

# 2163<sup>rd</sup> COMMUNICATIONS GROUP



## LINEAGE

2163<sup>rd</sup> Communications Squadron designated and activated, 1 Oct 1979  
Redesignated 2163<sup>rd</sup> Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985  
Redesignated 2163<sup>rd</sup> Communications Squadron, 1 Nov 1986  
Redesignated 2163<sup>rd</sup> Communications Group,

## STATIONS

Peterson AFB, CO

## ASSIGNMENTS

Strategic Communications Area (later, Strategic Communications Division)  
Space Communications Division (later, Space Information Systems Division; Space  
Communications Division), 1 Apr 1983

## COMMANDERS

Cpt Stephen A. Dalrymple, 13 Jul 1979  
Maj Robert T. McDonough, 7 Jul 1982  
Maj Harry L. Bouris, 14 Oct 1983  
Maj William A. Garrett, Jr., 25 Nov 1985  
Col John W. Davies, 27 Oct 1987  
Col Ronald L. Davidson, 22 May 1989

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

The iron clad gauntlet symbolizes the squadron's major command, Air Force Communications Command. The sword to the right of the globe represents NORAD and the symbol to the left represents the Air Force Space Command which the squadron supports. The globe symbolizes the squadron's world communications mission. The two stars symbolize space; while the two lightning bolts symbolize communications electronics which extend worldwide. The satellite symbolizes the squadron's Air Force satellite communications operations and maintenance responsibility within the unit in support of the United States and Air Force Space Command.

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 2163rd Communications Group equips, administers, trains and provides personnel to operate and maintain ground communications, electronics and computer systems and facilities in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command, U.S. Space Command, Air Force Space Command, Army Space Command, four wings and many other Peterson Complex units.

The commander of the 2163rd CG reports to the commander of the 3rd Space Support Wing and is responsible for three secure record communications centers; a consolidated ground satellite communications terminal; an administrative switchboard; a common user secure voice terminal; a cryptographic accounting operation; eight telephone systems; the base, NORAD, USSPACECOM, AFSPACECOM and USARSPACE telephone directories; 14 interbase radio networks; and a paging system.

operations is a worldwide ultrahigh frequency satellite command, control and communications [C3] system designed to provide the National Command Authority with a rapid, reliable means of communications with deployed forces worldwide.

The primary purpose of AFSATCOM is to provide emergency action message dissemination. AFSATCOM also provides force direction, force report back, and commander in chief internetting for the NCA. AFSATCOM also is used for general satellite communications for a limited number of high priority users.

In addition, the AFSATCOM terminal of the 2163rd CG has another unique mission: It provides a link between the early warning sites and the commander in chief of NORAD and USSPACECOM in case of an enemy attack.

The three Peterson telecommunications satellites circling the Earth that watch for ballistic missiles and aircraft.

Computers automatically translate the information into symbols on background maps of North America or the world and provide the command center staff an up-to-the-minute picture of the

situation.

Sharing the mountain complex with the men and women of the NORAD command center are the highly trained technicians of the missile warning and space defense operations centers, the space surveillance center, an air defense operations center that maintains status of air defense forces and high-interest air traffic, a U.S. civil defense national warning center, weather support unit, and communications and intelligence centers.

Members of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as the Air Force, Canadian forces and civilians keep the complex functioning on a 24-hour-a-day basis year-round. During a normal day, there are about 800 people in the complex, with approximately 300 on each of the two night shifts.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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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.