article in May announced "a special basic training program for Air Guardsmen in June and July, which will last only nine weeks instead of the usual eleven," but the next year some recruits also left for the standard, longer version. Unit members also left for Shaw AFB, SC, for on the job training in the base communications center with personnel of the regular Air Force.

In 1959 Field training in August of that year again took the unit to California, this time via C-124. Prime equipment at the Pleasanton Fair Grounds continued to be the radio set, but the unit's deploying strength increased to 8 officers and 94 airmen. Next year's annual training at McClellan AFB, CA saw the addition of an officer to the manning roster, and two teletypes to the primary equipment list.

1960 also brought another reorganization. Effective October first, GO 20 changed the unit's name to 262d Communications Squadron (Tributary Teams). The new Unit Manning with the authorized strength increased to 11 officers and 218 airmen. Unit members returned home after AT at Camp Rilea, Oregon the following year, to find that the gaining command had also changed, as of July first, 1961, to Air Force Communications Service.

In 1962 "a tributary team of eleven men from the 262d Comm Squadron" had set up shop at the City-County Airport. Other members were at Pendleton, Oregon, Fairchild AFB, and Spokane

International Airport. Next year's field training took tributary teams to Paine Field, McChord AFB, and Kingsley Field, Oregon for a joint exercise with units of the 162d and 252d Comm Ops.

1964 was a transitional time for the 262. In March, bids opened for a 14,000 square foot addition to the Air National Guard armory. Gaasland Construction Company won the bid for the project, designed to provide an "operations and training building, motor pool, and kitchen facilities in the existing building."

In 1968, the 262 got a new name and a new commander. Major Herbert Taylor, After twenty years at the helm of the 262d, Colonel Peach stepped up to his new post as Deputy Commander of the 252d Mobile Comm Group, and the unit was duly christened the 262d Mobile Comm Squadron. Shortly after came a new unit patch depicting a winged vacuum tube, with the inscribed Latin motto, "Expedite, Diligenter, Mobiliter." Roughly translated the slogan meant: "Be ready, move quickly." If activated, the unit would now fall under the Western Comm Region.

1968 also brought Guard Strike II, the largest Army and Air National Guard exercise ever staged within the continental limits of the US. Over 30,000 reservists participated in the exercise, which covered fifteen northeastern states, from Minnesota to Massachusetts. Led by newly-promoted Chief Warrant Officer Schrey, the Bellingham unit headquartered at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport.

Following arsonist attacks on two pacific northwest military installations, annual training was expanded to cover "tear gas situations, psychological tactics and legal situations," as well as riot control training at the Bellingham airport. A September 18, 1968 news article detailing the attacks on the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps building in Seattle and the Naval and Marine Corps Training Center in Eugene, Oregon estimated damages respectively at \$50,000 and \$106,000.

1968 Guard Strike II. the Technical Control Facility," an "electronic monitor" engineered and built by the Bellingham unit, which "has been adopted for use by all Air National Guard communications groups." February 18, 1969 confirmed that "MSgt Charles Melton's Technical Control Facility has been approved by the National Guard Bureau and Air Force Communications Service Command for all sixteen Air National Guard Mobile Communications Squadrons." Under MSgt Melton's supervision, a 138 page handbook and 38 blueprint drawings were prepared "so that other units can construct their own TCF." The plans promised a TCF capable of handling 60 voice circuits and 48 teletype circuits." In July of 1969, Major Bruce R. Jacobson took over command of the 262d Mobile Comm Squadron. Major Taylor's last act of command was to present Sgt. Donald R. Smith with the unit's first local Outstanding Airman trophy, and plans were subsequently made to award the trophy every six months. As the baton was passed, Major Jacobson highlighted the unit's optimism, concluding: "we have a good squadron, and our future is bright."

That year 6 officers and 145 airmen deployed to WESTACS locations including Rocky Point, Nevada; Wendover AF Auxilary Field, Utah; Rosebud and Kelton, Utah; and Strevell, Idaho. The unit's Utah mission focused on "installation, supervision and operation" of the AN/MS-22B Tactical Control Facility for the northern half of the comm system at Gowen Field, Utah. "The 262d inherited this responsibility," a local news brief explained, "because they're the only unit

possessing an operational TCF of this design." MSgt Charles Melton deployed in July to supervise the facility's operation and use. Souvenirs from the trip included Medical Bulletin #1, issued August 14, 1969 from Wendover AFB Headquarters. "Due to ever increasing numbers of men traveling to such places as Wells, Nevada in search of love and affection," the bulletin announced, treatments for three major venereal diseases were available in the dispensary.

