

215th ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON



MISSION

215 EIS deploys worldwide to fulfill its mission to engineer, install, remove, and relocate C4I information systems and infrastructure such as antennas, cabling, radios, navigational aids, and meteorological equipment. Positions include electronics and cable/antenna installations specialists, CADD technicians, engineers, vehicle maintenance, supply and administrative support.

LINEAGE

215th Engineering Installation Squadron

STATIONS

Everett, WA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert S. Adams

Col William P. Canavan

Maj T. Ray Willaford

LTC Richard Herrick

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jan 1987-30 Dec 1988

EMBLEM



On an Air Force blue disc bordered white, apex in base, a black triangle base curved forming a fan shape points touching sides, curve banded orange, surmounted by a white radome detailed gray with a gray telephone pole issuing from its sinister (left) base angled to sinister chief with two gray wires issuing from sinister side of dome curving up to pole and extending to sinister edge, in dexter (right) issuing from base angled to dexter chief a gray radio antenna support emitting three white double-ended lightning Flashes, one to sinister chief, one to sinister base, one to dexter base; above in sinister chief a white Telstar satellite. Above the disc a blank Air Force blue scroll bordered white, below an Air Force blue scroll bordered and inscribed PER NOS LOQUIMINI white. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against a background of deep blue representing the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations, the curved orange band alludes to the rising sun which never sets on the unit's mission and the black refers to the earth where they accomplish it. The radome, telephone pole and wires, radio antenna support and Telstar satellite signify the squadron's installation capabilities. (Approved, 22 April 1964)

MOTTO

PER NOS LOGUIMINI -Through Us You Speak

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

This unit was originally the 94th Signal Company, Service Group. It was activated at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, on 1 December 1942 and was assigned to the 59th Service Group. As of 1 February 1943, the unit was reassigned to the Oklahoma City Air Depot Central Area Command. The 94th Signal Company, Service Group, was redesignated as the 1094th Signal Company, Service Group, on 19 April 1943.

After an organizational period, the 1094th Signal Company, Service Group, departed Will Rogers Field, OK, on 13 April 1943, and entered into a training period at the Service Group Training Station at Woodward, Oklahoma, on the same date. At the completion of an extensive training period the unit departed Woodward, Oklahoma, on 17 October 1943, and arrived at Camp Hathaway, Washington, on 20 October 1943, for debarkation. On 14 Nov 1943 the unit departed from Camp Hathaway and arrived in Australia on 8 December 1943. After undergoing more extensive training, the unit was assigned to the 5th Air Force and moved into the active campaigns. They received battle credits for the New Guinea Campaign and the Southern Philippines Campaign during 1945.

At the wars end they were transferred to Yang Dung Po, Korea, on 28 Oct 1945. The 1094th Signal Company Service Group was deactivated at Korea on 25 March 1946. The unit was redesignated as the 610th Signal Light Construction Company, AVN, and allotted to the National Guard, effective 24 May 1946. The unit was originally Federally recognized in the Washington Air National Guard on 9 September 1948. The 610th Signal Light Construction Company, AVN, was activated into Federal Service on 1 May 1951 during the Korean engagement and was sent to Kelly Field, Texas, for further training. The unit was redesignated the 610th Communications Construction Squadron on 19 October 1951.

In 1952, the 610th Communications Construction Squadron was directed to proceed to Air Force Personnel Processing Center, Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, for further movement overseas through the New York Port of Embarkation and through Deols, France, for permanent change of station at Moulines, France.

The 610th Communications Construction Squadron was released from active military service and reverted to state control on 1 Feb 1953. It was redesignated the 215th Communications Construction Squadron, 1 June 1955 with an authorized strength of 4 officers, 2 warrant officers and 99 airmen.

The unit was redesignated the 215th GEEIA Squadron effective 1 January 1959 with no change in mission personnel strength. The 215th GEEIA Squadron was organized, 1 Oct 1960, with authorized strength of 8 officers and 147 airmen.

The unit was again reorganized, effective 15 Jun 1962, with an authorized strength of 9 officers and 158 airmen.

