

Unit Spotlight: 184 ISS, Kansas Air National Guard



Federally recognized 25 March 2009, the 184th Intelligence Support Squadron (ISS) provides cyberspace support and sustainment to more than 300 personnel assigned to the 184th Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG). Collectively known as Distributed Ground Station Kansas, or DGS-KS, the ISRG functions as a part of the Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS) weapon system. The ISRG is charged with utilizing reconnaissance sensors to transmit actionable intelligence directly to commanders of combatant commands and deployed warfighters in near-real time.

Providing cyberspace support to the ISRG is the responsibility of the 72 members of the ISS, along with a host of 27 full time contract support personnel representing eight different contracting entities. Within the DCGS weapon system 11 separate networks are required to maintain full mission capable status and to ensure the right information is delivered to the right person at the right time.

In the eight years since its federal recognition, the ISS has undergone four major weapon system upgrades to both geospatial and signals intelligence baseline systems in addition to three major MILCON projects. Additionally, having been activated since its inception, ISS has seen numerous software and hardware upgrades designed to maintain cyber surety and network defense for around-the-clock operations. The members of the 184 ISS serve the DCGS community as recognized subject matter experts and are consistently regarded as the “go to” personnel for weapon system management.

Recognized for their ability to innovate and get things done the 184 ISS leads the way in development of training material and operational interfaces such as easy to use “homegrown” graphical user interfaces that reduce operational timelines and enhance intelligence capabilities. Recently selected by NGB/FM as having one of the ANG’s top 15 innovative solutions for FY17, the ISS delivers blue suit and contractor integration to tackle Cyber related intelligence gaps across the enterprise.

In the past seven months the ISS has supported 100 U-2, 38 RQ-4, and 250 MQ-1/9 combat ISR sorties. During that time ISS personnel have enabled 7,600 intelligence products and over 4,500 hours of full motion video surveillance in five areas of responsibility and three separate Geographic Combatant Commands; all while maintaining a 98% mission capable rate. Their unrelenting dedication to duty and Core Values represents the best of the Jayhawk Standard.

Unit Patch: The Jayhawk, a long tradition representing the state of Kansas, holds a lightning bolt symbolizing Cyberspace communications. The Jayhawk is over watching the globe to symbolize the unblinking eye of ISR. The globe itself is indicative of the cyber sphere of influence and the ability to provide global response with pinpoint accuracy.

Vision: Lead Air Force DCGS in the establishment of an organization providing long term Airmen to find, fix and finish cyber vulnerabilities and optimize operational networks and system integration.

Mission: We believe in empowering decision makers by ensuring cyberspace ability to deliver the right information to the right person at the right time.