Field training in 1971 was again held at Camp Rilea, Oregon. Members also deployed to Elmendorf AFB and Port Richardson, Alaska, in support of the joint Army/ Air Force "Ember Dawn" exercise. The Skagit Valley Herald for March 22 reported "25 vehicles and 50 men" at Bayview Airport during a 36 hour exercise in Mount Vernon, just south of Bellingham.

In 1972, April and May members participated in Sentre/Guard Strike IV, a joint Army/ Air Force exercise in central Texas, and on October 6, 1972, Major Samuel Wilson assumed command of the unit. Lt Col Jacobson moved south to the 215th Engineering Installation Squadron in Everett, Washington.

In an effort to accommodate changing fashions, Brigadier General Robert F. King, Commander of the Washington Air National Guard, issued a letter April 27th permitting longer hair for male Guardsmen. The letter authorized "hair hanging to, but not over, the collar. Hair can't completely cover ear or sideburns...or extend too far below the bottom of ear." Moustaches other than "Fu Manchus" were also acceptable. Following the letter, the June 16 Bellingham Herald wrote that Commander King was "catching hell from the Air Force" which stipulated that "hair not touch ears, sideburns not extend below the lower portion of the ear hole, and that moustaches be nttly trimmed and no wider than the mouth." The Herald reported the letter "caused more excitement in the Pentagon than the Vietnam war," and in June, Commander King capitulated. "I have no choice but to rescind the letter," he announced, sending numerous Guardsmen hurrying off to barbershops.

In 1973, the unit deployed for annual training to four remote radio sites at Fairchild AFB, Gowen Field in Boise, Idaho, Reardon and Odessa, Washington. In September, members flew by helicopter to Lummi Island to set up a tropospheric scatter shot with the TRC-97, and the unit again took the Adjutant General's trophy.

262d the recipient of the 1974 Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. 16 members pulled annual training at Ember Dawn 75, an Alaskan Command-sponsored joint US Army/ Air Force arctic summer training exercise. 800 military personnel from the lower 48 checked into Elmendorf AFB, Anchorage for the exercise, a continuation of last winter's Ace Card VII.

Other members pulled into Moses Lake, WA for a July tactical exercise at Grant County Airport. Five officers and 80 enlisted personnel joined a 19 truck convoy deploying to remote radio relay sites near Soap Lake, Naches, and the Yakima Firing Center. The 252d Mobile Comm Group found a new home across from Fort Lewis, a \$1.59 million, 35,400 square foot facility at Camp Murray. The 252nd group was originally organized April 1, 1953 at Geiger Field, Spokane, Washington. October 1, 1960 the unit reorganized as the mission transferred from Tactical Air Command to newly-created Air Force Communications Service. The following year, the group

moved to Four Lakes Comm Station in Spokane, and a decade later to a location near Everett, WA, before finding a permanent home at Camp Murray.

On August 10, 1976, the unit again saw a change of command, as Major James G. Miller took the reins of the 262d, now designated Combat Comm Squadron (Contingency).

1977 Annual training at Fairchild AFB involved setting up a comm link to sites in Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Members also deployed to Eielson AFB near Fairbanks and Elmendorf near Anchorage, as part of Alaskan exercise Jack Frost.

In the Mojave Desert, clusters of tropospheric scatter terminals speckled Table Mountain and Nellis AFB, Nevada. Brave Shield 17 was the first major exercise in which the Guard supported more than 90 percent of comm. 90 persons convoyed in 60 vehicles from Washington to Nevada from the 252d Combat Comm Group for the exercise. One remote relay station at Ft. Irwin, CA lay along a road so narrow "you needed clearance before driving it."

In 1979, January, unit members joined teams from the 215th Engineering Installation Squadron in Everett to deactivate and dismantle the radar site at Blaine Air Force Station near the Canadian border. Personnel departed for annual training in Boise, Idaho, as well as to radio relay sites at White Pass for another Brave Shield exercise. Back in Whatcom County, the Guard provided trucks and training to the newly formed Search and Rescue.

