

293rd COMBAT COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

As part of the group, the unit provides command and control communications to support USAF and state contingencies and requirements. The 293 CBCS has two missions, federal and state. Its' Federal mission is to provide highly trained and qualified individuals at anytime and anywhere in the world for active duty in event of war or national emergency or as national security may require. When federally activated, the 293 CBCS is assigned to the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). The second or State mission is to defend the State of Hawaii and its people from mass violence, originating from either human or natural causes.

To accomplish both missions, the unit is authorized 150 military members, 18 of whom are full-time technicians or active guard reserve. To support various missions, the unit is assigned equipment such as HF/SSB land mobile radios for voice communications, UHF/VHF radios for ground-air-ground communications, HF radios for long range voice/ teletype communications, automatic telephone switching, secure telephone communications, satellite terminals, wideband microwave radio terminals, and technical control/ multiplexing facilities.

The 293 CBCS currently has a total of 140 military personnel (including 25 full-time personnel) split between the Islands of Kauai and Oahu. The 293rd is comprised of nine separate career fields and more than \$26M of tactical communications & readiness equipment assigned to both the US Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands in Kekaha, Hawaii (Island of Kauai) and the Hickam AFB.

LINEAGE

293rd Combat Communications Flight
293rd Combat Communications Squadron

STATIONS

Hickam AFB, HI
Kauai, HI, 1 Oct 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Roy Matsumura
LTC Jeffrey Okazaki,
LTC Kathleen F. Berg, May 1993
Maj Barry Castelano, May 2000
Maj Gary M. Mizumoto, Aug 2000
LTC Joseph A. Garnett, Nov 2002
Maj David L. Lowery, Aug 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jan 1993–31 Jul 1994
1 Jul 2003–30 Jun 2005

EMBLEM





Squadron emblem, 2001-2009

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 293rd Combat Communications Squadron (293 CBCS) was activated into federal service on 6 March 1967 at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii. The squadron's assigned federal mission is to provide operationally-ready combat units, combat support units and qualified personnel for active duty in the US Air Force in times of war, national emergencies, or operational contingencies. The squadron's assigned state mission is to provide organized and trained units to the Governor of Hawaii and Adjutant General to protect Hawaii's citizens and property, preserve peace, and ensure public safety in response to natural or human-caused disasters. From 6 March 1967 to 30 September 2008, the 293 CBCS was co-located with its parent group, the 201st Combat Communications Group (201 CCG) at Hickam Air Force Base. By direction of the Adjutant General and with concurrence of the National Guard Bureau, the 293rd became the first geographically split-operations combat communications squadron in both the Air Force and the Air National Guard.

Training takes place on Oahu as well as various deployment locations throughout the state and Pacific. The 293 CBCS participated in many Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) exercises including fourteen Team Spirit exercises in the Republic of Korea, five Cobra Gold exercises in Thailand, three Cope North exercises in Japan, four Ulchi Focus Lens exercises in the Republic of Korea, Sea Spirit in 1971 in Thailand. Balikatan in the Republic of Philippines, and Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOMI) in the Republic of Korea. During one of the many Team Spirit exercises in the Republic of Korea, the 293 CBCS was the lead unit setting up a tactical air base communication site at Kimhae AB, Korea. This allowed for incoming and outgoing message traffic, satellite communication and switch board capabilities for command and control of deployed forces. The 293 CBCS supported the Joint Task Force at Phitsanulok and Korat, Thailand for Cobra Gold 1989 and 1992-1996. With over 50 personnel participating yearly, the unit provides communication links to allow information to flow from among the

30,000 Thai and US forces taking part in the exercise. Unit personnel on their off duty time taught English classes for Thai military personnel and worked with the chaplain in community service activities. Every two years since 1990, the 293 CBCS joins in a naval and air force exercise, RIMPAC, involving countries throughout the Pacific Theater. Providing ultra high frequency radio support and expertise to both aircraft and ships.

Besides supporting real world contingencies and Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises, the unit actively supported recover)' and relief efforts on the island of Kauai, in the aftermath of Hurricane Iwa in November 1982 and Hurricane Iniki in September 1992. For both hurricanes, the unit provided emergency support with personnel and equipment. Unit members received numerous citations in recognition of their outstanding humanitarian efforts. Additionally in 1993, the unit started training for a communications support role to civil authorities to handle state and local emergencies.

In April 1995, the 293 CBCS supplied the large management element and control communications function for RSOMI in Utupao, Republic of Thailand. Duty called and the 293 CBCS answered in July 1995 for Operation Prompt Return on Wake Island, a repatriation program for Chinese illegal aliens. Volunteers made up of a composite team of three squadrons from the 201 CCG, 154th Air Component Squadron, and 15th Communication Squadron, assisted other active duty forces in this humanitarian relief effort, by providing land mobile radio, and generator support.

In the aftermath of the 1995 Kobe, Japan earthquake. Mission Aloha was born to provide relief efforts to the victims. The unit collected food, clothing and other donations from various organizations throughout the island of Oahu. The 293 CBCS provided manpower and vehicle support to accomplish the goals set for Mission Aloha. In November 1995, Mission Aloha II got underway. This time to help victims of flooding in the Philippines. Once again, volunteers from this unit stepped up to meet the challenge of coordinating pick-up of donated items as food and clothing for those in need. Since the existence of the Hawaii Food Bank, the 293 CBCS has supported this nonprofit organization by distributing food to shelters and soup kitchens for needy local families. Essential items as blankets, tents, and clothing are also on the list of things distributed to those less fortunate.

Effective 1 October 2008, the 293rd's command element and 52% of its assigned manpower was transferred to the US Navy's Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands to replace the inactivating 154th Air Control Squadron (154 ACS) as the Hawaii National Guard's lead command and control element for any natural or human-caused disasters on the Island of Kauai, while the remaining 48% remained assigned to Hickam Air Force Base as Operating Location A, 293 CBCS. Despite the geographic separation of 125 miles between the 293rd's two organizational elements, the squadron continues to be organized, operate, and deploy much like any other single-location Air Force/Air National Guard combat communications squadron.

2008 The 293rd CBCS's Eagle Vision provided imagery support for the following exercises and real-world contingencies: Exercise Balikatan 08 (Philippines), Kilauea Volcano eruption, RIMPAC

08 (Oahu), China Earthquake and imagery following the typhoon in Myanmar (formerly Burma). The imagery was disseminated by Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) and was to provide humanitarian assistance disaster relief workers to provide relief operational planning; determine road closures; identify displaced persons encampments; assess accessibility routes and aid centers. The 293rd CBCS also provided NGCE (National Guard Communications Equipment) support to Vigilant Guard 08 in Reno, Nev. and sent personnel to Arizona in support of Operation Jump Start, the National Guard operation supporting civil authorities along the U.S. Mexico border.

2008 Finally, the 293rd CBCS successfully moved part of its personnel to Kauai to maintain a Hawaii Air National Guard presence on the island. The move was necessitated by the closure of the 154th Air Control Squadron at Barking Sands. The 293rd move to Kauai ensures that a quick reaction force, able to respond to natural disasters, remains on island.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 6 May 2020

Updated:

Sources

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