

## 2157 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

2157 Communications Squadron is a Type I communications squadron situated on an Air Force Reserve base. Serving Air Force, Navy, Marine, and Army active duty, Reserve and National Guard components, the 2157th daily participates in the total force concept of the Department of Defense. The gigantic Lockheed-Georgia Company also uses our services. Located 16 miles north of Atlanta, the area is the central hub of communications, transportation, and commerce for the Southeastern United States. These are the characteristics that mold the requirements of the 2157 Communications Squadron.

The mission of the 2157th Communications Squadron is to provide voice communications, record communications, and air traffic control services to Dobbins Air Force Base and collocated Naval Air Station Atlanta. The Commander, 2157 Communications Squadron, serves as the communications staff officer to the Commander, 94 Combat Support Group. Dobbins' status as an Air Force Reserve base means that the 2157 Communications Squadron is a geographically separated unit (GSU). There are five main branches to the Communications Squadron: Communications-Electronics Operations, Air Traffic Control Operations, Communications-Electronics Maintenance, Communications-Electronics Programs, and Unit Administration.

The Communications-Electronics Operations Branch is the focal point for ground communications in and around Dobbins AFB. The base switchboard provides tele- phone communications on-base and connects with the off-base exchange, as well as providing AUTOVON capability and trunk lines with the Lockheed-Georgia exchange. The Telecommunications Center (TCC) is equipped with the AB-215 DSTE system and provides low speed paper tape, card, and page print capability. The AUTODIN terminal is secured by KG-13 on-line CRYPTO equipment.

The Air Traffic Control Operations Branch provides Dobbins AFB with air traffic control service in conjunction with Atlanta Approach Control and Atlanta Center. Dobbins AFB is located in the second busiest terminal control area in the world. Its close proximity to several other satellite airports and Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport gives it a traffic density almost unequaled in the world. Dobbins' location places a set of special requirements on controllers to be flexible in supporting the frequent arrivals of distinguished visitors, foreign dignitaries, and governmental support aircraft.

ATC Operations runs both a VFR control tower (equipped with a GSA-135 console and BRITE radar) and a ground controlled approach radar unit (GPN-24 equipped with TPX-42 and FPN-62). ATC services are provided to an extreme mixture of aircraft, including the F-105s and C-7s flown by the Air Force, the A-7s and A-4s flown by the Navy, OV-10s and AH-1s flown by the Marines, and OV-1s, UH-1s and U-8s flown by the Army. The Lockheed Company frequently flies C-5s, C-141s, C-130s, and Jetstars in and out of Dobbins.

The Maintenance Branch of the 2157 Communications Squadron keeps the equipment of the other branches "on the air" as well as maintaining equipment for other units on station. The main sections of the Maintenance Branch are Radio Maintenance, Radar Maintenance, DSTE-Teletype Maintenance, Weather Maintenance, and NAVAIDS Maintenance,

The Communications-Electronics Programs Branch manages all programming and planning activities for the communications facilities at Dobbins. Also handled in this branch are manning actions, plans management, and the annual budget in excess of \$800,000.

Unit Administration ties the other branches together with administrative support and management. The parent CBPO is located 150 miles away at Robins AFB GA. The 2157 is one of three AFCC squadrons authorized personnel technicians and the GSU, which falls under the Administration Branch services over 200 active duty personnel on Dobbins and in the surrounding communities.

