

434 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 434th Communications Squadron is to provide communications capabilities for the 434th Air Refueling Wing at home station and in deployed locations. The squadron is composed of government civilians and contractors, and military reservists. These individuals provide communications support through the installation, maintenance and operations of ground-based HF/UHF/VHF radios, land mobile radios (LMRs), telephone switching networks, network control center operations, small computer maintenance, secure ground and flight communications, and Air Traffic Control and Landing Systems (ATCALs).

The squadron is also responsible for providing emergency operations support through the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability (JISCC), which ensures communications is bridged between first responders and other local, state, and federal agencies during emergency situations. The squadron also provides communications planning and technical support for all base projects, as well as equipment and cost expertise for all base communications purchases. The squadron provides Knowledge Operations Management and Information Management support through the base mailroom, and with the base records management and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) subject matter expert.

LINEAGE

434 Communications Squadron, Troop Carrier, Medium constituted and activated in the Reserve,
1 Jul 1949

Redesignated 434 Communications Squadron, 1 Mar 1950

Ordered to Active Service, 1 May 1951

Relieved from Active Duty, 15 Dec 1952

Inactivated, 1 Feb 1953

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Feb 1953

Inactivated, 14 Apr 1959

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Dec 1986

Redesignated 434 Communications Flight, 1 Aug 1992

434 Communications Squadron, 1 Apr 1997

STATIONS

Atterbury AFB, IN, 1 Jul 1949

Lawson AFB, GA, 23 Jan 1952-1 Feb 1953

Atterbury (Later, Bakalar) AFB, IN, 1 Feb 1953-14 Apr 1959

Grissom AFB (Later ARB), IN, 1 Dec 1986

ASSIGNMENTS

434 Air Base Group, 1 Jul 1949-1 Feb 1953

434 Air Base Group, 1 Feb 1953-14 Apr 1959

434 Combat Support (Later, 434 Support) Group, 1 Dec 1986

434 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Robert Atkins

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Sep 1988-31 Aug 1990

1 Jun 1992-31 Aug 1993

1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1996

1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, a cardinal displayed Gules, eye and beak Or, leg and face Sable, grasping in each talon a lightning bolt of the third, within a bordure compony counter-compony Argent and of the fourth; all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "CONNECT PROTECT EXECUTE" in Yellow letters. Attached above the disc, a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "434TH COMMUNICATIONS 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 cardinal symbolizes honor and nobility, while red suggests the hardiness and strength the unit exhibits to get the mission accomplished. The lightning bolts signify speed and power in the two major components of Air Force communications, operations and planning. The checkered pattern refers to the heritage of Grissom Air Reserve Base. Grissom was the only base in the Air Force to

utilize checkered patterns on the tails of its aircraft, which was a link to the Indianapolis 500 and other racing events commonly held in Indiana. The checkered patterns proudly reflect the Squadron's heritage and speed. (Approved, 24 Feb 2016)

OPERATIONS

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.