

## 222<sup>nd</sup> OPERATIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

222<sup>nd</sup> Operations Support Squadron

### STATIONS

Costa Mesa ANGS, CA

Beale AFB, CA, *1 Apr 2008*

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### EMBLEM

On a disc as a globe per pale Or and Azure grid lined Sable, in chief three stylized aircraft to dexter one and two, in nombrill, a bear passant Proper, in base, a key palewise wards downward to sinister Gules; all within a narrow Yellow border. Above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "UNUS GRADU ANTE" in Yellow letters. Below the disc, a Blue

scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "222D OPS SUPPORT SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 divided globe represents the unit's 24-hour sustainment and worldwide deployability. The three stylized aircraft at different heights symbolize the assets of the unit's federal reconnaissance mission which fly at different altitudes, day and night. The bear represents the unit's state mission, local heritage, and traditions. The key symbolizes the intelligence objective and knowledge. The motto, "Unus Gradus Ante," translates to "One Step Ahead," in English.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

On 11 Jun 2011, LTC Brandon Beightol assumed command of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Operations Support Squadron from LTC Robert Sage. The ceremony was officiated by Col Steven Beck, the 162<sup>nd</sup> Combat Communications Group commander. LTC Sage commanded the 222 OSS from its stand up in 2008. Under his leadership, the unit grew from three initial squadron members to near 100% manning. LTC Sage fostered relationships with the active duty intelligence community to integrate Air National Guard intelligence professionals into daily operations at the Distributed Ground Site at Beale AFB. The results of his efforts have been hailed as the model for total force integration.

Team Beale's high altitude intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission gained three new California Air National Guard units in a ceremony at the Community Center on 1 Apr. The ceremony officiated the re-designation of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Intelligence Support Squadron and the stand-up of the 222<sup>nd</sup> Operational Support Squadron and 222<sup>nd</sup> Communications Maintenance Flight. Present at the ceremony were MG Dennis Lucas, California Air National Guard commander, BG Mary Kight, California National Guard assistant adjutant general, BG H. D. Polumbo Jr., 9<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Wing commander, Col Albert Reif, 940<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing commander and Col Steven Beck, 162<sup>nd</sup> Combat Communications Group commander.

During the ceremony, General Lucas addressed the assembly, commenting on how the move of the 222<sup>nd</sup> to Beale is part of a larger plan of California Air National Guard integrating with active-duty Air Force and moving away from older missions "This is a culmination of over five years of work," said General Lucas. "The initiative for the 222<sup>nd</sup> that we're celebrating today started in September of 2002 as part of our Total Force integration plan. Our goal was to re-roll existing manpower forces in the California Air National Guard from legacy missions into more relevant missions that the Air Force needs today."

Chief Master Sgt. Eric Rivera, 222 ISS superintendent, said the 222 ISS and 222 OSS will work primarily with the 548<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Group, while the 222<sup>nd</sup> Communications Maintenance Flight will work with the 9<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and 12 Aircraft Maintenance Unit. According to Maj Kerry Adams, 222 ISS director of operations, the majority of 222 ISS Airmen are in communications career fields, while the 222 OSS Airmen are primarily intelligence fields and

the 222<sup>nd</sup> Communications Maintenance Flight Airmen are radio maintenance. Chief Rivera said the new mission is positive for both the guard and active duty.

"It's yet another good change for the California Air Guard because we're going to gain another relevant mission," Chief Rivera said. "We're bringing skill sets that we already have into another weapons system." "When we were combat comm., that mission was built around mostly training to support the warfighter in a tactical environment, should the need arise," the Maj. Adams said. "Only on rare occasions were we doing something actively. Here, we're doing it every day. We're working alongside active duty with [on-the-job training] taking place in real time on real missions."

Echoing General Lucas's earlier comments, the chief said he is looking forward to working on the growing Global Hawk mission. "Global Hawk is a growing mission in the Air Force, and we are excited to be here taking part in it as it continues to develop and unfold," the chief said. "We're sharing another accomplishment between ourselves, the California National Guard and Team Beale," said General Kight. "As demonstrated here today, the California National Guard continues to expand its capability. We have a solid relationship here with Team Beale. We anticipate these reactivations will provide huge dividends for the Air Force, the National Guard and the state of California."

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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