

42 CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The squadron is charged with providing combat mission ready cyber operators to our Nation's cyber mission forces. Citizen Airmen assigned to the unit conduct operations as part of total force active component and Reserve cyber protection teams to ensure critical mission enclaves are defended against exploitation and attack. They execute operations using the Cyberspace Vulnerability Assessment/Hunter weapon system to ensure Air Force and combatant command objectives are met.

LINEAGE

42 Communications Squadron, Command constituted, 18 Oct 1949
Activated, 17 Nov 1949
Redesignated 42 Communications Squadron, Air Force, 24 Sep 1951
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1960
Disbanded, 15 Jan 1983
Reconstituted and redesignated 42 Combat Communications Squadron, 11 Jul 1989
Activated, 1 Oct 1989
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1990
Activated, 1 Oct 2009
Inactivated, 30 Jun 2015
Redesignated 42 Cyberspace Operations Squadron, 12 Aug 2016

STATIONS

Mitchel AFB, NY
Stewart AFB, NY, 28 Jul 1950

Kwang Ju AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1989
Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J
McGuire AFB (later, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst) NJ, 1 Oct 2009
Scott AFB, IL, 12 Aug 2016

ASSIGNMENTS

Eastern Air Defense Force
4 Combat Communications Group, 1 Oct 1989
514 Mission Support Group, 1 Oct 2009
Tenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2012
960 Cyberspace Operations Group, 1 Mar 2013

COMMANDERS

Maj Samuel A. Maggio, Jr., 1 Oct 1989
Capt Kevin A. Foley, 26 Jul 1990
Lt Col Steven M. Chetelat
Maj Silas V. Darden

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award: 1 Oct 2018-30 Sep 2019.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Oct 1989-[1 Oct 1990]
1 Oct 2010-30 Sep 2012

EMBLEM



The 42d Combat Communications Squadron emblem consists of three elements, each symbolizing a unique aspect of the unit. The emblem consists of a gray sword postured between a pair of distinct lightning bolts tipping outward, both set against and above an Ultramarine Blue and Green globe. Attached above the disc, a gray scroll, with a narrow black border inscribed with the unit's motto, "NON VOX SED VOTUM" in black letters. Attached below the disc, a gray scroll, with a narrow black border inscribed with "42D COMBAT COMM SQ" in black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine Blue and Yellow are the Air Force colors. Black alludes to cyberspace and the unit's excellence in conducting operations in the cyberspace domain. The Silver sword symbolizes the driving, unifying force of the Squadron and its combat capacity. The hilt of the squadron contains a globe representing the global information grid. The lightning bolts represent the Squadron's core mission – communications – and its two flights that carry out its ability to conduct the mission. The centrally located sun and four stars represent the squadron's origins as one of four detachments supporting operations in the Pacific. The Ultramarine Blue and Green globe symbolizes the center's vast span of control.



Approved 14 Mar 2023

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 42 Combat Communications Squadron is to provide theater-deployable communications during wartime and contingency operations or humanitarian missions in austere locations.

Col. Anthony M. Perkins, 960th CyOG commander presided over the ceremony, where Lt. Col. Samuel McGlynn assumed command of the squadron.

"Lt. Col. McGlynn is the person to command and take this squadron to full combat mission readiness," Perkins said. "As you review his bio, you will read a storied career with several deployments to the area of responsibility – not supporting from afar, but supporting while he, himself, was in harm's way. He's an officer with exemplary service on active duty, in the National Guard, and now the Reserve component. With his diverse background from finance to space to expeditionary/combat communications – Lt. Col. McGlynn is the best choice to lead the 42 COS now." The "now" of the moment in terms of cyber was a key component of Lt. Col. McGlynn's remarks, as he reflected on the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

"Yesterday, fifteen years ago, 9/11 happened, and our nation was caught off guard by an act of terrorism almost impossible to imagine," McGlynn said. "However, while the terrorist threat remains, including new threats from the likes of ISIL in Syria and Iraq, every year since 2013 the Director of National Intelligence has identified the cyber threat as the single greatest threat to the national security of the United States."

He went on to reference the recent cyber attacks on the Office of Personnel Management, Sony Entertainment, Target, and Home Depot, as well as those on point-of-sale devices in hotels and restaurants that occur daily.

"Further, overseas attacks against critical infrastructure like power grids and the financial sector demonstrate that it no longer takes a million-dollar weapon system to cause critical damage to one's enemy...and this trend is only increasing with ever more sophisticated attacks," McGlynn said.

He continued, saying our Nation recognizes the threat and has resolved to deliver an operational capability to protect critical infrastructure and ensure key missions are hardened and actively defended against exploitation and cyber attack and adding that the cyber protection teams, as part of the U.S. Cyber Command mission forces, are one key component of this response.

"Today, we can now say that the men and women of the Reserve have joined that effort," McGlynn said. "Since the founding of the Air Force, Citizen Airmen have been indispensable mission partners of every major operation. Now, in partnership with Guardians of the 835th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, 42 COS members will execute operations as part of the only composite active and Reserve cyber protection teams."

McGlynn shared that there's much work to do, given the need to recruit, hire, and train new members for the demanding standards of the unit. However, he said, as the full-time, active component personnel participates in ongoing operations and trains traditional reservists to be ready when needed, TRs will be there to support recurring exercises, volunteer for extended tours of duty and maintain mobilization readiness when a national crisis arises.

In closing, McGlynn said he's honored to serve at the helm of this squadron. "Today is a special day, as we reactivate the 42 and carry on the legacy of a unit that was first activated almost 67 years ago, just after the founding of the Air Force," he said. "I am honored to serve the Airmen of the 42 COS -- all of whom were hand-selected. I could not be more proud to serve with each of you."

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.