

History of the 838th Electronics Installation Squadron (EIS)

A special “Thank You” goes to Todd Rose and the 838th EIS, 1827th EIS, and the 2866th GEEIA Squadron, East Kelly AFB, San Antonio, Texas, for providing this information.

The 838th EIS, formerly the 1827th Electronics Installation Squadron, and the 2866th Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA) Squadron, had its beginning with the inception of GEEIA under Air Force Logistics Command (AFLC) on 15 June, 1958. GEEIA was formed with the specific objective of bringing order to a chaotic situation in communication service, then under the Army Aviation Communication Service (AACS). The 1981st AACS Installation Squadron at Randolph AFB, TX, and the 22nd Communications Construction Squadron, Kelly AFB, TX, were combined and the units were redesignated the 2866th GEEIA Squadron.

In 1959, when GEEIA accepted responsibility for training ANG squadrons, the 2866th became the advisory unit to five ANG/GEEIA units: the 214th in Louisiana, the 272nd and 273rd in Texas, and the 205th and 219th Oklahoma. In July 1964, the USAF dissolved the Mobile Depot Activity (MDA) and GEEIA assumed the additional tasking of on-site maintenance of communications electronics equipment.

On 1 May 1970, the 2866th GEEIA was redesignated the 1827th Electronics Installation (EIS) when AFCS merged with GEEIA. The 1827th EIS was briefly aligned under the 1923rd Communications Installation Group (CIG) from 1 April 1978 to 1 July 1980. Through June of 1981, the unit was oriented to performing its mission primarily in the central and southwestern CONUS, Central and South America. After the formation of the Engineering Installation Center, however, the alignment was gradually expanded. The unit now performs its mission around the world, maintaining a very high TDY deployment rate year-round. In April 1985, the EIC was redesignated the HQ Engineering Installation Division (EID). It was further redesignated Communications System Center (CSC) on 1 October 1991, and the 38th EIW on 9 November 1994. The 1827th EIS was redesignated to the 838th EIS on 17 January 1995 to coincide with the new wing structure.

Commanders:

Major David B. Cowan ----- (January 1970 - February 1972)
Lt. Colonel Charles C. Nelson ----- (February 1972 - June 1976)
Lt. Colonel Garland W. Benfield ----- (June 1976 - December 1981)
Major Robert E. Daniels ----- (December 1981 - May 1983)
Lt. Colonel Leonard H. Gaetz ----- (May 1983 - May 1986)
Lt. Colonel Finch M. Jones ----- (May 1986 - May 1989)
Lt. Colonel Jimmie Blackwell ----- (May 1989 - June 1991)
Lt. Colonel Michael Deacy ----- (June 1991 - July 1993)
Lt. Colonel Charles Ayala ----- (July 1993 - July 1996)
Lt. Colonel Carl Williamson ----- (July 1996 - July 1998)

Outstanding Unit Awards

1 January 1983 - 31 December 1984
1 July 1990 - 30 June 1991
1 July 1991 - 30 June 1992
1 July 1993 - 30 June 1994
10 December 1993 - 9 December 1995
10 December 1995 - 9 December 1996

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