

392 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

392 Communications Squadron

392 Operations Squadron

392 Communications Squadron

STATIONS

Cooke AFB (later Vandenberg AFB), CA, 1 Jan 1958-21 Jul 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 392nd Communications Squadron should be designated a "communications and instrumentation" squadron since its functions include as much concentration on missile communications and instrumentation as on normal communication and the latter is no small operation. Approximately 25,000 electrical messages and over 450,000 telephone calls are processed every month by this unit's communications center and telephone switchboard. And with some 20,000 telephones to maintain along with the Combat Training Launch Instrumentation. (CTLI), microwave, mobile radio, closed circuit television, electronic digital data, teletype and cryptographic systems it operates, it is no wonder that the 392nd is the largest squadron of its kind in the United States Air Force.

With the recent reassignment of Col. James R. Bean as the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division, Deputy Chief of Staff, Communications and Instrumentation, interim command of the squadron was assigned to Maj. John W. Perdue pending arrival of the new commander, Col. Edward F. Jones, Jr., in late July.

The squadron is assigned directly to the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division and is charged with the responsibility for implementing the division's extensive communications support mission involving the space and missile programs active at Vandenberg. In this respect, the 392nd is under the operational control of the 1STRAD DCS-CI, now its previous commander, Colonel Bean.

On April 2, 1969, the 392nd Communications Squadron reappeared at Vandenberg after an absence of eight years and the 4392nd Communications Squadron passed out of existence, although its personnel, mission and even its barracks were absorbed by the new unit. This was the second such exchange between these two units, the first occurring on July 21, 1961, when the 392nd was replaced by the 4392nd. Despite the apparent continuity involved in these transactions, there has never been any connection between the two as far as history or lineage is concerned; they are completely separate units.

The 392nd CS was first activated at Vandenberg on Jan. 1, 1958 and was assigned to the 392nd Combat Support Group under the 1st Missile Division. A month later the squadron was redesignated to an Operations Squadron, but this only lasted until April 15 when it was returned to its original designation as the 392nd Communications Squadron.

On July 18, 1958, the squadron was attached to the 1st Missile Division for operational control, returning to operational control of the 392nd CSG less than a year later on Feb. 20, 1959. The first interface with the 4392nd CS took place on July 21, 1961 when the 392nd was discontinued (inactivated) and the 4392nd organized in its stead. Being an Air Force controlled (AFCON) unit, its history and lineage lay dormant until April 2, 1969 when it was reactivated and assigned to 1STRAD, picking up where it had left off eight years before. The 4392nd CS was discontinued on the same date and, being a major command controlled (MAJCON) unit, its history and lineage was terminated. Unfortunately, the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award it won only five

months before also was retired with the inactivation; nonetheless, all of the men of the 392nd CS who were in the squadron during the period covered by the award can wear the ribbon permanently.

THE 392ND CS EMBLEM Although the 392nd Communications Squadron has been inactive for eight years, its emblem is not unfamiliar at Vandenberg. For years, the old 4392nd CS had used it in error, believing itself to be a redesignation of the inactive unit. With the reactivation of the 392nd, the emblem can now be displayed legally. This design, which was approved on June 15, 1960, was the first in which the four stars were used specifically and solely to indicate "the highest rank achieved by General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, for whom the base is named." The disc is split diagonally by a red lightning flash symbolizing "electricity and the speed of all unit operations." The light blue upper half contains the four golden yellow "Vandenberg" stars, a white missile tipped in red with red and white exhaust trails, and a symbol of three red satellite in blue orbits against a white background. All this represents "the missile program which this squadron supports in all phases of its mission, and satellites in orbit for peacetime utilization and strategic purposes." The lower half of the emblem is Air Force golden yellow with dark blue and white designs of a micro-wave antenna, helix antenna and telephone lines. Obviously, it is intended to portray "modern ground-space communications and standard, dependable landline telephone communications and circuitry." The overall color motif blends the Air Force's ultramarine blue and golden yellow with the national colors, all within a narrow Air Force blue border. No official motto is authorized for the scroll; therefore, the unit emblem displays the squadron's numerical designation.

Squadron at Vandenberg has received official approval of its unit insignia, it was announced today by Lt Col Patrick E. Therrien, squadron commander. Design of the insignia was submitted several months ago by SSgt Donald L. Hayes. The insignia is the fourth to be approved' by Headquarter USAF for Vandenberg AFB units. First, was that of the 704th Strategic Missile Wing and second was that of the 576th Strategic Missile Squadron. The third was the 392nd Combat Support Group. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The upper half of the emblem represents against a in background of blue sky the missile program which this squadron supports in all of its aspects. The four stars indicate the highest rank achieved by General Hoyt S. Vandenberg, for whom the base is named. The lower half of the emblem, displaying a micro-wave antenna, belix antenna, and telephone lines symbolize ground and space communications and standard, dependable landline telephone communications and circuitry. The red lightning flash dividing the emblem symbolizes electricity and indicates the speed of all unit operations. The emblem bears the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow and the national colors, red, white, and blue.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 26 Aug 2011
Updated:

Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.