

# 267<sup>th</sup> COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

267<sup>th</sup> Communications Squadron (Operations), (1 July 1952) (1 January 1952)  
Redesignated 267<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron  
Redesignated 267<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron  
Redesignated 267<sup>th</sup> Combat Information Systems Squadron, 1 Jul 1985

## STATIONS

### *Somerville*

*Logan International Airport, East Boston, 20 Aug 1954*

*Fiske School, Wellesley, MA, 1 Sep 1955*

Wellesley ANGS, MA, Jun 1960

Otis ANGB, MA

## ASSIGNMENTS

253<sup>rd</sup> Combat Communications Group

## COMMANDERS

LTC Arthur Wunder, 2001

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

AFOUA

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983

## **EMBLEM**

The Minuteman and motto refer to the Squadron's home area and its legendary citizen-soldier. The lightning bolts, depicted circling the globe, represent the electronic communications mission, which emulates "the shot heard 'round the world" when Massachusetts Minutemen met British regulars at Lexington. The division of the field into two parts and stars – render the unit's numerical designation. The total number of stars – 13 – alludes to Massachusetts being one of the original thirteen states, while the gold stars identify it as the sixth state to ratify the Constitution.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 267th was formed well before the Air Force ever existed. The 267's lineage goes back to the day of the Army Air Corps and to a time of world war. The past, as it were, starts on the West coast, where the 301st Signal Company, Wing, was constituted and activated on December 1st, 1942 at Pinedale California. The 301st Signal Company was first assigned to the Fourth Air Force for training purposes only, and later transferred to Foreign Service on 21 August 1943.

The 301st arrived in North Africa on 4 September 1943 and redeployed to Italy on 25 April 1944. The 301st Signal Company, Wing, was assigned to the 304th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, on 21 June 1945. During this time period, the 301st primary role was to provide the fighters and bombers with reliable communications.

After the war, the 301st Signal Company, Wing, was transferred back to the United States and was inactivated on 13 October 1945 at Camp Shanks, New York.

On 24 May 1946, the 301st Signal Company, Wing, was redesignated as the 101st Communications Squadron and assigned to the newly created Air Force and National Guard. The 101st Communications Squadron was allocated to the State of Massachusetts National Guard with a strength of 88 personnel, (3 officers and 85 enlisted members). The squadron was extended Federal Recognition on 8 December 1947 at the Commonwealth Armory, Boston Massachusetts. Thus began a long history of ongoing service to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Once established as a Massachusetts National Guard unit, the 101st Communications Squadron was assigned to the 67th Fighter Wing to provide the necessary communications link between

Wing Headquarters and its subordinate flying units during annual field training. Its mission involved the technical training of assigned personnel at various Air Force installations in the Northeast. During this period, the unit moved from the Commonwealth Armory to the Somerville Armory (1 January 1952) and was redesignated as the 267th Communications Squadron (Operations) (1 July 1952).

With the return of Air National Guard units from the Korean War, the Headquarters 253rd Communications Group (Mobile) was organized and collocated with the 267th Communications Squadron. The 253rd remains the 267th's Group Headquarters to this day. Exercises planned by the 253rd Communications Group continued to improve the 267th's capabilities with expanding communications resources. Both the Headquarters and Squadron were relocated from Somerville to Logan International Airport, East Boston (20 Aug 1954), and then from Logan to Fiske School, Cedar Street Wellesley, MA (1 Sep 1955)

A milestone in 267th and 253rd history was achieved in June 1960 when both units moved to the Wellesley Air National Guard Station. Wellesley Air National Guard Station would be home to the 267th for 36 years.

In October 1960 the 267th's capabilities increased with the arrival of the new Technical Control and Relay Center facilities. The 267th Communications Squadron was the first Air National Guard unit to join the Air Force Space Surveillance Team with the acquisition of a Doppler Satellite Tracking System in December 1960.

30 June 1962. During Fiscal Year 1962 which ended on this date, the Massachusetts' Air Guard's 267th Communications Group began furnishing a complete shift of workers two nights each week for the Communications Center of the Air Force Space Track and Research Development Facility at Hanscom AFB.

The unit functioned as a Doppler Tracking Station until 1963. In 1963, a new wing was added to the Wellesley Air National Guard Station to accommodate its growing mission and training requirements in support of tactical operations.

