

CRCs in Iraq supporting Operation IRAQI FREEDOM

Up to the activation of the 727th EACS at Balad AB

Units that have manned the CRC(s) in Iraq:

728 ACS	Baghdad	26 May – 17 Nov 03	Callsign: DEMON
606 ACS	Kirkuk	XX May - 19 Aug 03	Callsign: JUNKYARD
1ACC	Tallil (British CRC)	8 Jun – 15 Dec 03	Callsign: CROWBAR
603 ACS/109 ACS	Baghdad/Balad	18 Nov 03 - 29 May 04	Callsign: DEMON
729 ACS	Balad	30 May – 27 Sep 04	Callsign: KINGPIN
606 ACS/123 ACS	Balad	28 Sep 04 – 22 Jan 05	Callsign: KINGPIN
728 ACS	Balad	23 Jan 05 – 9 Feb 05	Callsign: KINGPIN

Commanders.

• Lt Col Scott “Fish” Fischer (606 ACS)	606 EACS	May– Aug 03
• Lt Col Randal “Pup” Nelson (728 ACS)	728 EACS	26 May–2 Aug 03
• Wing Cmdr Bob Jones (1ACC, British)	1ACC	8 Jun–15 Dec 03
• Lt Col Scot “Nazi” Shively (728 ACS)	728 EACS	3 Aug–17 Nov 03
• Lt Col Norm Poklar (123 ACS)	606 EACS	_____ -19 Aug 03
• Lt Col Kristen “JoJo” Dolan (603 ACS)	447/332 EACS	18 Nov 03–29 May 04
• Lt Col Steve “Smokey” Robinson (729 ACS)	332 EACS	30 May–27 Sep 04
• Lt Col Scott “Fish” Fischer (606 ACS)	332 EACS	28 Sep 04–22 Jan 05
• Lt Col Scot “Nazi” Shively (728 ACS)	332 EACS	23 Jan–9 Feb 05

Unit Awards.

Meritorious Unit Award

- 10 Sep 03 – 30 Apr 04 (as the 728th ACS and 603rd ACS, part of the 447th AEG)
- 1 May 03 – 30 Apr 04 (606th EACS, part of the 506th AEG – Kirkuk)

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor

- 24 Jan 03 – 15 Oct 03 (as the 728 EACS, part of the 484th AEW)

Stations.

- Baghdad International Airport, Iraq 12 May 03 – 6 Mar 04 (as 728th, then 447th EACS)
- Balad AB, Iraq, 7 Mar 04 - 9 Feb 2005 (as 332nd EACS)

Background.

The original CRCs deployed to Iraq for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM were:

- 606th ACS/123rd ACS – full CRC to Kirkuk AB (_____ – 9 Aug 03)
 - 2 x TPS-75 radar sets
 - 4 x TYQ-23 Operations Modules (OMs)
- 728th ACS – full CRC to Baghdad International Airport (26 May – 17 Nov 03)
 - 2 x TPS-75 radar sets
 - 4 x TYQ-23 Operations Modules (OMs)

- 1ACC – full British CRC to Tallil AB (8 Jun – 12 Dec 03)
 - 2 x AMS AR327 (RAF Type 101) radar sets
 - 4 x Operations Modules

Kirkuk Air Base

606th ACS deployed a CRC to Kirkuk. The original mission of the 120 personnel of the 606th ACS augmented by members of the 123rd ACS (Ohio ANG) was to control the northern third of Iraq.

In order to reduce the number of ACSs deployed, a prototype remote radio package that was shipped with the 728 ACS' CRC was moved to Kirkuk accompanied by a team of 23 DEMONS on 19 July 03. The circuit of passing radar data from both radars ("C" and "D") via the remote radio package was tested and declared operational 1 Aug and 728th EACS, Det 1 was established. This resulted in employing the first-ever remote radio package, allowing radar and radio data to be sent back to Camp Griffin in Baghdad. The 23 DEMONS reduced the need for an additional deployed ACS unit. The Joint range extender (JRE), Situational Awareness Data Link (SADL) and TADIL-J data was provided to aircraft in the northern region of Iraq. Nine augmentees remained from the 606th ACS and three from the 141st ACS made up the team of 32 operating the site. The DEMONS operated the site and turned over the mission on 16 Nov to members of the 109th ACS (Utah Air National Guard). Callsign: Junkyard.



