



**A CONTINUING LEGACY  
USAFSS - AIA  
1948 - 2000**



**HQ AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
HISTORY OFFICE**



The USAFSS Command Emblem Symbolizes the command mission. It consists of a shield divided equally into quarters by a vertical and horizontal line and identifying scroll. Significant of the command's worldwide influence, the first quarter is blue, thereon a green sphere with yellow land markings. Pertinent to transmission, the second quarter is red, thereon a yellow lightning streak. Significant of the United States Air Force, the third quarter is yellow, thereon a blue half wing. Symbolic of protection and security, the fourth quarter is blue, thereon over a sword with point to base (hilt and pommel yellow), a white shield, thereon a yellow flame shaded red. The emblem was approved by Headquarters USAF in August 1952.

On a field of blue, a silver shield bearing a chesspiece is displayed over a blade of lightning, and identifying scroll is unfurled underneath. The blue field, as the dominant color, represents ESC's Air Force subordination; to preserve the link with the Air Force Security Service emblem, whose principal color was blue; and symbolizes the valor and loyalty of the men and women of the command. The lightning blade of the sword is drawn from the USAFSS emblem to preserve tradition and to represent the identification with electronics. Connecting the bolt to a sword hilt suggests its transformation into a weapon, much as the more passive mission of USAFSS evolved into the active role with which ESC is charged. Immediate readiness of response is also embodied in the lightning bolt sword. The silver shield has its origin in the USAFSS emblem, denoting now, as then, both defense and the security resulting from that defense. The chesspiece--a black knight--conveys several meanings. Classic deception as embodied in the Trojan horse is suggested. The color black takes meaning from the rule of chess that black moves second; black's tactics are therefore counter moves, representing ESC countermeasures missions. The knight is a powerful chessman; he strikes from unexpected quarter, and is the only piece able to strike while obstructed. He employs elegant rather than brute force. All these attributes combine to symbolize C3 Countermeasures and the move/countermove nature of electromagnetic warfare.



The emblem of the Air Force Intelligence Command is symbolic of its diverse missions. The knight chesspiece had its origin in the ESC emblem and conveys classic deception, as embodied in the trojan horse. It is a powerful chessman; he strikes from unexpected quarter and is the only piece able to strike while obstructed. The shield had its origin in the USAFSS emblem, denoting now, as then, both defense and the security resulting from that defense. It is separated into four quadrants to symbolize the Command's worldwide mission of support. The double-edged sword refers to the military role of the Air Force. It signifies the readiness of AFIC to electronics in both defensive and offensive operations to ensure the security of the nation.

**Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe signifies the intelligence the agency provides to the Air Force Global Reach - Global Power Mission. The key represents the Agency's efforts to unlock its protagonist's secrets. The teeth on the ward symbolize the disciplines of intelligence gathering - SIGINT, HUMINT, IMAGERY, and MASINT. The chess knight reflects counter-intelligence and the ability to use intelligence information in a variety of ways. The compass rose symbolizes intelligence operations reaching the four corners of the earth and the use of satellite information gathering.**





# **A CONTINUING LEGACY:**

## **USAFSS to AIA**

**1948-2000**

*A Brief History of the  
Air Intelligence Agency  
and its Predecessor Organizations*

**By  
Dr. Dennis F. Casey  
and  
MSgt Gabriel G. Marshall**

Published by the  
Air Intelligence Agency History Office  
102 Hall Boulevard, Suite 112  
San Antonio, TX 78243-7045

Telephone: (210) 977-2303  
FAX: (210) 977-2390



# **CONTENTS**

**Preface and Acknowledgements**

**Foreword**

**Brief History**

**Chronology**

**Past Commanders**



## Preface and Acknowledgements

The Air Intelligence Agency's rich and colorful heritage began nearly 52 years ago and encompasses much of the Cold War. Indeed, the activities and many accomplishments of the United States Air Force Security Service, later the Electronic Security Command, and for a brief time the Air Force Intelligence Command contributed importantly to the history of the United States during this period which was replete with the threat of nuclear confrontation with our primary opponent, the Soviet Union. As scholars look back on this period and try to explain its major trends and developments, as well as its frustrations and the chasm that separated the two super powers, the role of air intelligence will surely be seen as a defining influence.

As the Air Intelligence Agency steps forward into the 21st century and carries out its mission of information operations it is worth a moment to reflect on where the command was, where it has been and what it has achieved. This publication outlines briefly the command's first 52 years as the Air Force's air intelligence arm and chronicles many of the important contributions which have provided for the continued security of the United States. We wish to recognize the superb support provided by the 690th Information Systems Squadron Visual Production Flight and the Headquarters Air Intelligence Agency Public Affairs Office. To Jim Pierson and Mary Holub and the others who endeavored tirelessly over the years to record this exciting and important story, and to Juan Jimenez whose assistance and advice were invaluable, we express our special thanks.

**Dr. Dennis F. Casey**  
Chief Historian

**MSgt Gabriel G. Marshall**  
Senior Enlisted Historian



## Foreword

In this fast-paced environment of the 21st century, driven as it often is by seemingly constantly changing information age technologies, it is fundamentally important to pause occasionally and reflect on where the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) has been. Even in the autumn of 1947, when Colonel Richard P. Klocko began laying the groundwork for a separate Air Force organization devoted to special information, change was everywhere. Unprecedented accuracy and speed in communications, the unleashing of the atomic age, and the advent of a bipolar world heralded much of this change. The Air Force Security Group established on 23 June 1948, underwent a significant metamorphosis and became the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) on 20 October 1948, before even five months had passed. Not quite two years later USAFSS personnel found themselves headed into a new conflict when on 25 June 1950 North Korean ground forces crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea. The Cold War had suddenly heated up.

Today's AIA is a fused intelligence organization serving as a critical part of the air operations arm of the United States. Its mission continues to change as it endeavors to provide its many customers with current, readily usable and focused information products and services. AIA's personnel accomplish this complex mission of information operations with a high degree of professionalism and effectiveness. They participate directly in combat operations and capitalize upon new and promising technologies, adapting them to current as well as perceived needs. In so doing AIA defines and sharpens the Air Force Core Competency of information operations. Today's AIA warriors, backed by a rich 52-year heritage, look forward to the challenges of the future and stand ready to defend the United States and its people, its interests and its allies in the 21st century.

Bruce A. Wright, Major General, USAF  
Commander, Air Intelligence Agency



# BRIEF HISTORY

## USAFSS to AIA — A Legacy More Than Half a Century Old Continues

### Origins

During WWII, intelligence, most notably signals intelligence (SIGINT) proved invaluable in helping the Allies secure victory. The successes of the ULTRA and MAGIC efforts in the European and Pacific theaters respectively, undoubtedly helped shorten the war and save American lives.

