

## Datebook Entry

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany** — At 5:30 a.m., the shift changes at the Communications Control Center for the 435th Communications Group.

After a quick continuity briefing, the morning shift prepares for the onslaught of calls that usually hits by 8:30 a.m.

A common sight greets Northside Post Office personnel arriving at 6 a.m. Two semi-trailers filled with 36,000 pounds of mail to sort and deliver. With four hours before the post office opens, they have their work cut out for them.

Meanwhile, the telephone and cable maintenance shops of the 435th CS gather in their break rooms to assign the day's work requests.

At 8:30 a.m., the squadron commander briefs the group commander on the previous day's priority work requests, high-visibility outages and classified jobs. Combat Proud, a USAFE initiative to improve the appearance of our bases and strengthen the commitment to our professional military lifestyle, is part of the brief. Projects throughout all three squadrons involve removing unsightly antennas, satellite dishes, telephone cables and improving base appearance.

The post office opens to a large line of customers that doesn't let up until 5 p.m. when the last few people trickle in. Swamped with sorting mail, retrieving packages and working the front desk, postal employees hope to close the doors by 5:30 p.m.

The 'Red Switch,' handling senior-leader world-wide secure communications 24 hours daily, works 540 calls and will dispatch crews to five jobs for STU-III and STE maintenance today.

The Help Desk, tracking computer-related issues from keyboards to wall sockets for a network of nearly 19,000 computers, receives 800 e-mails and 60 phone calls every day.

Working out helps to ease stress before heading home, and some shops, like cable maintenance, hold physical training in the afternoons. Post Office personnel are going strong, with the end of the day in sight. All work centers keep pace getting various taskers submitted by their close-of-business suspenses.

The end of the duty day at 4:30 p.m. is not the end of the group's day. The Network Control Center is always open, providing network services, e-mail and message support, internet access and information protection for 18,000 accounts in the Kaiserslautern Military Community, including more than 100 associate and 14 geographically separated organizations.

The Ramstein Standard Tactical Entry Point site maintained by SATCOM provides communications ensuring the success of 17,600 combat sorties annually. They are responsible for a third of all reachback communications for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

Whether providing long haul communications for warfighters, fixing computers or sorting mail, the 435th CG provides world-class C4 for one of the biggest, busiest and best air-lift and air base wings in the world.

2nd Lt. Michael Jones  
435th Communications Squadron



Courtesy photo

◀ Staff Sgt. Michael Wickersheim of the 435th CS's SATCOM shop drills in a grounding rod for an AN/TSC 100A package deployed to Ramstein. The base is under a \$6.5 million SATCOM modernization program in which tactical equipment was deployed to an in-garrison base to augment its reachback capability while the primary facility undergoes a major overhaul.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

◀ Flight Systems troops, Staff Sgt. Antwane Scott and Airman 1st Class Brian Chandler check the video levels in the processor of the Airport Surveillance Radar at Ramstein AB, Germany.

◀ The mail room at Ramstein as it appears on any given day. The postal clerks average 36,000 pounds of inbound mail and 18,000 pounds of outbound mail daily.