Kirkuk Air Base

Baghdad International Airport

728th ACS deployed on 22 Apr 2003 to Ali Al Salem, Kuwait for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. The 285 members of the squadron downloaded their equipment from a ship in port of Kuwait and convoyed over 480 miles from Ali Al Salem to Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. The 728th ACS was responsible to control the central third of Iraq.

The 728th EACS established the CRC (Camp Griffin) and took over the Deployed Radar (DR) from the 606th ACS/123rd ACS at Kirkuk AB on 9 Aug 03 and maintained operations until the 603rd ACS with members of the 109th ACS assumed the mission. The unit designation changed to the 447th EACS under the 447th Air Expeditionary Group, Baghdad International Airport. The 603rd ACS moved the CRC from Baghdad to Balad AB, on 7 Mar 04 and re-designated the unit

the 332nd Expeditionary Air Control Squadron assigned to the 332nd Expeditionary Operations Group. Callsign: Demon.



Baghdad International Airport

Tallil Air Base

No 1 Air Control Centre (1ACC) deployed from its RAF Boulmer base garrison in mid-May, 2003, to Tallil Air Base, near An Nasiriyah. On the 16th May 2003, 1ACC personnel and equipment began deployment from the UK by C-17 and C-130 aircraft, departing from RAF Leeming, Brize Norton and Lyneham, and flying direct to Tallil. The final elements were in place by 3rd June, with full operational capability being declared on 8th June enabling a US Marine Corps Unit to be stood down and return to the States. 1ACC controlled the southern third of Iraq using their AR327 radars. Callsign: Crowbar.

Balad Air Base

603rd ACS was tasked with moving the CRC from Camp Griffin, Baghdad International Airport to Balad AB, 40 miles away. The 603rd first sent site survey teams to Balad in Nov 03 to locate a suitable site for the CRC and two radars. Callsign: Kingpin.



Balad Air Base (future site of the CRC site). Photo: Jan 2004
Photo taken from on top of the bunker, north looking south
toward the aircraft ramp (Taxiway Delta) near the hangar.

Operations Activity.

728 ACS	Baghdad	as the 728 EACS	26 May – 17 Nov 03
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled aircraft – 16,830• Data Link activity – 20,954 hours			
606 ACS	Kirkuk (CRC)	as the 606 EACS	___ May - 19 Aug 03
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled aircraft – ___• Data Link activity – ___ hours			
603 ACS/109 ACS	Baghdad/Balad	as the 447/332 EACS	18 Nov 03 - 29 May 04
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled aircraft – 27,959• Data Link activity – 17,692 hours			
729 ACS	Balad	as the 332 EACS	30 May – 27 Sep 04
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled aircraft – 13,202• Data Link activity – 15,006 hours• Troops in Contact – 308• Convoys Supported – 23,669			
606 ACS/123 ACS	Balad	as the 332 EACS	28 Sep 04 – 22 Jan 05
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled aircraft – 16,395• Data Link activity – 17,506 hours• Troops in Contact – 216• Convoys Supported – 24,024			
728 ACS	Balad	as the 332 EACS	23 Jan 05 – 9 Feb 05
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled aircraft – 3,747• Data Link activity – 2,330:02 hours• Troops in Contact – 49• Convoys Supported – 3,382			

On 9 Feb the 332 EACS was de-activated by the activation of the 727 EACS at Balad AB, Iraq.

Balad AB Description.

Balad Airbase is located in Northern Iraq approximately 68 kilometers North of Baghdad. Balad Airbase is one of the largest Airbases in Iraq. The airfield is served by two runways 11,300 and 11,200 feet long respectively. Balad occupies a 25 square kilometer site and is protected by a 20 kilometers security perimeter. According to the "Gulf War Air Power Survey, there were 39 hardened aircraft shelters. At the each end of the main runway are hardened aircraft shelters known as "trapezoids" or "Yugos" which were build by Yugoslavian contractors some time prior to 1985.

Camp Anaconda / LSA Anaconda "Mortartaville"

Camp Anaconda is a large US base near Balad, spread over 15 square miles. As of May 2004 the base had 17,000 troops and was 12 1/2 miles in circumference. Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, told the House Armed Services Committee in March 2004 that ". . . we are making Balad Airfield our primary hub in the region, and the idea of doing that is because we need to have the Baghdad International Airport revert to civilian control." As

of late June 2004, the majority of the airfield's pre-existing bunkers have been abandoned by the US military. As of mid-December 2004, the facility was reported to have more than 25,000 people.