

552nd MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The 552nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron is responsible for isochronal inspection for all E-3 aircraft. The squadron is also responsible for the fabrication of parts and associated equipment as well as provide aerospace ground equipment to support flying operations.

EMS is divided into three flights, Maintenance, Aerospace Ground Equipment and Fabrication. The Commander's Support Staff includes six personnelists/information managers who are directly responsible for 379 computers and printers, as well as 30 personnelist programs.

The AGE Flight inspects, repairs and delivers more than 550 pieces of powered and non-powered equipment and provides ongoing support to homeland defense, training and contingencies.

The Fabrication Flight has four sections consisting of Aircraft Refurbishment that performs interior refurbishment to the E-3, and Structural Maintenance that executes field-level structural maintenance. The last two sections are Metals Technology that provides welding, machining and local manufacture services, and Corrosion Control that treats corrosion on the aircraft.

Maintenance Flight also is comprised of four work centers that include Inspection, Support, Repair and Integrated Maintenance. The primary function of this flight is to carry out ISOs and acceptance inspections, equipment maintenance on landing gear, and major aircraft systems on the assigned E-3s.

What the unit comprises: The 552nd EMS more than 300 military personnel and one civil service employee in four buildings within the wing.

The 552nd EMS has ensured the deployment readiness of the 28 assigned E-3 aircraft valued at \$8.4 billion with the execution of the ISO inspection program along with maintaining deployment

readiness of more than 550 pieces of AGE valued at more than \$16 million. The squadron is also responsible for facilities, equipment, and supply accounts valued in excess of \$35 million.

Annual operating budget: \$3 million

Impact to the warfighter: The 552nd EMS ensures the deployment readiness of the 28 assigned E-3 aircraft with the execution of the ISO inspection program along with maintaining deployment readiness of more than 550 pieces of AGE. Additionally, the EMS supports more than 50 deployment taskings supporting the 552nd Air Control Wing and Air Expeditionary Force Center temporary duty assignments to locations such as Ecuador, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Canada.

LINEAGE

552nd Field Maintenance Squadron constituted, 25 Jun 1959
Activated, 1 Oct 1959
Redesignated 552nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 1 Apr 1975
Inactivated, 30 Apr 1976
Activated, 1 Jul 1976
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1978
Redesignated 552nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 10 Feb 1983
Activated, 15 Feb 1983
Inactivated, 29 May 1992
Activated, 1 May 1996
Redesignated 552nd Maintenance Squadron, 4 May 2007

STATIONS

McClellan AFB, CA, 1 Oct 1959-30 Apr 1976
Tinker AFB, OK, 1 Jul 1976-1 Oct 1978
Tinker AFB, OK, 15 Feb 1983-29 May 1992
Tinker AFB, OK, 1 May 1996

ASSIGNMENTS

552nd Airborne Early Warning and Control Wing (later, 552 Airborne Early Warning and Control Group), 1 Oct 1959-30 Apr 1976
552nd Airborne Warning and Control Wing, 1 Jul 1976-1 Oct 1978
552nd Airborne Warning and Control Wing (later, 552nd Airborne Warning and Control Division; 552nd Air Control Wing; 552nd Airborne Warning and Control Wing), 15 Feb 1983-29 May 1992
552nd Logistics (later, 552nd Maintenance) Group, 1 May 1996

COMMANDERS

Maj James R. Witter
Maj William Z. Zeck, 24 Aug 2001
Maj Kelley C. Stevens, #2011
Maj Louis G. Stewart, 29 Jun 2011

LTC Andrew Miskovich III

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970

1 Jul 1971-31 Dec 1972

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

Meritorious Unit Award

1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1961-30 Jun 1963

15 Apr 1965-1 Jul 1966

2 Jul 1966-1 Jul 1968

1 Jul 1970-30 Jun 1971

1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1975

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978

15 Feb 1983-30 Jun 1984

1 May 1985-30 Apr 1987

1 May 1987-30 Apr 1989

1 Dec 1989-1 Dec 1991

1 Jun 1996-31 May 1998

1 Jun 1998-31 May 2000

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM



552nd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron emblem approved, 11 Jan 1977



552nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron emblem

552nd Maintenance Squadron emblem: On a disc Sable, a bend sinister Argent surmounted by a bulldog guardant Khaki, detailed of the first, spikes, teeth and eyes of the second, above an atomic symbol Or enveloping a wrench and screwdriver crossed in saltire, metal Silver Gray, handled of the fourth, detailed of the first, all within a double border Azure and Black. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "552D MAINTENANCE SQUADRON" in Black letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 bulldog represents the AWACS Maintenance bulldog "Stormy" from the early 1990's and suggests great stability, vigor, and strength. The electrons encircling the wrench and screwdriver all bound together represent the electronic and mechanical systems maintenance performed by the unit. The black field and white bend are a symbol for the rotodome of the AWACS and represent the unit's support of the AWACS mission. These symbols are also a link to the 552d CMS emblem. (Approved, 4 Oct 2007)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 1 May 1996, the 552d Maintenance Squadron (MXS) inactivated and gave way to two old friends. Finding the size of the combined maintenance structure unwieldy and cumbersome, the 552 MXS split its personnel and resources into two squadrons that had been inactivated four years before. The 552d Component Repair Squadron and the 552d Equipment Maintenance Squadron again prowled the tarmac at Tinker AFB. Major Merkel C. Joseph and Major James R. Watts took command of each squadron, respectively.

This summer, EMS and the 552nd Component Maintenance Squadron will once again recombine to a squadron of more than 625 personnel based on impending manning cuts. Immediately, 17 positions will come off the books and will poise the new larger, yet leaner, squadron to meet future challenges and take the PB 720 cuts head on.

Reorganization and expansion again affected the 552 ACW when Headquarters ACC activated the 952d Aircraft Generation Squadron (Test) and inactivated the 552d Maintenance Squadron. This ended a four-year experiment on the effectiveness of a combined maintenance organization.

The 552nd Maintenance Squadron fabrication flight at Tinker AFB, Okla., recently received engineering approval to make and install the first 3-D printed part—a plastic endcap for seat armrests—on an E-3 Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft. Engineers at the Oklahoma Air Logistics Complex approved the part on Dec. 18 after determining that the specialized plastic used by the printer met fire and smoke safety requirements. "The metals tech shop here is really leading the way in Air Force innovation and developing a new way of doing things—making it leaner, faster, on demand," said SMSgt. Bradley Green, fabrication flight superintendent. The flight received its advanced Fortus 400mc 3-D printer last July. Since then, it also has created two "high-strength plastic form molds" used to make replacement air duct brackets in the E-3's wings—a part no longer made by the manufacturer. The new process takes what was once an eight-hour job and reduces it to one hour and 30 minutes, said McBride. "We're actually making a part that had zero in stock, and we're refilling the supply system worldwide because of the stuff that we've just created with a 3-D printer and a water jet," he added. 2016

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 31 May 2011

Updated: 7 Feb 2019

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.