

“Sentry crews provided 24-hour surveillance of OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom] ...battle space....from March 19 to June 8, 2003... [and] flew 313 sorties totaling 3,115 hours.”

E-3 “Sentry” AWACS
Airborne Warning and Control System



Polly Orcutt,
“E-3 Sentry celebrates 30 years in Air Force's Fleet,”
Air Force News, April 4, 2007.

Canadian AWACS Component Served in the Iraq War, 2003

By Bryan Dean

The commander of Canadian military personnel at Tinker Air Force Base said he and his group are proud of their role in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Later that day [April 8, 2003], Prime Minister Jean Chrétien endorsed the U.S. mission and asked parliament to declare support for a quick victory by coalition forces.

Of the Canadians known to be supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, many are AWACS fliers connected to the 552nd Air Control Wing at Tinker. The wing includes 43 Canadian troops, who are integrated with U.S. air crews who fly AWACS E-3 jets.

Lt. Col. Martin Galvin, commanding officer of the Canadian Component, said a “significant number” of those troops are deployed with the 552nd and have flown missions against Iraq since the air campaign began.

“I think everybody is uniquely proud and happy to have their role... [and] this opportunity. Our wives and families also are very proud that Canadians here are able to participate.”

Galvin said it is interesting that Canadian forces at Tinker are allowed to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom when their government did not support military action.

“We’ve been asked by the people we work with the same thing,” Galvin said. “It’s an apparent contradiction. We were given the authority to participate in the Iraq conflict....”

Tinker’s Canadian fliers have flown nearly every mission AWACS crews have been a part of since the

NORAD program began in 1979.

“Canadians were involved in the Gulf War, they were involved in the Kosovo conflict,” Galvin said. “They have been involved from the beginning of the war against terrorism in Afghanistan. Now I think I can say that we’re very proud to have a unique role in the Iraq mission, as well.”

Brig. Gen. Mike Hostage, commander of 552 Air Control Wing, said working with Canadian forces gives the wing a special bond with its allies.

“The Canadians are superb airmen,” Hostage said. “They fit seamlessly into the combat mission and are outstanding team players.... Living and working with our Canadian counterparts and their families is enriching for all of us, and it helps us to be better neighbors and stronger friends.”

“It says something about confidence,” Galvin said. “It says we trust you to have our personnel involved in this conflict. We fly with our U.S. colleagues day in and day out. It’s in our interest to stay involved and to participate alongside where that’s possible.”

Maj. Rod Black, chief of staff of the Canadian Component, said he is happy Canadians have a role in Iraq. “We’re proud to contribute to this mission,” Black said. “We want to do our part. We train with these folks. We’re down here to contribute. We train for these...contingencies and we’re very proud to be AWACS crew members.”

Source: “Canadian AWACS fliers take part in Iraq mission,” *The Oklahoman*, April 9, 2003.

www.newsok.com/article/1923767

Iraq War “mission was exceptional”

More than 200 airmen from the 552nd Air Control Wing, the Canadian Component and the 513th Air Control Group returned home from Operation Iraqi Freedom to an outpouring of support from a crowd of family members, friends and fellow Tinker employees. Thirty-six Airborne Warning and Control System personnel returned April 24 [2003] [to the Tinker Air Force Base, in Oklahoma].

Members of the wing’s Canadian Component also participated in OIF [Operation Iraqi Freedom], despite

Canada’s initial stance against the war. The Component was authorized to honor its long-standing commitment to the wing and serve next to their American counterparts during the operation.

“All the returning Canadians felt their mission was exceptional, and they are very happy they were part of it,” said Lt. Col. Martin Galvin, commander, 552nd [Air Control Wing] Canadian component.