1980 Members soon had a chance to live up to the name when Mount St. Helens in southwest Washington erupted on May 18th. Two thousand feet of the mountain were blown off, covering the state in ash. The 252d Group was called on to provide a comm link between the State Military Department's emergency operating command post and a comm site in Toledo, Washington, only 25 miles from the volcano. Members also set up a relay site at Capitol Peak and provided comm between Army helicopters and state headquarters. That winter, Governor Ray declared Whatcom County a "snow disaster area," galvanizing the local Guard unit to deliver food and medical supplies to the elderly and needy families. Local churches and community groups gathered food for delivery to the snowbound. Aided by REACT, a local CB club, unit members in trucks and a wrecker managed to tow vehicles and deliver supplies in "the worst storm in nine years."

State disasters didn't slow down the 262d, In February and March, 38 airmen participated in a month-long exercise, Gallant Eagle 80, erecting tactical tents and antennas amid towering Atlas missile stands at Edwards AFB's rocket propulsion test facility. Other members deployed to remote locations at Ft. Irwin, George and Norton AFB in CA; Nellis AFB, NV; and Mountain Home AFB ID.

March and April offered overseas deployments to Osan, Korea. Members joined 1,000 Air Force communicators as part of 43,000 US troops for Team Spirit 80. At home, annual training was a "learning owl" in Boise, Idaho, with classes varying from biological and chemical warfare, to lifesaving and communications

With the appointment of Brigadier General George Coates to the state's top military position in 1981, Washington state had a full-time National Guard Adjutant General for the first time since

1977. At the 262d, Major David W. Keller was appointed commander in October of 1980, and promoted to Lt Col in 1981. The unit took the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

"A realistic communications exercise in a desert environment" was the goal of Exercise Border Star 81, which took place in southwestern Texas and New Mexico. In the July 17th issue of AFCC Intercom, Col Duncan Campbell, commander of Tactical Comm Division, Langley AFB, Virginia, was quoted as saying, "we literally can't go to war without the Guard." As commander of TCD, the article noted, Col Campbell is responsible for approximately 11,000 combat communicators his command would gain in the event of activation. "Our biggest problem is to get the Guard some modern equipment," Col Campbell explained. "I find that they're professional, dedicated people doing an admirable job, sometimes under difficult circumstances. They've got more capability and total resources than the active force."

Training for 1982 included 36 hour exercises at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Capitol Peak, and Paine Field. A 90 person task force from the Washington Guard joined Bright Star 82, a multi-nation field exercise in Egypt, with 262d members augmenting the 242d Combat Comm Squadron from Geiger Field, Spokane. Major James Mullen, Chief of Maintenance, colorfully recalled: "This is the first time we experienced dust and wind of this magnitude, not to mention the insects, wild dogs, rodents, unheated tents, and only an occasional hot shower."

Numbered among the 48,000 troops at Gallant Eagle 82 were 500 from the Washington and Oregon Guard. Radar, high frequency radios and other wartime comm gear peppered remote peaks in the Mojave Desert, and throughout Nevada and California. "Mobility with readiness is bought with a price," confessed Lt Larry Laughlin," referring to the "60 mph winds and other challenges faced by personnel, but Gallant Eagle gave us a tremendous investment for the future."

In 1983, The was annual field training at Western Washington University, Bellingham. 550 Guard men and women from throughout the state gathered for the group's third "learning owl." The learning owl concept was originally pioneered by the 252d Group in 1978, then expanded for a field training seminar in 1981. 1983 saw camouflaged vehicles parked outside the environmental studies building, and Guardsmen packing classrooms at Fairhaven College for more than fifty offered courses.

Early in January of 1984, Governor John Spellman proclaimed a state of emergency due to flooding, and instructed the State Department of Emergency Services to coordinate the efforts of the National Guard.

Special order G-53 of 18 June redesignated the 262d Combat Comm Squadron (CMBTCS) as the 262d Combat Information Systems Squadron (CISS), but Special Order G-11 of 28 October, 1986 put it back the next year to Combat Comm, now abbreviated as "262 CCSQ).

Balikatan 85 involved airlifting 127,000 Ibs of comm equipment from McChord AFB to Clark Air Base, Republic of the Phillipines. 262d members joined the 252d Group for the exercise, which ran from April to May. Back home, Air Guard and Army Guard joined together to collect toys for the Jaycees' Christmas Ship holiday project.