The nation's euphoria over the victory in 1945 quickly gave way to a post WWII political climate defined by the Cold War. A bipolar world began to emerge when a massive Soviet Army presence in Eastern Europe threatened to engulf the western portion of that continent and the U.S.' principal allies under communist rule. With the country rapidly transitioning to a post war economy and the U.S. military machine in the midst of an even more unprecedented demobilization effort, America's leaders realized how important establishing and keeping intelligence organizations intact would be to the national security future of the United States.



*Radio operators train at Brooks AFB in the summer of 1949.*

To gain a true appreciation for the manner in which intelligence operations were conducted during the immediate post WWII years, it is necessary to examine briefly why the Air Intelligence Agency's (AIA) predecessor organizations were established and what their original missions entailed.



*Major General Richard P. Klocko, who later commanded USAFSS, led early planning efforts.*

AIA beginnings can be traced to the autumn of 1947, when then Colonel Richard Klocko (who would later command USAFSS) transferred from the Army Security Service Headquarters at Arlington Hall, Va, to an office in the newly created air staff.

Once there, Klocko and others began to lay the groundwork for establishing a new, separate air force major command charged with the responsibility for processing and reporting special intelligence information. The concept of a separate air force intelligence organization, one vastly different from the army and navy structures, quickly received the approval of Air Force's second Chief of Staff General Hoyt S. Vandenberg. Within the framework of the newly organized air staff, responsibility for intelligence matters initially fell under the purview of the deputy chief of staff for operations.

With the seeds for the new air intelligence organization sowed months earlier in an office of the ASA, AIA's roots began to flourish with the establishment on 23 June 1948 of the Air Force Security Group (AFSG) in the Directorate of Intelligence at HQ USAF in Washington, D.C. As the junior service in the new DoD structure, the AFSG encountered many obstacles dealing with its sister services on matters of policy concerning the cryptologic and communications security (COMSEC) missions of the new air force.

### Other National Military Intelligence Reorganizations

One of the more significant intelligence reorganizations of the immediate post war period saw President Harry S. Truman abolish the Office of



*Arlington Hall--the first home of USAFSS.*

Strategic Services in September 1945. This event preceded the January 1946 creation of the Central Intelligence Group—the forerunner of the CIA. The establishment of the Department of Defense in 1947 influenced significantly the subsequent development of the nation’s air force intelligence structure.

Another change in the organization of the nation’s intelligence structure took place in late 1949 when the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced the establishment of the Armed Forces Security Agency. Chartered with overseeing cryptologic and COMSEC operations within the national military establishment, ASA later became the National Security Agency in 1952.

## United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) Established

Because the air force leadership wanted the new service to have an active role in producing intelligence information, USAFSS was established under the command of Colonel Roy H. Lynn on 20 October 1948 at Arlington Hall Station, Va. Just one year after its own birth, the new military service now had in place a Major Command (MAJCOM) tasked with two important charters—to carry out a cryptologic mission and to provide COMSEC for a fledgling air force.

After three months of negotiations with the Army Security Agency the new MAJCOM gained its first subordinate units on 1 February 1949, when the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile (RSM) in Japan, the 2nd RSM in Germany, the 8th RSM at Vint Hill Farms, Va, and the 136th Radio Security Detachment at Fort Slocum, N.Y., were transferred to USAFSS from the Army Security Agency (ASA).

The initial exposure of the USAFSS staff to the full scope of ASA operations and missions provided valuable firsthand experience for the newly formed USAF MAJCOM. The new organization had an initial authorized strength of 156 personnel—34 officers, six airmen and 116 civilians.

## Korea

When elements of the communist North Korean Army swarmed across the 38th Parallel on 25 June 1950, the Korean peninsula was an unfamiliar region few Americans knew existed. The entry of the U.S. forces into a United Nations “police action,” found an understaffed (just 3,050 personnel) and somewhat untrained USAFSS in its infancy. USAFSS tasking to support the Korean conflict saw the



*Operators of the 15th Radio Squadron Mobile during the Korean War.*



*Construction of the front of Bldg. 2000--later known as Ardisana Hall--winter 1952.*

command quickly order the 1st Radio Squadron Mobile (RSM) to alert status on 27 June 1950. By November 1950 a detachment of the 1st RSM deployed to Korea in time to become involved in a retreat from the rapidly advancing North Korean Army. Not hindered by the quick evacuation, the 1st RSM contributed significantly to UN and Far Eastern Air Forces (FEAF) operations during early 1951. The detachment provided invaluable intelligence information on the movements of major North Korean Army units from Manchuria to Wonsan. The intelligence information enabled UN air and naval units to interdict the enemy advance.

Within the air operations realm, the intelligence furnished by a USAFSS detachment in June 1951 enabled American F-51 and F-86 fighters to inflict heavy losses on

the enemy. By early 1952, the first detachment of 33 airmen underwent language training at Yale University and established operations at Ehwa University outside of Seoul. USAFSS' performance during the Korean conflict earned the MAJCOM a permanent place at the table of the American intelligence community. In early 1953, USAFSS personnel flying aboard converted 5th Air Force C-47s, began experimental airborne operations in the Far Eastern Theater. The operation known as Project Blue Sky, used the modified C-47 aircraft to relay communications to allied ground forces on the Korean Peninsula. The USAFSS organization grew steadily during the Korean War. As the Korean conflict wound down, USAFSS had grown considerably and reported an authorized strength of 17,143 airmen, officers and civilians.

## Headquarters Moves/ Organizational Changes

USAFSS originally began operations at Arlington Hall, Va. With the army and navy intelligence hierarchies planted in Washington D.C., the air staff directed that USAFSS Headquarters be relocated elsewhere. Brooks Air Force Base surfaced as the best choice for a new home. USAFSS Headquarters and related functions moved there in April 1949. Colonel Klocko and the USAFSS staff prepared plans to temporarily relocate only to Brooks after Major General Charles P. Cabell, the Air Force's first director of intelligence, secured funds for the construction of a headquarters for USAFSS at Kelly AFB. Construction of a new \$4,798,000 USAFSS Headquarters building at Kelly AFB began in late summer 1951. Operations commenced at the new headquarters (Bldg. 2000) effective 1 August 1953. The move into the newly constructed headquarters building took place during the first week of August 1953.

Within USAFSS Headquarters, several organizational changes took place in the first years of the organization. In July 1953, the newly established Air Force Communications Security Center at Kelly AFB took on responsibility for the USAFSS COMSEC



*The C-130A-II--successor to the RB-50.*



*Operations site of the 6937th Communications Group, Peshawar, Pakistan 1969.*

Texas, the 6926th SS (Mobile) at Clark AB and the 6911th SS (Mobile) at Darmstadt, Germany.