December 1964. The National Guardsman magazine reported that a handful of enlisted ANG technicians from Massachusetts' 267th Communications Squadron, operating out of a trailer at their Wellesley headquarters, were helping to operate a satellite tracking station for the Air Defense Command's USAF Space Tracking Service. Other members of the unit were helping to staff the communications center at the Space Track Research and Development Center at nearby Hanscom AFB. The 267th's technicians had been first assigned to the Hanscom facility on a fulltime basis in 1961 to learn to handle special message traffic there.

The 1970's saw the 267th build on past experience and expand its role as a communications unit. Updated equipment and a focus on training helped develop the 267th into a modern mobile communications unit. The 267th received numerous equipment updates during this time period and personnel strength increased along with the mission.

The force modernization concept of the 80's provided many new challenges to the 267th. Under force modernization, the 267th had the capability to deploy anywhere in the world within 72 hours by air, sea, or land in order to provide tactical communications for a Theater Force Commander. During this time, participation in Joint Chief of Staff Exercises deployed the 267th to various parts of the United States and overseas.

The late 1980's saw change come once more this time in the form of high-speed digital equipment. The Air Force had upgraded the tactical communications equipment from old analog systems to newer, more reliable digital systems. This change brought high-tech equipment into the Air Guard and once again the 267th led the way. In the Operational Readiness Inspection of 1990, the 267th was the first Air National Guard unit to deploy newly assigned digital equipment for a command inspection.

In the early 1990's the 267th was called upon to support Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Numerous personnel were deployed to South West Asia. Throughout this mission, many members volunteered for duty in theater and were placed on augmentee listings, but due to the short nature of the war these members were never called upon to deploy.

Desert Shield/Storm began on August 7, 1991 after the invasion of Kuwait. Within ten days, the 267CBCS working through the coordination efforts of the 253CCG Group Readiness Center, was involved in deploying equipment to support the Air Force and coalition forces in the Gulf. Volunteers from the 267CBCS solicited by the 253CCG Readiness Center joined other Group members to deploy and support Desert Shield. The Group Readiness Center worked 24 hour shifts to meet the myriad of equipment and personnel demands for Desert Shield support. The countless hours of training and foresight of the Group Headquarters to stress the digital communications paid off as the units were able to meet critical communications requirements of the Air Force.

During the late 1980's and early 1990's, numerous command changes occurred. For more than two decades the 267th had been under Air Force Communications Command. Changes within the Air Force eliminated AFCC, and the 267th banner was moved to Tactical Air Command (TAC). Growth continued under TAC. Training with Active Duty counterparts allowed the 267th to continue supporting the Joint Chief of Staff exercises worldwide. Changes came again with the reorganization of the Air Force. TAC merged with Strategic Air Command (SAC) to form Air Combat Command (ACC), carrying the 267th to its third major command in as many years.

The 267th was downsized and restructured as a result of the Reduction In Force and new operational concepts. The 267th celebrated these changes by leaving its three and a half decade home in Wellesley for its current station, a 7.1 million dollar, custom built facility on the Massachusetts Military Reservation (Otis Air National Guard Base) on Cape Cod

In June 1999, a Presidential Selective Reserve Call-up (PSRC) transpired. A total of 42 members of both the 253CCG and 267CBCS were placed on active duty to support the "Kosovo/Allied

Force" contingency. The 253CCG activated 20 members to support various locations for the duration of this operation. Additionally the 267CBCS had 22 personnel activated at Otis and provided "Just In Time Training" to personnel on the new TDC equipment. The students that attended were from the Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Active Duty Air Force units nationwide.

In 2001, the 267CBCS, collocated with the 253CCG, played a vital role in the first employment of the Theater Deployable Communications Equipment during Operation Enduring Freedom. From September 2001 to July 2003 HQ 253CCG mobilized over 20 personnel. They augmented the Headquarters Air Combat Command staff in filling USAF/ANG communications requirements to meet worldwide contingencies.

A recently released message from Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt, director of the Air National Guard, it was announced that the 253rd Combat Communications Group and the 267th Combat Communications Squadron were two of 36 Air National Guard units selected to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA) for 2008. The award nomination package for the 253rd CCG covered a wide range of distinguished accomplishments, showing how much the unit has contributed to the National Guard's mission and its ability to continue defending America. The accomplishments ranged from taking a lead role in several exercises across the state and country, to developing and revising current communications procedures, to supporting real world war efforts. An example of this is when the 253rd CCG deployed personnel to Operation Iraqi Freedom. While deployed, they supported more than 1,500 Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force members in remote areas with critical communications and other services. Airmen who were assigned or attached to the 253rd or 267th any time between Nov. 1, 2006, and Oct. 31, 2008, are authorized to wear the award. This marks the fourth time since 1977 that the 253rd has received this distinction. 2009

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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.