

243rd ENGINEERING INSTALLATION SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

243rd Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron, activated, 1 Oct 1956

Redesignated 243rd Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA) Squadron, 1 Jan 1959

Redesignated 243rd Electronics Installations Squadrons, May 1970

Redesignated 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron, 1 Jul 1981

STATIONS

South Portland, ME

Fort Williams, Cape Elizabeth, ME, 1960

South Portland, Maine, 20 Jun 1964

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Lawrence E. Perkins, #1987

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The primary theater of operations for the Air Force is the sky, represented by the blue. Against the blue background, the radiations from the tower and sine-waves refer to the communications support functions of the unit's mission. The chevron symbolizes the squadron's strength in support. The state bird, the Chickadee, and the state flower, White pine cone and tassel, represent the squadron's location in Maine when constituted in 1956. The emblem bears the national colors (red, white, and blue) and the Air Force colors (gold and ultramarine blue).

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 243rd Airways and Air Communications Service (AACCS) Squadron was commissioned on 1 October 1956 with 22 officers and 149 airmen. The squadron was housed in Fort Preble in South Portland, Maine.

The squadron's unit designation was changed to the 243rd Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA) Squadron on 1 January 1959. The home station remained the same until the fall of 1960 when it was relocated to Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

A squadron reorganization took place in June of 1962 when 8 officers and 147 airmen came under the Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC). Further change came on 20 June 1964 when the squadron moved into its present Air National Guard Station on Western Avenue in South Portland, Maine. This modern facility was later expanded as the sixties turned into the seventies. In May 1970, all GEEIA units returned to the control of the Air Force Communications Service (AFCS) as Electronics Installations Squadrons (EIS).

On 1 July 1981, the unit was redesignated as the 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron under the Air Force Communications Command (AFCC), with a complement of 11 officers and 171 airmen. On 28 May 1993, the squadron became part of the Air Force Command, Control, Communications, and Computers Agency (AFC4A), the new designation for AFCC.

On 1 October 1993, the unit was placed under the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC).

In addition to its federal mission the 243rd Engineering Installation Squadron has played an important role in the state, providing protection of life and property in times of natural disaster. In January 1998, the 243rd responded to requests from the Governor to participate in disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of a major ice storm in the northeast. Throughout Operation Ice Guard, the 243rd operated a 24-hour emergency operations center and responded in the hardest hit communities by providing road clearing, lighting, traffic control and emergency relief services.

In the wake of terrorist attacks on our nation on September 11th, 2001, personnel were called to perform armed airport security details throughout the state of Maine from October 2001 to May 2002 in support of Operation Noble Eagle.

In October 2001, members were activated in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and deployed to numerous locations in the middle east. This marked the first time in the unit's history personnel were involuntarily called to active duty. Between March 2003 and April 2004,

individuals were activated in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and deployed to various locations in the middle east to install critical communications infrastructure and systems.

In October 2005, personnel from the 243rd EIS deployed to Mississippi to repair storm ravaged communications infrastructure in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

ANG Unit yearbook. *Maine Air National Guard, Forty Years of Service, 1947-1987*. Maine ANG. 1987.