## Fixed Ground Operations Flourish

As the 1950s gave way to the 1960s, USAFSS support to national level customers expanded rapidly. USAFSS ground units sprang up in a few out of the way places around the globe. The 6937th Communications Group, Peshawar, Pakistan, situated just west of the historic Khyber Pass, began operations in April 1958. Command units also operated at Samsun and Trabzon, Turkey; Zweibrucken and Wiesbaden, Germany, Kirknewton, Scotland and other locations. As 1959 drew to a close, 21,602 airmen, officers and civilians comprised a still growing team of USAFSS intelligence professionals.

mission from the HQ USAFSS Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) for operations. Also at this time, the 6901st Special Communications Center at Brooks AFB took over the operational functions previously performed by the USAFSS DCS of Operations. Shortly thereafter, on 8 August 1953, with the new Headquarters building complete, the 6901st now renamed the Air Force Special Communications Center, moved from Brooks AFB to "Security Hill" at Kelly AFB.

Fixed Operations significantly improved when the first of USAFSS' AN /FLR-9 "Elephant Cage" antennas reached operational status at the 6920th SS at Misawa Air Base, Japan in March 1965 and at the 6922nd SS, Clark Air Base, the Philippines one month later. Other "Elephant Cages" sprung up, and by the end of the 1960's the antenna array was operational at the 6950th SW at RAF Chicksands, England, the 6917th SS, San Vito Dei Normanni, Air Station (AS), Italy, the 6981st SS, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska and the 6933rd SS, Karamursel AS, Turkey. Other important

## Airborne & Contingency Missions Evolve

Modern USAFSS airborne operations commenced in 1952 using converted B-29 Super Flying Fortresses. Strategic Air Command (SAC) RB-50 Superfortresses with USAFSS crews began flying operational airborne missions in the Pacific in March 1954. C-130A-IIs, more maintainable and having longer endurance than their predecessors, began replacing RB-50s in 1958. In 1962 USAFSS crews first flew missions aboard SAC sponsored RC-135 aircraft.

As regional trouble spots began to develop in the post WWII Cold War world, USAFSS reacted accordingly. In 1956, the first USAFSS mobile unit deployed to the Middle East in response to instability in the area. Later in 1963, in the aftermath of the Cuban missile crisis, the command activated three Emergency Reaction Units (ERUs)—the 6948th Security Squadron (SS) (Mobile) at Goodfellow AFB,



*AN-FLR-9 and Operations building at the 6922nd Security Squadron, Clark AB.*



USAFSS/ESC operational field sites included Iraklion AS, Crete, Wakkanai AS, Japan and Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan. The introduction of several high technology systems like IATS, STRAWHAT and TEBO at USAFSS ground sites during this time further automated many time and labor intensive unit field operations.

## Vietnam

USAFSS involvement in the Vietnam war began in late 1961. On 20 December 1961, HQ PACAF directed the command to deploy a capability to establish an Air Force Special Security Office and related intelligence functions at Tan Son Nhut Airport near Saigon. Later in early 1962, the air staff began to make firm plans to provide intelligence support to the commander-in-chief of Pacific Air Forces in Southeast Asia. USAFSS resources and personnel would play a leading role. By the end of 1962, USAFSS' 6923rd Radio Squadron Mobile and three subordinate detachments in Vietnam and Thailand were serving both national intelligence customers and providing tactical support for the fast growing number of military units operating in the Southeast Asia theater of operations.

By mid 1964, U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia significantly increased. In August 1964, Major General Richard P. Klocko, now USAFSS commander, met with the commander of PACAF's 2nd Air Division at Tan Son Nhut Airport, South Vietnam, to work out issues for USAFSS support to the 2nd AD. Over the course of the next four years, USAFSS personnel provided key support to COLLEGE EYE threat warning operations for U.S. aircrews conducting air operations over North Vietnam.



*Major General Doyle E. Larson, ESC's first commander.*

With the air war in Southeast Asia escalating, DoD added six RC-135 aircraft to the SAC inventory. Based at Kadena AB, Okinawa and supported by USAFSS crews, the 6990th SS activated at Kadena on 15 July 1967 in support of the added RC-135s. The first USAFSS manned COMBAT APPLE RC-135 mission staged out of Kadena Air Base on 12 September 1967. During the Vietnam conflict, USAFSS personnel also



*A USAFSS crewed EC-47P from Phu Cat, AB Vietnam in flight.*

served with distinction aboard the EC-47, supporting search and rescue operations for downed U.S. airmen.

With U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict increasing significantly, USAFSS took on the role as the central evaluating agency for USAF electronic warfare activities in 1967—the first major change in the command's mission since its inception. By mid 1969, command manning authorizations totaled 28,637, the highest number in the history of the organization.

## Post Vietnam Mission Changes

The redesignating of AFSCC as the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center (AFEWC) on 1 July 1975 gave USAFSS a greater role in the Air Force's expanding electronic warfare mission. Throughout the 1970's the command continued to furnish Emergency Action Unit (ERU) support to tactical commanders and gained approval of its plan to offer direct support to Air Force Component commanders. USAFSS further refined its direct support role during this time through the extensive participation in numerous military exercises.

## ESC Takes Shape

By the end of the 1970's USAFSS had become thoroughly involved in electronic warfare. The command first demonstrated this operational capability during the Tactical Air



*AN F-15 of the 6917th ESG, Summer 1984.*

Security Division at Peterson AFB, Colo. That same year, ESC personnel began supporting USAFE COMPASS CALL operations staging from Sembach AB, Germany.

The 1980's witnessed the fruition of technologies that would foreshadow present day intelligence support. Systems like PARSEC and the Conventional Signals Upgrade became operational, changing profoundly the way command organizations carried out their rapidly expanding missions. These new modern computer-based, state-of-the-art automated systems replaced those based on outdated technologies from the 1950's and earlier.

Command (TAC) sponsored exercise Blue Flag 79-1 at Hurlburt Field, Florida in late 1978. ESC began to take shape on February 1, 1979, when USAFSS transferred the operation and maintenance of its Telecommunications Center to the Air Force Communications Service (later the Air Force Communications Command.) On 1 August 1979 USAFSS was redesignated Electronic Security Command (ESC) with Major General Doyle E. Larson as the commander. With this change, ESC assumed a broad responsibility for improving the Air Force's use of electronic warfare technology in combat. On the operational side, ESC also gained more challenging and critical national missions, with the 6920th Electronic Security Group, Misawa AB, Japan starting Ladylove operations in the early 1980s.

