

## 55 ELECTRONIC COMBAT GROUP



### **MISSION**

The 55 Electronic Combat Group provides combat-ready EC-130H COMPASS CALL aircraft, crews, maintenance and operational support to the unified combatant commanders. Plans and executes information operations and electronic warfare (EW) for contingency operations. Conducts EC-130H aircrew initial qualification and difference training for 20 aircrew specialties. Supports operational and force development testing and evaluation for new aircraft systems.

Organization The 857-member strong 55 ECG operates 14 EC-130H COMPASS CALL aircraft valued at \$2.3B. As the only Electronic Combat Group in the Air Force, the 55 ECG is solely responsible for training, maintaining and employing electronic attack in support of Combatant Commanders. To accomplish this mission, the ECG is comprised of 5 squadrons: 41 ECS, 42 ECS, 43 ECS, 755 OSS and 755 AMXS.

### **LINEAGE**

55 Electronic Combat Group Established, 28 Jan 2003  
Activated, 3 Feb 2003

### **STATIONS**

Davis Monthan AFB, AZ

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

55 Wing, 3 Feb 2003

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

EC-130, 2003

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Steven P. Dickman, 3 Feb 2003  
Col David H. Sammons, 13 Sep 2004  
Col Donald J. Bacon, 28 Apr 2006  
Col Mark S. Haskins, 1 May 2007  
Col Marty Reynolds  
Col Dean Worley Nov 2009  
Col Richard P. Fojtic 17 Jun 2011  
Col George M. Reynolds, 27 Jun 2013  
Col Ryan C. Rogers 25 May 15  
Col Philip F. Acquaro 10 Jul 2017

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Meritorious Unit Awards  
3 Feb 2003-31 May 2004  
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2006  
1 Jun 2006-31 May 2007  
1 Jun 2007-31 May 2008  
1 Jun 2008-31 May 2009  
1 Jun 2009-15 Jul 2010  
1 Jun 2012-31 May 2014  
1 Jun 2014-31 May 2015

### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jun 2011-31 May 2012  
1 Jun 2015-31 May 2016

## **EMBLEM**



Azure, a fess indented Gules, edged wider on the back angle (sinister) than on the face (dexter) of each angle Or, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "55TH ELECTRONIC COMBAT GROUP" in Blue 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 wavy lines represent the Columbia River and Portland Air Base, origin of the parent unit, the 55th Wing.

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Established in 2003 to command COMPASS CALL electronic warfare units; planned and executed information operations in support of expeditionary operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The 55 ECG has deployed to 10 locations since 9/11 becoming ACC's most deployed fixed wing aircraft and the most utilized C-130 in the Air Force. In 2010, the ECG redeployed from Operation IRAQI FREEDOM after six years of continuous operations. During that time, the ECG flew 3,940 sorties, amassing 26,470 combat hours. Currently the ECG is deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and since April 2004, the ECG has flown 24,560 combat hours during 4,197 sorties. The ECG also played significant roles in Operations WILLING SPIRIT, ODYSSEY DAWN and UNIFIED PROTECTOR.

Ground Broken on Compass Call Training Facility Construction began last week at Davis-Monthan, AFB, Ariz., on the new academic training facility for the 55th Electronic Combat Group, which operates EC-130H communications-jamming aircraft. Officials broke ground on the \$78 million complex on Aug. 15, according to the base's release. Work on the facility is expected to be done by October 2014, and the complex is slated to be fully operational by December of that year, states the release. The 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron, the Air

Force's sole EC-130H formal training unit, will run the facility, which will house a flight-deck simulator, two different mission-crew simulators, the squadron operations center, office space for Air Force and contract instructors, and multiple training classrooms. "This multi-simulator facility will allow for initial, upgrade, and continuation training in one location and will enhance our ability to support current and future contingency operations," said Col. Marty Reynolds, 55th ECG commander. EC-130H training is currently spread across different buildings on Davis-Monthan as well as other bases, he said. 2013

A new flight deck simulator for EC-130 Compass Call aircrews is operational after five years of development. The \$35 million weapon system trainer, based at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz., allows the 55th Electronic Combat Group to maintain readiness and currency, while reducing reliance on live fly training as the ECG's capabilities are in demand around the world, said Col. Marty Reynolds, the 55th Wing commander. The new trainer has been in development since 2010, and construction of the facility began in 2012. The WST went online for the first time in March and was declared fully operational in June. Previously, crews and maintainers had to make sure one of the group's 14 EC-130s was available for training, or airmen would have to travel to JB Lewis-McChord, Wash., to fly in another simulator, which had a dissimilar cockpit, different flight profiles, and instructional differences with the Compass Call curriculum, said Lt. Col. Dean Balstad, the 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron assistant director of operations. The cost of flying an EC-130 for a six-hour training mission is \$26,400, while six hours in the WST is \$7,800. 2015

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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.