

# 281<sup>st</sup> COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



## LINEAGE

Redesignated 281<sup>st</sup> Combat Communications Group

Redesignated 281<sup>st</sup> Combat Information Systems Group, 1 Jul 1985

## STATIONS

N. Smithfield, Coventry, Rhode Island

## STATIONS

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

Col Irvin G. Ray, 1 Apr 1976

Col William F. Carroll, Jr. 7 May 1978

Col Lester W. Cory, 26 Jun 1979

Col John W. Baxter, 2 Mar 1988

Col Girard F. Nardone II, 5 Dec 1992

Col Ernest R. Oliveira, 9 Jul 1995

Col William A. Richmond III, 4 May 1997

Col Donald M. Lagor, 3 Nov 2002

Col Dean A. Plowman, 23 Nov 2004

Col Mark McGrath, 8 Mar 2009

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## Decorations

## EMBLEM

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The United States Air Force's 281st Combat Communications Group is a Rhode Island Air National Guard combat communications unit located at Smithfield, Rhode Island, USA.

Federal: To install, operate, and maintain combat ready equipment and personnel packages, to provide deployable communications and information (C&I) capability in support of the United States Air Force Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) and the Air Force Forces (AFFOR) Commander

State: To be organized, equipped, and trained to function effectively in the protection of life, property and the preservation of peace, order, and public safety under competent orders of Rhode Island state authorities.

The 281st Combat Communications Group (CCG) contains three Combat Communications Squadrons (CBCSs) and two Engineering and Installation Squadrons (EISs). The CBCSs install, operate, and maintain combat ready equipment and personnel packages, commonly called Unit Type Codes (UTCs), to provide deployable communications and information (C&I) capability in support of the Air Force Joint Forces Air Component Commander (JFACC) and the Air Force Forces (AFFOR) Commander. The EISs engineer, install, remove and relocate Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems. CCGs are lead elements of Combat Air Forces (CAF), providing the initial deployed communications capability that will later be sustained by other elements of the C&I community. The 281st CCG is aligned with the United States Central Command's Air Component - United States Central Area Air Forces (USCENTAF). The 281st CCG and 282nd CBCS support Rhode Island state authorities with organized, equipped, and trained forces, ready to protect life, property, and the preservation of peace, order, and public safety for Rhode Island. These services include secure and non-secure Defense Switching Network telephone services, unclassified and classified Internet, email services, video conferencing, and text messaging services. The group is responsible for establishing these stateside based telecommunications services in the forward deployed theater of operation. In conjunction with the Federal mission, the units of the 281st CCG have a State mission to be organized, equipped, and trained to function effectively in the protection of life, property and the preservation of peace, order, and public safety under competent orders of State authorities

281st Combat Communications Group (CCG) was established on 1 April 1976. Consisting of the 282nd Combat Communications Squadron (CBCS), RI and the 283rd CBCS, GA, the 281st CCG supplied high frequency radio and telephone switch service and the longest range, highest channel capacity of any USAF Tactical Wideband radio system. In 1985, the 281st CCG was selected as the USAF Component of the Tactical Contingency Communications Equipment -

Central Area (TCCE-CA) in support of the United States Central Command (USCENTCOM). The 281CCG performed the entire USAF portion of the joint TCCE-CA mission. The 263 CBCS, NC rejoined the 281CCG in 1988.

In 1993, the 118 CBCS, NC was also assigned to the 281CCG. The 118th served a NATO Air Base Support (NABS) mission and then was converted to a NATO Initial Bed down mission. Following redeployment from Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) in 2003, the 281CCG was re-missioned to support the USCENAF Air Command and Control Center (ACCC). In 2006, the 281CCG mission was modified to support USNORTHCOM, Headquarters Air Force and the National Guard Bureau Joint C4 Coordination Center (JCCC) in Homeland Defense. The group has been awarded numerous community service awards. It has also won the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award 4 times

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Sources