## ESC Matures

ESC focused its attention for much of the 1980's on supporting warfighters and theater commanders. During this time, the command began to concentrate its efforts on carefully tailoring its products for use by operational commanders in military operations. In 1985, the command took over responsibility for computer security from the Air Force Computer Security Office at Gunter Air Force Station, Ala.

In Korea, ESC's 6903rd ESG underwent a major mission change in 1986. By year's end, the Korean Combat Operations Intelligence Center (KCOIC) had achieved initial operational capability. KCOIC consolidated ESC, and other U.S. and Republic of Korea intelligence functions under one roof to better serve the operational needs of the theater commander. Also during 1986, ESC began an association with the USAF Space Command with the activation of the Headquarters Space Electronic

## ESC, JUST CAUSE, DESERT STORM ushers in a new era

In December 1989, ESC field units, the ESC staff and the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center (AFEWC) played an on-the-scenes role in Panama, ensuring the success of Operation JUST CAUSE. As the 1980s drew to a close, ESC had made its mark as a prime source of intelligence products for the command's expanding list of customers.

The first two years of the new decade set the stage for the future of ESC and its predecessors. On 9 August 1990



*Operations site of the 6948th ESS, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, summer 1990.*



ESC personnel from the 6916th ESS were among the first U.S. military personnel to arrive in Saudi Arabia to support RC-135 DESERT SHIELD Operations. By the end of 1990, Operation DESERT SHIELD was well underway and on 10 November 1990 the 6975th Electronic Security Squadron (Provisional) was designated, activated and organized at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in support of RC-135 operations.

As DESERT SHIELD gave way to DESERT STORM during the second half of January 1991, ESC personnel were engaged in key intelligence support roles both in the air and on the ground. The 6948th ESS operated from three different locations in Saudi Arabia and Turkey during the conflict, providing air commanders with valuable intelligence and communications support. The unparalleled success of U.S. and coalition forces in DESERT STORM ushered in the age of information warfare. Iraq's command and control system killed with airpower several weeks before the ground war began became a prime example of how information dominance was used in warfare. Within the now emerging doctrine of information warfare, it was clear that ESC forces played a large role in helping the U.S. to achieve operational supremacy over Iraqi forces during the war in the Persian Gulf.

## AFIC Formed

ESC was redesignated Air Force Intelligence Command (AFIC) on 1 October 1991. The new organization led by Major General Gary W. O'Shaughnessy, consolidated, restructured and streamlined the functions of Air Force intelligence resources into a single command. AFIC formed by merging the personnel and missions of the Air Force Foreign Technology Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, the Air Special Activities Center, Fort Belvoir, Va. and elements of the Air Force Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C. and ESC into one command. AFIC provided direct intelligence support to national decision makers and field air component commanders. Support furnished by AFIC focused on the interrelated areas of intelligence, security, electronic combat, foreign technology, and treaty monitoring. During AFIC's first year the new command established a strong foundation for meeting the changing intelligence needs of the warfighter.



*An RC-135V RIVET JOINT aircraft in flight. AIA and its predecessor organizations have served aboard this venerable reconnaissance platform for nearly four decades.*

## AIA—Pioneering Air Force Information Operations

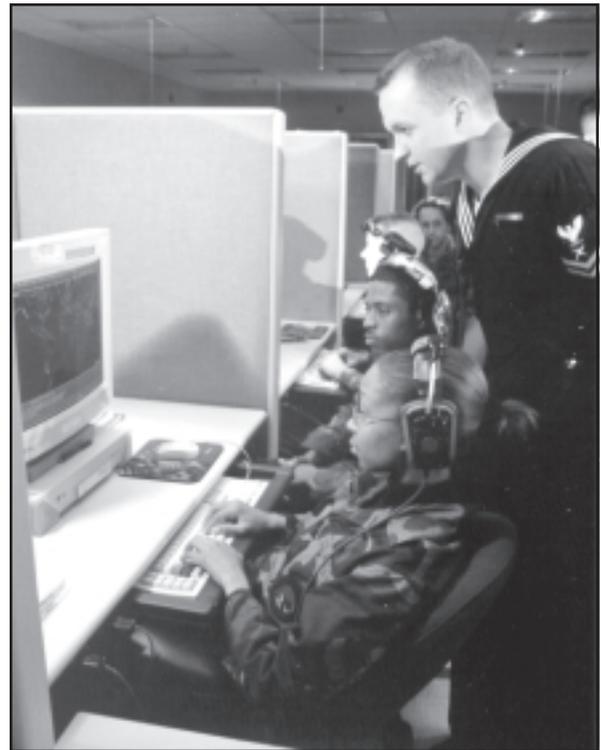
The need to establish the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) stemmed from the introduction of the objective Air Force—the one base, one boss concept authored by Air Force Chief of Staff General Merrill A. McPeak. Because of this, further restructuring of Air Force Intelligence beckoned and AFIC was redesignated AIA on 1 October 1993. Commanded by then Major General Kenneth A. Minihan, the new organization, reported directly to the USAF Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. This move emphasized increased support to the warfighter. The Air Force Information Warfare Center (AFIWC) became a significant player in AIA activities. AFIWC was established at Kelly Air Force Base on 10 September 1993 by combining the AFEWC with the securities functions from the Air Force Cryptologic Support Center. AFIWC's primary mission remains that of channeling all electronic battle field information toward the objective of gaining information dominance over any adversary.

During the 1990s, one significant fact became more prevalent than ever—U.S. military forces now operate in an information age, where the need for precise, instantaneous intelligence is increasing and expanding across the entire spectrum of military operations. Within today's framework of the USAF Global Presence strategy, AIA serves as an integral part of the *presence* component in the application of this principle. The agency and its supported units help the

U.S. maintain a “virtual” advantage by providing battlespace forces with unique information. This helps the U.S. maintain global situational based capabilities. AIA plays a prime hour-to-hour, day-to-day role in helping the awareness.

The new agency now supports customers from nearly every governmental department and agency, and all of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Agency plays an active role in supporting almost every military contingency operation in which U.S. armed forces are committed. AIA, today, a remarkably diverse organization defends the information highway, providing the best battle space information to the right customer—anywhere, anytime. Since the beginning of 1996, AIA has been taking steps to develop and become the leader in information operations. With an emphasis on participating rather than just supporting combat operations, AIA is now moving boldly towards a new frontier. On AIA’s horizon is an environment in which the Agency will play a central role in helping U.S. forces achieve information superiority. This will become the prime objective in shaping future battlespace.