Under an Air Force reorganization in June 1971, whereby the sub command of GEEIA was eliminated and its functions absorbed by the Air Force Communications Service, the unit was redesignated the 215th Electronics Installation Squadron. The unit was reorganized on 1 November 1972 with an Electronics Engineering Cell added, The current authorized manning is 12 officers and 164 enlisted.

The unit accomplishes its mission by doing live installations of communications electronics facilities for the Air Force .

Besides doing work on all Air Force bases and stations in the Western States, unit personnel have accomplished installations in France, Germany, Spain, Turkey, Iran, Okinawa, Japan and the Philippines.

Members of the 215 Engineering Installation Squadron in Everett Washington have made a name for themselves as the ones to call to work with fiber optics cable replacing slower bulkier coaxial cable fiber optic cable uses laser pulses transmit information from point A to point B for services such as telephone transmissions and computer links. Since 1993, the 25th has installed more than 900,000 feet of fiber optics cable; more than twice the combined amount of cable installed by the other 24 engineering installation units in both the active and reserve components. They have installed fiber optic cables for the Army, Navy, Air Force and even the United States Atomic Energy Detection Agency. Members of the 215th pride themselves on doing fiber optic jobs right and complete them under budget and on time. Commanded by Lt. Col. Richard Herrick the unit is comprised of more than 200 airmen and officers. They completed 39 engineering and installation projects in 1994 working in total of 130,500 man hours. The projects included deploying people overseas to Thailand, Korea, Guam, Hawaii, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to perform such jobs as initial fiber optic local area network site surveys; removal of existing coaxial cables and fiber optics infrastructure and cable installation. Additionally the 215th completed fiber optic survey local area network installation and antenna installations at locations all over the United States including Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska and South Carolina, In the first three months of 1995, members of the 215th were involved in a multitude of projects geared towards extending the information superhighway. Members of the unit are currently involved in 25 active field projects ranging from installing fiber optic infrastructure and cable installation at Fort Lewis and Keyport Navy Station, Washington to site surveys in Hawaii and Korea. They were also involved in installing 16 remote radar stations at Fort Yukon and Murphy Dome in Alaska. Even with their numbers stretched thin to support all these commitments members of the unit are budgeting the time to volunteer in ongoing projects installing telephone cable to serve outlying buildings at a Boy Scout camp at Fire Mountain Washington.

Osan AB South Korea; it may be called the land of the morning calm but to military men and women, Korea is the home of constant vigilance. The Republic of Korea is familiar to the 215th Engineering Installation Squadron. Exercise WONGONE, the third in a series of wargames ran from 15 April to 9 May. As the unit in charge, The 215th was responsible for developing plans for the month-long deployment as well as pulling together air guard personnel from four states for the exercise. Working with guard members from California's 216 Engineering Installation Squadron, the Illinois Guard's 217 Engineering Installation Squadron and the 272 Engineering Installation Squadron from Texas, the combined unit was dubbed the 2567 Engineering Installation Squadron, Provisional for the exercise. While there, the unit assisted the 51st Communications Squadron with installation of a major portion of the base wide local area network. Less than 50 miles from the demilitarized zone Osan is right on the firing line. Threat of border incidents or even outright invasion is ever present. Once operational, Osan local area network will let base members access mutual data services and E mail. Using four wire teams