Local Guardsmen dubbed 1989 "the year of NATO deployments," as exercises took 262 members to Denmark, Germany, Italy, England, Norway, and Turkey. Annual training was a learning owl—this time at the other end of the state, at Eastern Washington University in Cheney. The "Third Herd" from the 3d Combat Comm Group at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma, was on hand for mobility training in MILES gear and escape and evasion.

During severe power outages due to winter storms, the unit provided portable heaters to nursing homes in February of 1989.

1989 also brought personnel changes as the 262 gained a new air traffic control mission, and lost many wideband slots. Over the next two years, there was a shift in equipment, adding two TSC-107 comm vans, two GRC 206 mobile comm systems, and two TRN-26 TACANs, eliminating one TSC-60 and all the wideband vans. The newly acquired air traffic control radar and tower made this portion of the unit a Forward Operating Location, redirecting the mission focus toward ground to air comm.

1990 the gaining command for all combat comm changed from Air Force Communications Command to Tactical Air Command. Annual training took unit members to Eagle Strike I, held in June at Farragut State Park, Idaho. The exercise included more than 500 Guard personnel from Washington and Oregon. Unit-provided comm links enabled KGMI radio to cover the annual Ski to Sea race in its entirety, from the summit of Mount Baker to its finish on Bellingham Bay.

66 unit members were awarded the Washington National Guard disaster relief ribbon for efforts during the winter floods and ice storm of late 1990. Air and Army Guard volunteers also sandbagged part of the levee on River bend Road in Mt. Vernon, after the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management ordered a precautionary evacuation of the area.

1991 brought the victory of allied forces in the Gulf War. Locally, over 60 members participated in flood relief for Whatcom and Skagit counties. More than 700 Washington and Oregon Air National Guard members met for Healthy Measure I, staged in June in Moses Lake, Richland, Ellensburg,

In 1992, May brought Exercise Coronet White at Weir Prairie on Fort Lewis, with Lightning Creek III, near Ross Lake, in September. Also in May, members deployed on a joint Army/Air Guard mission to Honduras, Central America. Some members received Army Achievement Medals for their support of Operation Fuertes Caminos. Guardsmen were also detached out of Howard AFB, Panama for "Support Justice" counter-drug operation support.

1992 was the year members at drill were wearing a new squadron patch, with the redesignated initials 262 CCSQ.

In 1993, the unit got its first SATCOM, and displayed the three story satellite dish in the parking lot. Exercises that year included air traffic control support at the Bayview Airport in Skagit Valley, Sentry Vigilance '93, and Cascade Valley, a 96 hour September exercise at Fort Lewis involving active duty Air Force, Army and Air Force Reserve, along with Air National Guard.

In Mar 1994 new radar equipment arrived on site, and new fencing was installed at the unit, extending the perimeter area.

When fires raged across eastern Washington, 46 unit members volunteered for Firestorm '94 at Fish Lake, Entiat and the Chelan County Airport. The 252d Group took the lead with the state's Crisis Action Team to direct total Air National Guard support for civil authorities. More than three dozen members volunteered in areas of food service, transportation, and mobile radio communications to support firefighters. Whatcom Fire District #4 presented the unit with a certificate for "Exceptional Community Support" during the operation. In October, unit members installed numerous antennas throughout the county for use in emergencies by Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services.

Annual Training in 1994 was at Camp Rilea, Oregon. Air Traffic Control took its mobile tower to an Air Show at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in July. Other exercises included Cobra Gold in Thailand, Dynamic Impact/ Dynamic Guard in Italy and Spain, and Support Justice/Steady State in Central and South America. The unit also provided tents and supplies in June for the Lummi Nation's worldwide gathering, "The Spiritual Unity of Tribes."

Fourteen members deployed to the sunny climes of Barking Sands Naval Air Station in Kauai, Hawaii in support of Falcon Ace 95-08. Hammer Eagle 95-06 found other members convoying in June to Weir Prairie at Fort Lewis, Washington for a memorable two weeks of annual field training.