Clearly, national security events during the last half of the 1990s signaled the need for precise battlefield information. In response to national taskings, AIA found its assets and people being deployed to places like Bosnia Herzegovina, Southwest Asia, and Kosovo. The activation of the Information Warfare Battlelab in 1997 and the USAF approval in August 1998 of an Air Force Doctrine Document (AFDD) for Information Operations (IO) Doctrine have shown that IO will continue to evolve and that it will be an integral and sustaining part of future US military operations. The emergence of Information Superiority as an Air Force Core Competency in the landmark 1996 *Global Engagement* publication ensured the products and services provided by AIA will mean the difference between success and failure for the warfighter. Today, in the dawn of the 21st Century, AIA has become an essential part of US Aerospace Operations. The Agency’s mission, Information Operations, is rapidly becoming an indispensable ingredient in the overall mission of the Air Force.



*AIA personnel work side-by-side with the other services. Members of the 93rd IS conduct intelligence collection operations at the Medina Regional SIGINT Operations Center--1998.*



# CHRONOLOGY

## 1948

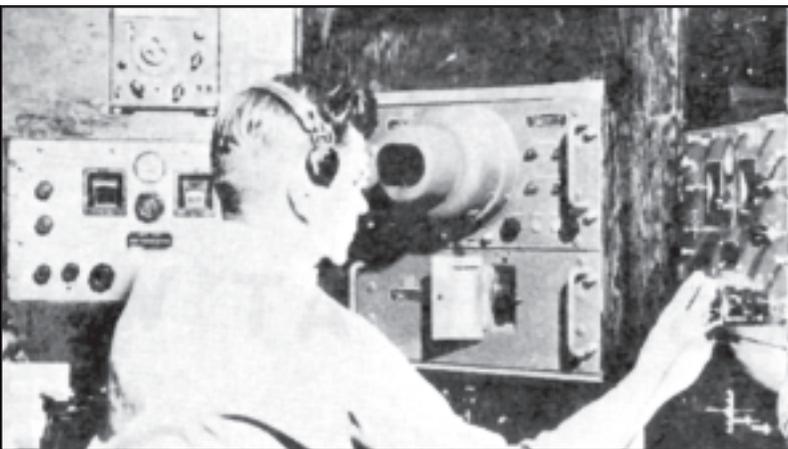
On 24 May 1948, Headquarters, United States Air Force (HQ USAF) informally activated the Air Force Security Group (AFSG) in the Office of the Intelligence Requirements Division, Directorate of Intelligence, Headquarters USAF, in the Pentagon and designated Major Idris J. Jones, an Air Force officer, to head the Group.

The AFSG was formally established in the Directorate of Intelligence, HQ USAF, on 23 June 1948, with a cadre of eleven officers and some clerical enlisted personnel on loan from the Army Security Agency.

On 20 October 1948, the United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS), the forerunner of the Air Intelligence Agency, was established at Arlington Hall Station, Va., as a major air command to perform cryptologic and communications security missions for the Air Force.

On the date of activation, the total authorized strength of USAFSS was 156 personnel — 34 officers, 6 enlisted, and 116 civilians.

Colonel Roy H. Lynn was assigned as the first USAFSS Commander effective 20 October 1948.



*USAFSS direction finding operators worked with equipment such as this during the early years. This DF position was located at Vint Hill Farms Station, in 1949.*

## 1949

The United States Air Force Security Service received its first subordinate units on 1 February 1949, when the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile in Japan, the 2d Radio Squadron, Mobile in Germany, the 8th Radio Squadron, Mobile at Vint Hill Farms, Va., and the 136th Radio Security Detachment in upper New York state, along with assigned personnel, were transferred to the command from the Army Security Agency.



*Colonel Roy H. Lynn, shown here as a Major General, was USAFSS' first commander.*

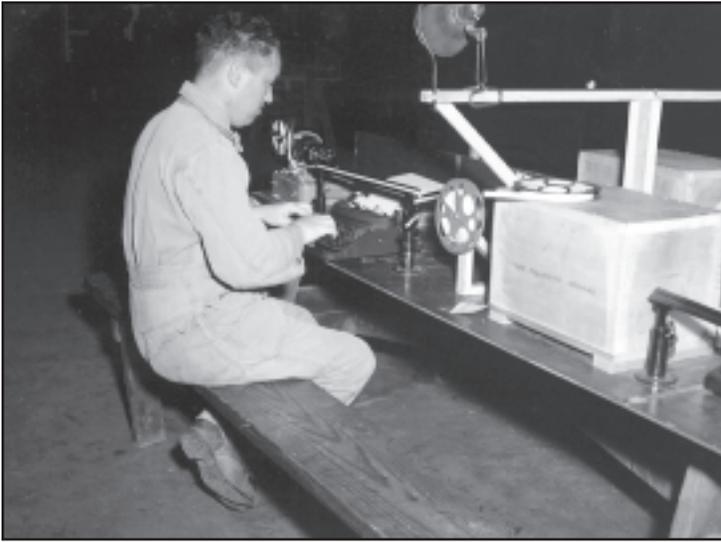
In March 1949, on authority of a signed agreement with the U.S. Army, HQ USAF assigned Capt David D. Morris, an Air Force officer, to the Army Special Security Office at HQ United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE). About two and one-half months later, in June 1949, HQ USAFSS assigned Capt Campbell Y. Jackson to HQ USAFE as a Security Service Liaison Officer. Those assignments represented the first use of Air Force personnel in the previously all-Army Special Security Office system.

The transfer of HQ USAFSS from Arlington Hall Station, Va., to Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, was effective with transfer of the morning reports on 18 April 1949.

On 29 May 1949, Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson issued a Memo to the Joint Chiefs of Staff announcing the establishment of a unified cryptologic organization — the Armed Forces Security Agency — (which later became the National Security Agency (NSA) in October 1952) for the conduct of Intelligence and communications security (COMSEC) activities within the National Military Establishment.

On 30 June 1949, USAFSS had 2,032 personnel authorized — 171 officers, 1,745 enlisted, and 116 civilians.

The USAFSS Photography Laboratory had its beginning in July 1949 with the assignment of a master sergeant and a corporal. On 7 October 1949, a photo officer was assigned. By 30 June 1950, the



*Early intelligence processing operations were tedious and time consuming--a USAFSS Radio Traffic Analyst at work in 1949.*

total number of personnel assigned to the photo lab had grown to 22.

JCS 2010/6 was published on 28 July 1949 which assigned the responsibility for Intelligence processing to the individual services "as needed for combat intelligence."

Colonel (later Brigadier General) Travis M. Hetherington replaced Colonel Lynn as Commander effective 6 July 1949.

The USAFSS Printing Plant had its beginning in December 1949 with the arrival of a litho camera, paper cutter, and opaque table. Two civilians were assigned to the Printing Plant.

On 29 December 1949, HQ USAF approved the USAFSS-developed concept of fully capable Radio Squadrons Mobile.