and three electronic crews the 2567 ran high-speed data transmission cables in as many as 10 different buildings; climbing into dusty overhead crawlspaces and cutting holes in walls to drop cables into individual offices made every day a challenge. Environmental hazards such as asbestos, painted paneling and hack your lungs up dust call for creative problem solving. The bottom line is the guard did a job active-duty forces could or would do. The base gets all the work actually free; the National Guard Bureau paid for transportation, housing and man days. In addition to installing the local area network the teams did antenna work equipment relocation and radio rewiring. Besides the support missions, the 215th support personnel got a taste of exercising their ability to go to war. Under almost constant observation by unit training evaluators and active-duty Air Force technical advisors the management team responded to a variety of scenarios. Unit management personnel dealt with everything from chemical attacks to medical emergencies while doing business as usual. The management team doesn't get a chance to deploy often so whenever we do, we like to make the best of the opportunity. The 215 is able to do the same job active-duty people are doing. Many guard people are doing cutting edge technology in civilian life so what they have to offer is tremendous said TSgt Dan Effertz, active-duty Air Force technical advisor to the 215. I've got a great job working with great people they understand what they're doing and they do it very well, he added, As part of the total force the 215th able to deploy worldwide to do a variety of electronic jobs, cable work, antennas, electronics installation or even heavy equipment operation. They may be mostly part-timers, but they are pros and have left satisfied customers wherever they have been. They did a great job and we never could have done it without them said Lieut. Col. Glenn Harmon, 51st Communications Squadron deputy commander.

It may be smack dab in the middle of nowhere but this tropical paradise is on the leading edge of our Pacific defenses. For two weeks in June, a team from Everett's 215 engineering installation squadron worked to remove a radar tower from high on top of Mount Kokee Kauai in Hawaii. The 90 foot tower and height finder radar belonging to the Hawaii air National Guard's 150 aircraft control and warning squadron had to go to make room for newer gear. The change was due to come said Master Sgt. full-time technician and radar shop supervisor for the 150, a unit member since 1962, he has seen a lot of changes like downsizing from 200 people to less than 60. Hopefully the new radar will bring the site more life he said. With replacement, parts hard-to-find, the decades-old radar has been replaced with newer automated equipment. Gone will be the days of remote outpost tracking aircraft and manually relaying information to alert squadrons on the island of Oahu. No more around-the-clock crews of radar operators plotters and communication people Our presence here is under attack whether we are retained the way we are today or a eliminated all together or something in between. The big question said Lieut. Col. Patrick J Casey detachment commander. Perched at the highest point of this the outermost Hawaiian island, the 150 has been using the same antenna to search the skies for more than three decades. Surviving two hurricanes has forged the 150 into a tight knit group. In 1986 hurricane Eva knocked down antenna poles and seriously damaged unit buildings but the old radar survived. According to Casey, it was hurricane Iniki that really brought people together. People's homes were devastated so we were activated to help in the recovery operations. It was a very gratifying experience even though there was a lot of pain involved. I think the unit became stronger place, people wise he said. Although Iniki affected people it was

Eva that first brought the 215th to Hawaii. When the Air Force refused to replace downed antenna poles, the Washington air guard did the job. When it was decided that the tallest tropical tower in existence had to come down, the 215 was asked to do it. Like kids with an overgrown erector set, the team for the 215 dismantle the structure piece by piece. Wrenches, cutting torches, a few well-chosen expletives, one large crane and the job was done. The 215 will oversee the removal, transportation and installation of the more modern 3-D digital radar currently located at Galina Air Force Base, Alaska. The replacement equipment has both search and height finder radar rolled into one. Radar blips will be automatically relayed to higher headquarters as well as the Federal Aviation Administration to use for civilian air traffic control and the U.S. Navy's Barking Sands Pacific missile test range. Since World War II the Hawaii Air National Guard has had a mission to provide air defense for the islands with the help of the Washington air National Guard, Hawaii's will be using its new radar to continue to do with the motto says... Guardians of the Skies.

Earlier this year, 2012 the Washington Air National Guard's 215th Engineering Installation Squadron headquartered at Paine Field, Everett, WA deployed in support Operation Enduring Freedom. These 28 citizen-airmen returned home last month, and we would like to wish them and their families a Happy New Year, and congratulate them on a job well done.

The 215th served a 6 month deployment overseas. Members of the unit were deployed to seven countries at over 19 forward operating bases. They served in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Oman.

The unit helped to engineer over 300 project packages and install over 250 miles of cable systems in buildings and under a multitude of trenched ground paths. They also helped erect a 170-foot tower to expand combat patrol and other operations at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. Their work consisted of over \$162 million in project support in providing new information systems.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 6 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit History. *Washington ANG, WA, Golden Anniversary, 1924-1974*. Nd.