**History of the 505th Command and Control Wing**

The 505th Command and Control Wing traces its heritage back to the 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group (505 ACWG) established on 2 May 1947 and activated on 21 May 1947 at McChord Field, Washington, under the Fourth Air Force. The Group then moved to Silver Lake located in Everett, Washington, from 26 September 1949 through 24 June 1951 when it moved back to McChord AFB on 25 June through its inactivation on 6 February 1952. During these last two moves the Group was assigned to the 25th Air Division. The initial mission of the 505 ACWG focused on ground control and radar intercept operations employing B-25 Mitchell bombers flying radar calibration flights in the Pacific Northwest. In September 1949, the Group shifted its focus to providing early warning systems, primarily consisting of the AN/TPS-1 system, contributing to the development of a nation-wide early warning radar network.

The expertise 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group in radar systems led to the Group’s reactivation and redesignation as the 505 Tactical Control Group (505 TCG) on 2 November 1965 at Tan Son Nhut Airfield, South Vietnam, on 8 November 1965 where the Group was assigned to the 2nd Air Division through 31 March 1966. The Group’s provided Command and Control (C2) for the Tactical Control System in Southeast Asia. They accomplished this mission via numerous radar sites across South Vietnam and Thailand. The 505 TCG consisted of the 619th and 620th Tactical Control Squadrons operating the various radar installations. The 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, and 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadrons provided Forward Air Controllers flying the O-1E/F “Bird Dog” aircraft. The final component of the Group was the 505th Tactical Control Maintenance Squadron with the responsibility for operating and maintaining tactical air control parties for the Vietnamese Air Force and providing field maintenance capabilities for power production units in Southeast Asia. The Group distinguished itself while supporting operations in Southeast Asia and earned sixteen campaign service streamers and five Air Force Outstanding Unit awards with Combat “V” devices. The Group was directly assigned to the Seventh Air Force from 1 April 1966 through the unit’s inactivation on 15 March 1973.

Now at this point the Wing’s history takes a unique turn that is hard for some to understand. On 1 November 1991 the 505th Tactical Control Group was consolidated with the 4442nd Tactical Control Group, which was established and activated on 1 March 1980. This newly consolidated unit was designated the 505th Air Control Group (505 ACG) and assigned to Eglin’s Auxiliary Field #9, or Hurlburt Field (retroactive to the 4442nd’s activation on 1 March 1980) under the USAF Tactical Air Warfare center. The Group’s focus centered on managing Command, Control, and Communications (C3) and Intelligence operations, operational testing, and evaluation of C3I tactical control elements. The Group also oversaw training on tactical air control elements and operated the USAF Air Ground Operations schoolhouse. The 505 ACG was redesignated as the 505th Command and Control Evaluation Group (505 CCEG) on 15 April 1993. During this period the Group began operating the USAF Battlestaff Training School. The Group expanded its mission by inheriting an operating location at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico, responsible for distributed mission operations. The 505 CCEG realigned from the USAF Warfare Center to the Air and Space Command and Control Agency on 1 October 1997. The Group then lost its numerical designation when it as redesignated as the Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Center (AFC2TIC) on 15 Sep 1998. Just 7-months later it was once again redesignated a Group when it became the Air Force Command and Control Training and Innovation Group (AFC2TIG) on 15 April 1999. During 1998 the Center began focusing on the importance of the Air Operations Center (AOC) as a weapons system and began training personnel to staff and operate the AOC as a weapons system. The Group realigned from under the Aerospace Command Control and Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Center (formerly the Air and Space Command and Control Agency) back under the USAF Warfare Center on 30 April 2002.

The Air Force foresaw the growing importance of the Group’s mission and elevated it to Wing status as the 505th Command and Control Wing on 12 March 2004. The Wing initially stood up with three groups and eight squadron’s executing its mission. The Wing’s initial composition consisted of the 505th Distributed Warfare, 505th Operations, and 505th Training Groups. The 505th Operations Group was redesignated as the 505th Test and Evaluation Group on 31 March 2011 and the 505th Distributed Warfare Group inactivated on 30 June 2011. The Wing recently underwent an internal reorganization that redesignated the 505th Test and Evaluation Group as the 505th Combat Training Group and the 505th Training Group as the 505th Test and Training Group on 1 August 2019. The Wing presently consists of the following eight squadrons: 505th Communications, 505th Combat Training, 705th Combat Training, 805th Combat Training, 84th Radar Evaluation, 505th Training, 605th Test and Evaluation, and the 705th Training. The final component of the Wing is Detachment 1, located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, that supports the U.S. Army’s Mission Command Training Program.