## 1950

The USAFSS concept and plan for production of tactical area intelligence was approved by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, in April 1950.

Sergeant Christena Ogle, the first Women's Air Force (WAF) to join USAFSS, was assigned to the Command on 2 April 1950 for duty in the Directorate of Security. Major Corinne E. Edwards became the Command's first WAF

officer on 1 May 1950 and was assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General.

In May 1950, USAFSS attempted to get the Director of Intelligence at HQ USAF to support the publication of an Air Force regulation which would specify that USAFSS was responsible for the production of Intelligence of interest to the Air Force and that the USAFSS units would be attached to the air commanders to meet tactical intelligence requirements. (Such a regulation was never published.)

In June 1950, the Airways and Air Communications Service (later the Air Force Communications Command) transferred to USAFSS the responsibility for service testing USAF cryptological equipment, systems, and devices. Airways and Air Communications Service also transferred the personnel and spaces authorized to perform this function.

On 30 June 1950, USAFSS had 3,050 personnel authorized — 298 officers, 2,365 enlisted, and 387 civilians.

The USAFSS Flight Section was organized on 1 September 1950 with the assignment of three administrative aircraft — two C-47s and one B-25 — and nine personnel.

In November 1950, USAFSS established a detachment at Pyongyang, Korea (Detachment C, 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile), to provide support to USAF organizations engaged in the Korean War.



*Office of the Comptroller in USAFSS Headquarters, Brooks, AFB, 1950.*



*Personnel of the Headquarters USAFSS Operations Production Division, Brooks AFB, prepare a map depicting the Eurasian landmass, 1950.*

## 1951

USAFSS gained its first units above squadron level with the activation of the 6910th Security Group at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, on 23 May 1951 and the 6920th Security Group at Johnson AB, Japan, on 1 September 1951. The 6910th Security Group was moved to Germany in July 1951 with the Group Headquarters going to Wiesbaden and Group Operations going to Darmstadt.

Brigadier General (later Lieutenant General) Roy H. Lynn, who served as the first USAFSS Commander, returned as the organization's third commander effective 22 February 1951.

There were two incidents in 1951 in which support provided by USAFSS units in Korea resulted in major U.S. air victories. The most significant of the two occurred on 29 November 1951 when a small USAFSS detachment provided 5th Air Force with tactical support concerning the North Korean Air Force which contributed directly to the largest single U.S. air victory of the war up to that point. In a single air-to-air engagement, F-86s from the USAF fighter wing at Inchon shot down eleven North Korean aircraft and damaged four more. The U.S. sustained only one slightly damaged F-86. These incidents were aptly termed "turkey shoots" by U.S. pilots.

USAFSS provided Intelligence support at the Kaesong truce meetings which began on 10 July 1951 and dragged on for more than two years until a truce was signed on 27 July 1953. During those two years, intelligence was provided to Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, who headed the U. S. delegation to the conference.

The first Annual USAFSS Commanders' Conference was held at USAFSS headquarters from 12-16 November 1951. On 30 June 1951, USAFSS reported 8,192 personnel authorized, 775 officers, 6,773 enlisted, and 644 civilians.

## 1952

On 24 October 1952, National Security Council Directive No. 9 was revised. It redesignated the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) as the National Security Agency (NSA), delegated control of resources of the Department of Defense (DoD) to the Director of NSA (DIRNSA), designated DoD as the executive agent of the Government for SIGINT information, and authorized DIRNSA to delegate control for close support purposes.



*USAFSS senior commanders pose with world renowned cryptologist William Friedman (in suit, third from left) at Landsberg Air Base, Germany, 23 November 1951. (Photo courtesy of Brig. Gen. Hetherington, Ret.)*



In March 1952, HQ USAF consolidated the Security Service Liaison Office and the major command (MAJCOM) Special Security Office activities into an Air Force Special Security Office system. The responsibility for the development and operation of the Air Force Special Security Office System was delegated to USAFSS in April 1952. At the time, the consolidated system consisted of nineteen authorized offices worldwide.

The USAFSS emblem was approved in August 1952 after a command-wide contest to select a winning entry. It was designed by Airman Second Class William Rogers. The motto, Freedom Through Vigilance, was adopted in January 1964.

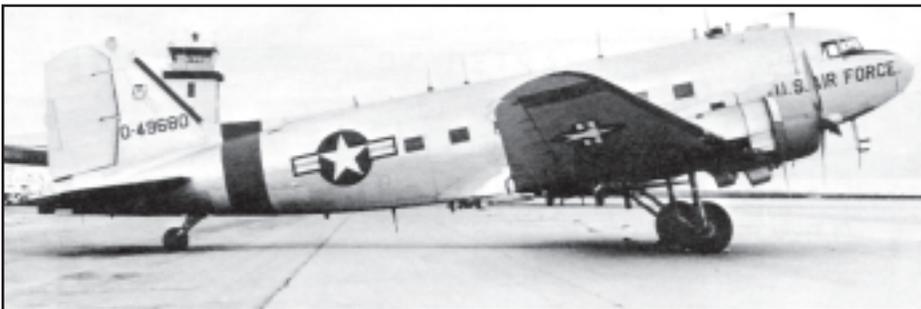
On 30 June 1952, USAFSS had 12,319 personnel authorized — 1,366 officers, 10,267 enlisted, and 686 civilians.

The United States Air Force Security Service flew its first Airborne Reconnaissance Program test mission in the Pacific on 18 April 1952 using a converted B-29 aircraft. The aircraft was later sent to Europe for additional testing before commencing regular operational missions in the Pacific in March 1954.

The United States Air Force Security Service reorganized to operate with the procedural functions, authorities, and responsibilities of a major Air Force command, which it had been since its activation on 20 October 1948, but within policy constraints required by tri-service relationships.

## 1953

Brigadier General (later Major General) Harold H. Bassett replaced Major General Roy H. Lynn as Commander effective 14 February 1953.



*A C-47 "Bluesky" Aircraft. Manned by USAFSS crews the platform began experimental collection operations over Korea in early 1953.*

On 1 July 1953, the 6901st Special Communications Center was activated at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, to perform the operational functions previously handled by the Analysis and Disseminations Divisions, Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations, HQ USAFSS. Simultaneous with establishment of the 6901st Special Communications Center on 1 July 1953, the Air Force Communications Security Center was established to take over the communications security operational functions of DCS/Operations.

On 30 June 1953, USAFSS was authorized 1,547 officers, 15,013 enlisted, and 583 civilians for a total of 17,143 personnel.