## **LINEAGE**

2157 Communications Squadron

## **STATIONS**

Dobbins AFB, GA, 1 Apr 1972

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Cpt Douglas A. Miese

Cpt Robin L. Turner

Cpt William Welch, 1982

Cpt Robert Bennet 1984

Capt William P. Welch

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

The organizational emblem for the 2157 Communications Squadron has received formal approval from Air Force Military Personnel Center. The emblem was specifically designed to depict the role the 2157th plays, not only as members of the Air Force Communications Command (AFCC), but as an organization supporting the total force policy. The central feature of the emblem is a communications facility with transmission beams/electronic flashes emitting outward through 360 degrees. The communications facility is symbolic of all communications- electronic equipment used for transmission of command and control communications. The "Total Force" motto covers the multitude of recipients of our services. These recipients are: Air Force Communications Command (AFCC), United States Air Force (USAF), Air Force Reserve (AFRES), United States Navy (USN), Military Airlift Command (MAC), United States Marine Corps (USMC), United States Army (USA), Air National Guard (ANG), and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP). The transmission beams/electronic flashes are the means by which the squadron accomplishes its air traffic control and communications operations missions. The maintenance responsibilities and programs functions are symbolized by the fact that the communications facility is operational. Operating 24 hours a day, the communications squadron continually provides its services and sheds the light of command and control communications throughout the Dobbins AFB and Naval Air Station/Atlanta communities. (Approved, 1983)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 2157th Communications Squadron, is referred to as a Geographically Separated Unit (GSU). What determines a GSU is the location of the squadron's servicing Consolidated Base Personnel Office (CBPO). In the case of the 2157 CS, the servicing CBPO is located at Robins AFD, Ga., with the 2853rd Air Base Group. Since Robins AFB is beyond a reasonable commuting distance, two personnel services specialists are assigned to the 2157 CS to handle all the many facets of the personnel career field for the squadron.

Acting as the front line of defense against personnel problems for the squadron are TSgt (selectee) Dwight C. Graves and AIC John P. Wylam. Under normal situations these individuals would only be responsible for handling problems of their own unit, but the situation at Dobbins AFB is not normal for these two specialists. On the contrary, they are responsible for providing personnel liaison service for all active duty Air Force members on Dobbins AFB.

Approximately 210 Regular Air Force members are assigned in and around these different units on Dobbins AFB. SSgt Graves and AIC Wylam are responsible for handling all problems which any one of them may encounter in the field of

personnel services. The problems and services range from ID card applications to separation actions, reenlistments, PCS moves, WAPS testing verifications, and many, many more. The career field responsibilities are vast and varied. The problems created within these areas are staggering when viewed in the light that each Air Force member is unique, with his own personal situation which must be looked upon with a fresh set of eyes. At a ratio of two personnel specialists for 210 Air Force members, accolades arc in order for these two members striving to fulfill the unofficial AFCS motto of "Always First Class Service

A newly-installed \$2 million radar system at Dobbins Air Force Base will soon provide benefits to the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control service in the greater Atlanta area. The new GPN-24 "state-of-the-art" Radar system, which went on line Sept. 24 at the Marietta, Ga. Air Force Reserve base, is due to be microwaved to the FAA's Atlanta Air Traffic Control Radar Facility at Hartsfield International Airport. The FAA also has long-range plans to further microwave Dobbins's radar signal to Dekalb-Peachtree and Fulton County airports.

"The GPN-24 will provide increased reliability, better radar returns and decreased scope clutter," said 2d Lt. Dan Hoover, chief of air traffic control operations for the 2157th Communications Squadron at Dobbins. "The electronic circuitry and operational capabilities of this new system far exceed those in the old MP N-13 and controllers can now selectively block out unwanted radar returns for a clearer, less cluttered display." Dobbins is only the second base in the Air Force to have an operational GPN-24 system. The first modernized radar was installed earlier this year at Nellis AFB, Nev. One of the unique features of the GPN-24 is its transportable capability. Each segment of the system is housed in fiberglass shelters which are easily moved by C-130 or C-141 cargo aircraft or by flat-bed truck. The entire system is capable, under favorable weather conditions, of being dismantled and placed into transport configuration in just 40 hours. A trained nine-person crew can then reassemble the system in another 40 hours.



Capt William P. Welch (Center) checks tower operations with controllers TSgt Roger Taylor, left and SSgt Dusty Rhoades.

Parts of the equipment will be used exclusively by Dobbins an advanced, solid-state, dual-channel precision approach radar (PAR). The PAR has a variable range feature which allows expansion coverage from 6 to 15 miles for final approach course guidance of aircraft. Two PAR scopes will allow controllers to "talk down" two aircraft at once. The accuracy of the PAR unit will detect a 25-foot movement in elevation of an aircraft.

The 2157th Communication Squadron, an Air Force active duty unit commanded by Capt Robin Turner, controls approximately 6,000 landings and takeoffs each month at Dobbins. The unit provides air traffic control services to all units of the Air Force, Navy, Marines and Army as well as the Lockheed Georgia Company

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Major Command history. *A Salute to Air Force Communications Command Leaders and Lineage*. Office of Air Force Communications Command History. Scott AFB, IL. 1 Oct 1990.