The 505th Command and Control Wing’s mission has remained constant by providing initial and advanced academic training to the Command and Control (C2) warfighter, providing realistic and relevant operational exercises for senior air component decision makers and their staffs, and providing operational test and evaluation of C2 and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) systems and subsystems prior to fielding. The final Wing mission includes providing expertise in the development and refinement of C2 and ISR tactics, techniques, and procedures. The Wing is responsible for planning and executing multiple major exercise programs including BLUE FLAG and VIRTUAL FLAG on behalf of the Commander, Air Combat Command. The Wing supported Air Force Space Command’s SPACE FLAG exercise program expanded operational and tactical focus from weapon system procedural currency to executing space operations in a contested, degraded, and operationally limited (CDO) environment. The men and women of Detachment 1 provide the major Air Force elements to the U.S. Army’s WARFIGHTER exercise program. Finally, the Wing provides models and simulations, a professional control force, higher headquarters and Air Operations Center replication cells, distributed mission operations, network support, and operational command training program/senior officer mentoring to numerous service, joint, and coalition exercises annually.

The men and women of the 605th Test and Evaluation Squadron and its three detachments provide test and evaluation of C2 and ISR systems employed from the Joint Terminal Attack Controller to the Joint Forces Air Component Commander. The 84th Radar Evaluation Squadron provides the Department of Defense’s ground-based radar evaluation, survey, and forensics capability.

The original Wing Mission Statement focused the Wing’s efforts to “Build the predominant air and space C2 capability for Joint and Coalition Warfighters through training, testing, Distributed Mission Operations, and experimentation.” Our current Wing Mission Statement declares we will “Deliver C2 of airpower through training, testing, tactics development and systems evaluation for the warfighter.” The Wing has grown and evolved but the core mission and values of providing training and testing to the warfighter has remained steadfast.

Unit Awards and Decorations:

Campaign Streamers:

Vietnam: Vietnam Defensive (2 Mar 65 – 30 Jan 66); Vietnam Air (31 Jan – 28 Jun 66); Vietnam Air Offensive (29 Jun 66 – 8 Mar 67); Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II (9 Mar 67 – 31 Mar 68); Vietnam Air/Ground (22 Jan – 7 Jul 68); Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III (1 Apr – 31 Oct 68); Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV (1 Nov 68 – 22 Feb 69); Tet 69/Counteroffensive (23 Feb – 8 Jun 69); Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969 (9 Jun – 31 Oct 69); Vietnam Winter/Spring (1 Nov 69 – 30 Apr 70); Sanctuary Counteroffensive (1 May – 30 Jun 70); Southwest Monsoon (1 Jul – 30 Nov 70); Commando Hunt V (1 Dec 70 – 14 May 71); Commando Hunt VI (15 May – 31 Oct 71); Commando Hunt VII (1 Nov 71 – 29 Mar 72); Vietnam Ceasefire (30 Mar 72 – 28 Jan 73)

Global War on Terrorism: Global War on Terrorism – Service

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Valor:

1 Sep 65 – 25 May 67; 26 May 67 – 25 May 68; 26 May 68 – 25 May 70; 26 May 70 – 25 Aug 71; 26 Aug 71 – 28 Jan 73

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award:

1 Jul 81 – 30 Jun 83; 1 Jul 84 – 30 Jun 86; 1 Jul 86 – 30 Jun 88; 1 Jan 90 – 31 Dec 91; 1 Jan 92 – 30 Jun 93; 1 Jul 93 – 30 Jun 94; 1 Jul 94 – 30 Jun 95; 1 Jun 96 – 31 May 98;

1 Jun 03 – 31 May 05; 1 Jun 04 – 31 May 06; 1 Jun 06 – 31 May 07; 1 Jun 08 – 31 May 09; 1 Jun 10 – 31 May 12; 1 Jun 12 – 31 May 14; 1 Jun 14 – 31 May 15; 1 Jun 15 – 31 May 16; 1 Jun 16 – 31 May 17; 1 Jun 16 – 31 May 19

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award:

1 Jun 00 – 29 Apr 02

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (1 Apr 66 – 28 Jan 73)

(Current as of 18 February 2020)