Two USAFSS airmen — Staff Sergeant Donald G. Hill and Air Second Class Earl W. Radlein, Jr. — were presumed killed on 29 July 1953 when the RB-50G-2 aircraft of the 343d Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron on which they were serving was shot down off the Soviet coast near Vladivostok. This marked the first loss of USAFSS airborne operators as a result of hostile action.

Headquarters USAFSS closed out operations at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, effective 31 July 1953 and began operations from its new headquarters building at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas.



*Intelligence operators of the 37th Radio Squadron Mobile, RAF Station, Kirknewton, Scotland*



*Major General Harold H. Bassett, USAFSS commander, 1953-1957.*

The move into the newly constructed Headquarters building at Kelly Air Force Base was accomplished during the first week in August 1953.

On 8 August 1953, the 6901st Special Communications Center was moved from Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, to "Security Hill" at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and renamed the Air Force Special Communications Center. Initially, the mission of the Air Force Special Communications

Center was: (1) producing and disseminating long-term intelligence data; (2) operating the USAFSS School for training intelligence specialists; (3) providing technical guidance and operational assistance to USAFSS field units; (4) assisting the USAFSS Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations to develop and test operational procedures and techniques for implementing the USAFSS program for providing intelligence support for the Air Force; and (5) directing and monitoring operation of the Special Security Office system.

The 6900th Security Wing was activated at Landsberg Air Base, Germany, on 1 August 1953 as an intermediate Headquarters (numbered Air Force equivalent) to plan, coordinate, and direct the activities of all USAFSS units in Europe. The 6920th Security Group at Johnson Air Base, Japan, provided the same support to USAFSS units in the Pacific.

The USAFSS School was activated at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, on 1 August 1953 and placed under the operational control of the Air Force Special Communications Center. One of the major functions of the school was to train personnel in intelligence duties.

## 1954

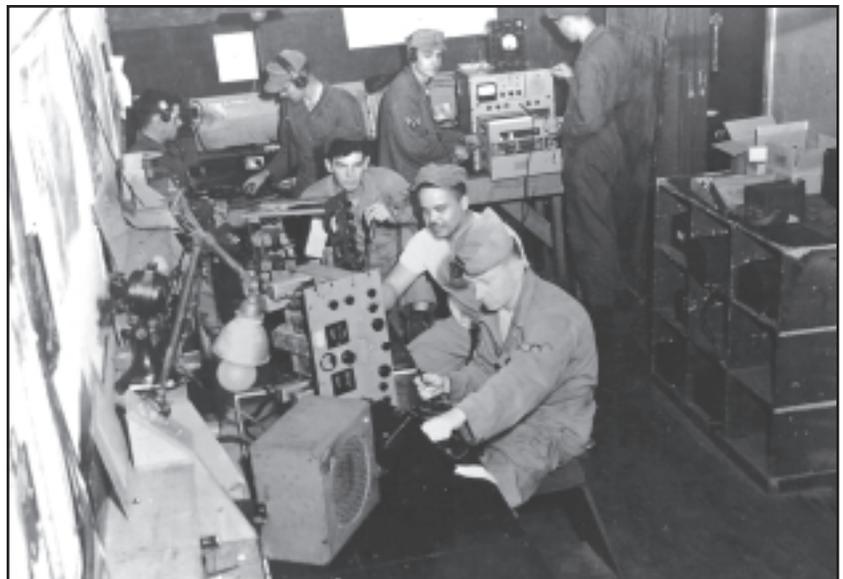
In March 1954, USAFSS initiated a new concept in reconnaissance collection by implementing its Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort. One RB-29 began flying missions in the Far East in April 1954. This was the only aircraft,

which USAFSS already had jurisdiction over, engaged in the Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort at that time; however, USAFSS had personnel serving as operators aboard 343d Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron RB-50G ECM aircraft.

In March 1954, the USAFSS Commander submitted tentative plans for expansion of processing activities at the squadron level and for direct reporting to the using commands. In June 1954, the point of analysis and reporting concept was implemented on a test basis at the 6901st Special Communications Center in Europe (Germany) and the 6902d Special Communications Center in the Pacific (Japan). In late August 1954, the point of intercept analysis and reporting concept was approved. The objective was to facilitate a direct and timely response to the requirements of military commands and other organizations receiving intelligence support.

On 30 June 1954, USAFSS was authorized 16,244 personnel — 1,485 officers, 14,079 enlisted, and 680 civilians.

By the end of 1954, the technical training function and oversight of the Special Security Office system had been transferred from the Air Force Special Communications Center to HQ USAFSS.



*Airmen assigned to the 6920th Security Group, Johnson, Air Base, Japan repair radios--1953.*



## 1955

USAFSS deployed the 6926th Radio Squadron, Mobile, to Japan to participate in Project GRAYBACK.

On 30 June 1955, USAFSS was authorized 15,730 personnel — 1,372 officers, 13,757 enlisted, and 601 civilians.

## 1956

The USAFSS developed a new concept of mobile operations to satisfy increased tasking for tactical support during contingencies. The first deployment came in January 1957 in response to the unstable situation in the Middle-East in late 1956 and early 1957.

On 30 June 1956, USAFSS had 17,928 personnel authorized — 1,275 officers, 16,003 enlisted, and 650 civilians.

The Air Force Communications Security Center was deactivated on 1 July 1956 and its personnel and communications security monitoring, reporting and management mission became a part of the Air Force Special Communications Center. This change reflected an effort to decrease management overhead.

## 1957

RB-50 aircraft were assigned to the Airborne Reconnaissance Program. There were five RB-50s in Europe and five in the Pacific.

Major General (later Lieutenant General) Gordon A. Blake replaced Major General H. H. Bassett as Commander effective 4 January 1957.

On 30 June 1957, USAFSS had 17,297 personnel authorized — 1,292 officers, 15,356 enlisted, and 649 civilians.

