

ELECTRONIC SYSTEMS CENTER



LINEAGE

Established as Electronic Systems Division and activated on 20 Mar 1961

Organized on 1 Apr 1961

Redesignated as Electronic Systems Center on 1 Jul 1992

STATIONS

Lawrence G. Hanscom Field (later Lawrence G. Hanscom AFB; Hanscom AFB), MA, Apr 1961

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Force Systems Command, 20 Mar 1961

Air Force Materiel Command, 1 Jul 1992

COMMANDERS

Col. Michael T. Brewer

LTG Gordon E. Fornell July 1992-Oct. 1993

LTG Charles E. Franklin Oct. 1993-Aug. 1996

LTG Ronald T. Kadish Aug. 1996-June 1999

LTG Leslie F. Kenne June 1999-April 2002

LTG William R. Looney III May 2002-Dec. 2003

LTG Charles L. Johnson II Dec. 2003-Nov. 2007

LTG Ted F. Bowlds Nov. 2007-Aug. 2011

LTG Charles R. Davis Aug. 2011-Present

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Apr 1989-31 Mar 1991

1 Feb 1997-31 Jan 1999

1 Jan 2003-31 Dec 2004

EMBLEM

Approved on 30 Mar 1965, modified on 10 Oct 2007

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Lt. Gen. Ted Bowlds took command of the Electronic Systems Center in a change of command ceremony held at Hanscom AFB's Aero Club Hangar Nov. 7.

Lt. Gen. Chuck Dohnson, who had commanded the center since December 2003, passed the reins to General Bowlds. Then, in a follow-on ceremony, General Dohnson officially retired after more than 35 years of Air Force service.

Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, officiated both ceremonies.

General Bowlds thanked General Carlson for his confidence in selecting him for the job, and commended General Dohnson for building such a solid organizational foundation. He also recognized Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition Sue Payton, who was in attendance, and said he very much looked forward to joining her team.

General Bowlds will serve as the program executive officer for the Air Force's command and control and combat support portfolio of programs, in addition to his role as center commander.

"I am truly honored to be given the opportunity to command a high-performing organization," General Bowlds said. "It's truly a once-and-a-lifetime opportunity."

He listed four focus areas: people, acquisition, communication, and, listening and learning.

"While it's a trite phrase, I truly believe people are our most important asset," he said. He emphasized the responsibility leaders have to "grow the next generation of leaders," and spoke about the importance of proper training and career development.

"These things must not be left to chance," he said.

Stating that he'd spent his entire career in one form or another of acquisition - research, flight test, Pentagon staff work, and direct program responsibilities - he noted that it's a "difficult and very important business.

"With precious few modernization dollars, the criticality of what we do is even greater," he said. "When you add in the Global War on Terror, you have an acquisition perfect storm."

All of that only adds to the criticality of vigorously communicating with all relevant stakeholders, General Bowlds said.

Electronic Systems Division. Headquarters Air Force Command and Control Development Division constituted, activated, and organized 16 November 1959; discontinued 1 April 1961. Electronic Systems Division constituted, activated, and organized 1 April 1961.

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
AFHRA