Fifty members also deployed to the survival school site at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane for Hammer Eagle 95-09. Unit members variously joined Alert Mission 95 at Naval Air Station, Key West, Florida and Steady State Mission 95 in Panama City, Panama. Members also provided radar and air traffic control support for Sentry Vigilance 95 in Wisconsin. The unit received a revised mission statement and a new vision statement. The mid-decade mission: "Provide the highest quality mobile communications service to support our state and nation in peace and war."

Annual training for 1997 was a learning owl, hosted by Camp Rilea. Rows of satellite dishes bordered training classrooms for Readiness 97 and Eagle Strike 97-7. 60 members received the Humanitarian Service Medal for efforts during the floods of 1990 in Whatcom and Skagit Counties and Firestorm 94. The ceremony was dedicated to MSgt Gary Smith, who passed away unexpectedly after retiring in 1996. Also this year, MSgt Paul Klineman stepped up to bat as the new First Sergeant. Exercises included a 96 hour operation at Bellingham International Airport.

1998 saw members cross the country for annual training at Fort Drum, New York. Some went further afield to destinations in Bosnia, including Dubrovnik, a 13th century walled city on the Adriatic.

Four unit members were activated under the Presidential Selective Reserve Call-Up, and transferred to the 143d CBCS in Seattle. Annual training in 1999 was split between Fort Hunter Liggett, California and Operation Grecian Firebolt '99 at Fort Lewis. The Fort Lewis operation was spearheaded by the Army and involved 58 unit members. The remainder boarded five C-130s at the Bellingham Airport, and headed for Fort Hunter Liggett, CA.

2000 February brought a joint exercise with our friends to the north, the 744th Communications Regiment from Vancouver, British Columbia, led by Major Hal Buller, Captain Glen Watson, Warrant Officer Don Willis, and Sergeant Major Stephen Kern. S

The unit's new mission statement: "to provide deployed communications systems, trained personnel, support services, and equipment to the deployed warfighter."

Back home, there was another war to fight: the fires in Eastern Washington. All Guard units in the state were directed to provide personnel and equipment to support firefighting efforts. Over twenty members from the unit volunteered for Firestorm 2001, providing comm support in the field, working in the Emergency Operations Center and driving deuce-and-a-half trucks to transport firefighters. Most of the 2.5 ton trucks were corralled at the Rodeo grounds at Lake Chelan, Washington, where Guard members set up a tent city bivouac.

Early in 2001, Col Michael Stewart addressed the unit about the Program Objective Memorandum, an initiative that would lead to transitioning and remissioning for the 262d. Pending approval from the National Guard Bureau, the new plan would utilize the unit's resources and personnel to fund and support an Information Warfare Aggressor Squadron (IWAS). The first Air National Guard squadron of its kind, the 262d would be patterned after an active duty Air Force squadron, the 92d IWAS in San Antonio, Texas.

The program change request (PCR) was signed in the last week of January, 2002, officially approving the remissioning of the 262 from combat comm to information warfare. Now it was all over but the shouting. With the signing of the PCR, five decades of the Air National Guard in Bellingham came to a close. But as Major Porter was to remark, as one chapter in the unit's history was closing, another was just opening, as the 262 took on its new mantle as the Air National Guard's first information warfare squadron.

June one was the date chosen for the remissioning ceremony, and the final drill weekend found unit members shuttling between events. The ceremony took place at Camp Murray, in the 254th Red Horse squadron's auditorium. At the close of the duty day on Sunday, June 2nd, members formed up for the final closing ceremony. "Present arms!" In unison, members delivered a final, crisp salute, as two Color Guard members, SSgt Charlie Jensen and SSgt Josh Dunn, lowered the flag for the last time, and folded it into a triangle, ready to be encased and displayed. Standing at attention, members gave themselves to reflection, the silence broken only by a lone bugler playing "Taps."

Although the 262 remissioned in 2002, the seeds of change were sown years before. In 1999, the Washington Air National Guard was notified that the 6KTAH initial comm mission would be eliminated. The state was encouraged to explore remissioning the 262d, as the Bellingham unit was tasked with this mission.

In August of the same year, the National Guard Bureau gave the State of Washington formal approval to establish the Guard's first Information Warfare Team (IWT). A small organization was formed of highly-skilled Guard members employed in the cutting edge of Seattle's technology

sector. This cadre of talented and qualified individuals brought together skills in telecommunications, engineering, programming and network security to form the nucleus of a future information warfare squadron.

