



AIR COMBAT COMMAND

PEOPLE FIRST - MISSION ALWAYS

High Frequency Global Communications System (HFGCS)

Current as of January 25, 2023

MISSION

The High Frequency Global Communications System (HFGCS) provides a robust and resilient high frequency command and control (C2) network to nuclear, conventional, and special forces on land, air and sea. Major customers: President of the United States (POTUS); United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM); United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM); U.S. Space Force; United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM); (United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM); National Command Authority; Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC); Air Mobility Command (AMC); Navy Submarine & Fleet Forces; and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) (P-8 & E-3).

BACKGROUND

HFGCS was created in 1993 by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) Memo MCM-10-93 directing the consolidation of DoD's high power (1KW and above) fixed site HF capabilities on a world wide systems and mission basis. The result was a 13-station global network jointly owned by the Air Force and Navy, with the Air Force designated as Lead MILDEP. The Air Force controls 8.5 stations and both Network Control Stations, while the Navy controls 4.5 stations. There is a memorandum of agreement between the two services outlining roles and responsibilities. The Air Force locations are operated and maintained by 4 Air Force MAJCOMS (ACC, AMC, PACAF and USAFE) and U.S. Space Force. HFGCS was declared fully operational in 2001.

Air Force locations: Grand Forks Network Control Station, Joint Base Andrews Network Control Station, Offutt AFB, Beale AFB (AF half of West Coast Station), Puerto Rico, Joint Base Andrews, Elmendorf AFB, Yokota AB, Croughton AB, Lajes AB and Royal Air Force Station Ascension Island

Navy Locations: Naval Air Station Sigonella, Naval Support Facility Diego Garcia, Naval Base Guam, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Navy Radio Transmitter Facility Dixon (Navy half of West Coast Station)

FEATURES

HF is an integral part of the Joint All Domain C2 Concept's Communications Pillar and adds resiliency for beyond line of sight (BLOS) communications in a satellite-denied or degraded environment. HFGCS provides secure and non-secure voice and data services to POTUS, SecDef, allies, Department of Defense (DOD) warfighters and other U.S. government agencies during peacetime, emergencies, contingencies, and war. HFGCS supports over 2,500 DOD assets. HFGCS is a critical NC3 enabler by disseminating USSTRATCOM emergency action messages, distributing area of responsibility (AOR) threat/weather updates, as well as supporting Navy C2 as primary communications link for ship-to-shore HF communications. The Navy's Take Charge and Move Out (TACAMO) Mobile Command Post mission is among the 28 DOD and coalition missions supported by HFGCS.

HFGCS offers 24/7/365 operator services for voice patching an HF radio call into the Defense Switched Network (DSN) or commercial phone network enabling strategic in-flight or at sea reachback. It enables DOD, executive, and legislative branch senior leaders to remain connected while in-flight providing continuity of government and seamless force direction. All five Air Force core missions and Navy and coalition partners' fleets C2 is supported by HFGCS.

The DOD has bi-lateral agreements in place with the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand to extend or add resiliency to each other's HF capabilities around the globe. The HFGCS team participates in multiple exercises every year to maintain readiness and verify new ways of communicating between the tactical edge and the strategic level as well as between the US and its allies. The exercises are also useful in validating new military standards and NATO standardization agreements that apply to HF communications.

AIR COMBAT COMMAND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

115 Thompson St., Ste 121
Langley AFB, Va. 23665-1987

ACCPA.operations@us.af.mil
757-764-5007



Twitter: @aircombatcmd

Facebook: @aircombatcommand



Instagram: @aircombatcommand