Source: Welcome home: AWACS troops return to anxious families, *Tinker Take Off*, May 2, 2003.

journalrecord.com/tinkertakeoff/2003/05/02/welcome-home-awacs-troops-return-to-anxious-families/

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**Lt. Col.
Martin Galvin**

Colonel Martin Galvin Commanded Canadian AWACS Crew in Iraq, 2003

As Commanding Officer of the Canadian Component, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, from 2001 to 2004, Colonel Galvin was responsible for Canadian Forces members flying with U.S. AWACS crews in contingency and combat operations over Afghanistan and Iraq.

Flying aboard the NATO E-3A AWACS, Colonel Galvin was employed as an instructor and Evaluator

Tactical Director and participated in Operation Allied Force [NATO's 1999 War against Yugoslavia].

As Vice Director of the NORAD-USNORTHCOM Command Center (Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO), Col. Galvin now leads

strategic daily operations and continued transformation of this important binational, joint operations center.

From 2001 to 2004, Galvin was responsible for Canadians flying with U.S. AWACS crews in contingency and combat operations over Afghanistan and Iraq.



Source: Senior Officer Biography, National Defence website. www.cmp-cpm.forces.gc.ca/dsa-dns/sa-ns/ab/sobv-vbos-eng.asp?mAction=View&BiographyID=721

Canadian AWACS Crew Sought Recognition for their Role in Iraq War

Canadians are serving on board AWACS command-and-control aircraft orchestrating the aerial bombing of Iraq.

The wife of one wishes Ottawa would acknowledge the role Canadians are playing in the war, in part to deflate some of the anti-Canadian backlash she has experienced.

"An American came up to me," said the woman living at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma, where Canadians serve with the 552nd Air Control Wing. He said, "[W]hat the hell are you doing here? Go back to the hole you call Canada."

"You are constantly looking over your shoulder," she said. "I didn't know whether I was allowed to tell this guy that my husband is over there, sitting next to an American, doing the same job," she said. "You think to

yourself, 'Here is this person rhyming off a list of expletives and yet my husband is sitting in a plane doing the same job as the Americans are doing.'"

The woman said she and other spouses have security concerns because their American neighbours don't seem to realize that despite Canada's political opposition to the war, its military has indirectly made a contribution to the Iraq campaign.

"The Americans we live with, many of them carry guns. And some of them get very serious," the woman said. "That is a concern to us."

Source: Excerpted from Allan Thompson, "Ten Canadian pilots flying on AWACS in air campaign," Toronto Star, April 5, 2003.

www.pcqanda.com/dc/board.php?az=show_msg&forum=4&topic_id=29445&msg_id=29445

About the E-3 "Sentry" AWACS

The E-3 Sentry is an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft providing all-weather surveillance, command, control and communications to U.S. and NATO air force commanders. As proven in Desert Storm [Iraq war, 1991], it is the premier air battle command and control aircraft in the world.

The E-3 Sentry is a modified Boeing 707/320 commercial airframe with a rotating radar dome. The dome contains a radar subsystem that conducts surveillance from the Earth's surface up into the stratosphere, over land or water. The radar has a range of more than 320 kilometers for low-flying targets and farther for aerospace vehicles flying at medium to high altitudes. The radar can look down to detect, identify and track enemy and friendly low-flying aircraft.

Other major subsystems in the E-3 are navigation, communications and data processing. Computer consoles display data in graphic and tabular format on video screens. Console operators perform surveillance, identification, weapons control, battle management and communications functions.

The E-3 Sentry's radar and computer subsystems gather and present broad and detailed battlefield information as events occur. This includes position and tracking information on aircraft and ships.

In support of air-to-ground operations, the Sentry provides information needed for interdiction, reconnaissance, airlift and close-air support for friendly ground forces. It also provides information for commanders of air operations to gain and maintain control of the air battle.

E-3s detect, identify and track airborne enemy forces far from the boundaries of the U.S. or NATO countries. It directs fighter-interceptor aircraft to these enemy targets.

The E-3 Sentry support worldwide military deployment operations.

Source: Air Force Fact Sheets. usmilitary.about.com/library/milinfo/affacts/ble-3sentryawacs.htm