In conjunction with the Air Force Information Warfare Center (AFIWC), Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) identified the need to incorporate an Air National Guard squadron into the 318th Information Operations Group to perform the information warfare aggressor (IWAS) mission. An agreement was reached with the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) whereby the IWT would become the core of a new IWAS, to be sourced through the remissioning of an existing combat communications squadron. With its former mission being eliminated, the 262d was the obvious choice.

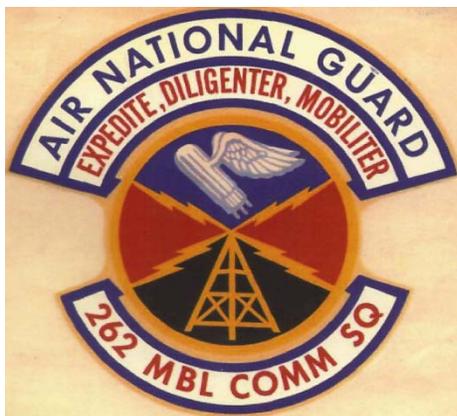
From the beginning, the IWT patterned itself after its active duty Air Force counterpart, the 92d Information Warfare Aggressor Squadron in San Antonio, Texas, which itself remissioned into an IWAS in November 2000. As part of its initial charter, the IWT was tasked to conduct network vulnerability assessments of the Washington Air National Guard's computer networks. Attempts to "hack" into defense computer systems, particularly in the wake of 9-11, reinforced the need to assess and defend military networks. In its "devil's advocate" role, the 262d IWAS would employ realistic threats and tactics to "hack" into Air Force systems, thus enhancing the Air Force's cyber-security posture.

Groundbreaking took place Dec. 11 at McChord AFB, Wash., for the new 23,500-square-foot building that will house the Washington Air National Guard's 262nd Network Warfare Squadron that supports USAF's 688th Information Operations Wing at Lackland AFB, Tex. "This is more than just a groundbreaking for a new facility," said Col. William Morrow, 688th IOW vice commander. He added, "It enables the 262nd NWS experts to deliver groundbreaking cyber capabilities through 24th Air Force and Air Force Space Command to protect our nation." The \$5.6 million construction project is scheduled for completion in October 2010. Lt. Col. Kelly Hughes, with the 262nd NWS, said the unit "will utilize a state-of-the-art center within the facility to continue to innovate and change the way the Air Force views the security of our data networks." 2009

Some cyber policy-makers say the Department of Homeland Security should be responsible for defending nonmilitary networks, but that network owners should do most of the work. Might the Guard be a partial solution? Operating in state status under the command of governors, Guard cyber experts have already helped secure some nonmilitary computer systems. "We've done it twice," says Col. Brian Dravis, the commander of the Washington Air National Guard's 194th Regional Support Wing. The wing's 262nd Information Warfare Squadron ran security assessments on the state's enhanced drivers license system in advance of the 2010 Winter Olympics in neighboring British Columbia. Washington's enhanced drivers licenses can also serve as border crossing documents, so system security was important during the international sporting competition. The unit has also conducted cyber security assessments for the state emergency management division's network. The Washington Air Guard has also received congressional funding to study the security of industrial control systems, and has conducted "very productive discussions" with senior White House officials about a possible role in critical infrastructure protection, Dravis says. "Can we broaden that out for domestic support? We're looking at that," he

says. So is the National Guard Bureau. “We’re watching closely the laws, regulations and policies that are coming out,” says Maj. Aaron Munn, the cyber program manager in the Army Guard’s operations division. “[But for now,] our main effort is to protect military networks. For the Army National Guard, that means GuardNet.” Many Army Guard units have members with the necessary skills to help defend civilian cyber networks, Munn says, but “right now, we don’t use those skills for the dot-coms and the commercial side of the house.” 2012

262nd Combat Communications Squadron is tasked with training and equipping combat communications personnel to field, install, operate, and maintain Ground Mobile Force communications in support of tactical air forces deployed around the world. Upon activation, the unit answers to the US Air Force's Air Combat Command, with a mission area of central Europe, As commander of the 262nd, Phillips was responsible for the unit's day-to-day operations of the 20 full-time personnel as well as the traditional Air Guard members assigned to this unit.



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Sources

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