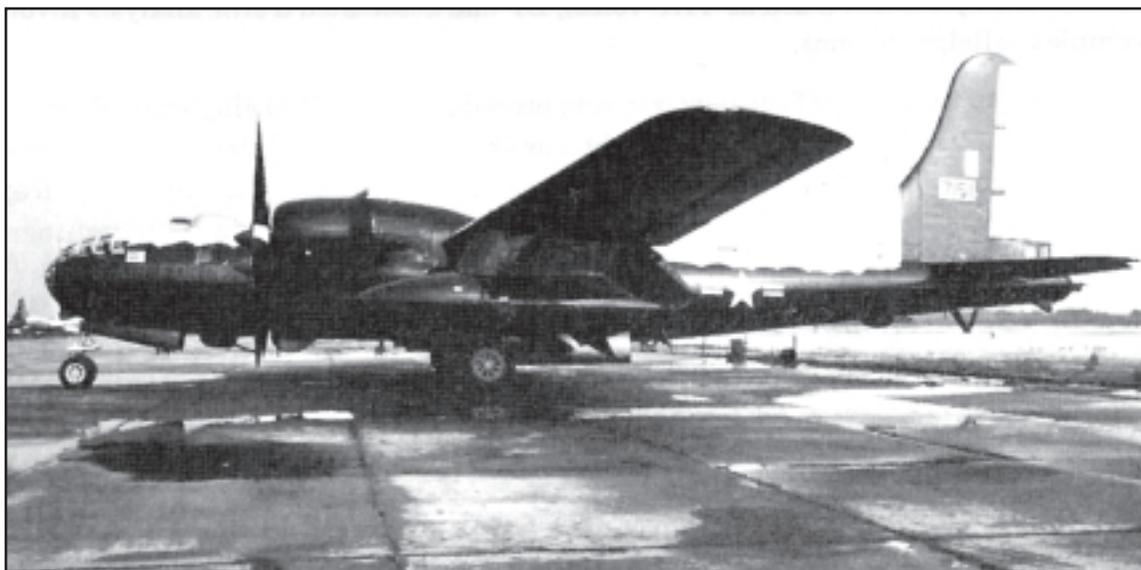
The USAFSS School was moved from Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, to March Air Force Base, California, on 1 July 1957.



*Major General Gordon A. Blake, USAFSS commander 1957-1959.*

## 1958

A major milestone in the history of USAFSS occurred on 1 July 1958 when the command assumed control of several bases throughout the world where its units had previously been tenants. Included were: Misawa Air Base, Japan;



*An RB-50F aircraft -- USAFSS' first operational aerial reconnaissance platform.*



San Vito Air Station (AS), Italy; Iraklion AS, Crete; Royal Air Force (RAF) Station Chicksands, United Kingdom; Karamursel AS, Turkey, Wakkanai AS, Japan; and Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan. Later that year, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, was added to the list. Through coordination with Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) in early 1958, USAFSS increased its airborne capability in Korea by adding three more C-47s to the Blue Sky effort, for a total of four platforms. Each C-47 staged from Osan AB, Korea. They flew an average of 60 hours each month. During 1960, the project name was changed from Blue Sky to Rose Bowl. This "primitive," but effective, Airborne Reconnaissance Program operation continued into 1962 when the C-130s staging from Yokota AB, Japan, were able to provide the necessary support of Korea and the C-47s were phased out.



*A B-50 Superfortress, also used by USAFSS as a reconnaissance platform.*

On 30 June 1958, USAFSS was authorized 18,124 personnel — 1,291 officers, 16,158 enlisted, and 675 civilians.

C-130s were sent to Europe to replace the RB-50s in the Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort. The first two arrived in Germany during July 1958.

The USAFSS School was moved from March Air Force Base, California, to Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, on 15 October 1958.

The 6920th Security Wing (later redesignated HQ Pacific Air Forces Security Region) was moved from Shiroy Air Base, Japan, to Wheeler Air Force Base, Hawaii, on 1 November 1958.

On 26 August 1958, USAFSS sent a unit to Taiwan to augment the 6987th Radio Squadron, Mobile located at Shu Lin Kou Air Station, Taiwan, due to the increased tension in the Taiwan Straits created by the Chinese shelling of Quemoy.

Soviet fighters shot down a C-130 Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft on 2 September 1958 when it strayed off-course over Soviet Armenia. All crew members were assumed killed, including 11 USAFSS personnel.

## 1959

On 30 June 1959, USAFSS had 21,602 personnel authorized — 1,427 officers, 18,724 enlisted, and 1,551 civilians.

The replacement of RB-50s in Europe was completed in July 1959 with arrival of the eighth C-130. The European RB-50s were moved to the Pacific, giving that area nine RB-50 Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft.

The transfer of bases to USAFSS under the "Integrated Command Concept" was completed on 1 July 1959 with the transfer of Wakkanai Air Station, Japan, and Shu Lin Kou Air Station, Taiwan.

The United States Air Force Security Service first became involved in the war in Southeast Asia in August 1959 when national intelligence authorities tasked the command to make maximum effort to provide intelligence relating to North Vietnamese or Laotian rebel movements. Existing USAFSS units were not in the most favorable geographical locations to obtain such information; therefore, in the spring of 1960, USAFSS sent a small team to Bangkok, Thailand.



*Major General Millard Lewis commanded USAFSS from 1959-1962.*

Major General Millard Lewis assumed command of USAFSS effective 21 September 1959, replacing Major General Gordon A. Blake who was reassigned to HQ Pacific Air Forces as Chief of Staff effective 5 August 1959.

## 1960

On 30 June 1960, USAFSS had 23,128 personnel authorized — 1,508 officers, 19,827 enlisted, and 1,793 civilians.

The 6917th Radio Squadron, Mobile, became the first USAFSS unit in Italy when it was activated at San Vito on 1 November 1960.

## 1961

As the tempo of the Vietnam War increased, USAFSS became involved in a program which eventually became known as the Airborne Radio Direction Finding program. That year, General Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, ordered several experimental aircraft, equipped with radio homing equipment, into Southeast Asia.

On 30 June 1961, USAFSS had 23,105 personnel authorized — 1,532 officers, 19,568 enlisted, and 2,005 civilians.

## 1962

In December 1961, PACAF asked USAFSS to send an Emergency Reaction Unit to Da Nang Air Base, South Vietnam, to support a Tactical Air Control System that was being set up there. USAFSS deployed the unit in early 1962.

Intelligence processed by the USAFSS Airborne Reconnaissance Program provided the first significant intelligence data concerning the extent of Soviet involvement in Cuba.

The United States Air Force Security Service deployed an Emergency Reaction Unit (ERU) to Key West, Florida, to

provide tactical support. Also, the command increased its Cuban Airborne Reconnaissance Program coverage from one to three aircraft.

Strategic Air Command operated RC-135 aircraft began flying reconnaissance missions in the Arctic.

On 30 June 1962, USAFSS had 24,718 personnel authorized — 1,613 officers, 20,975 enlisted, and 2,130 civilians.

Major General (later Lieutenant General) Richard P. Klocko assumed command of USAFSS effective 1 September 1962, replacing Major General Millard Lewis who retired from active duty.

## 1963

USAFSS activated three Emergency Reaction Units, the 6948th Security Squadron, Mobile, at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; the 6926th Security Squadron, Mobile, at Clark AB, the Philippines; and the 6911th Security Squadron, Mobile, at Darmstadt, Germany.

The following USAFSS communications functions were transferred to AFCS: (1) operation and maintenance of the Critical Communications relay stations; (2) operation and maintenance of terminal station technical control; and (3) terminal station maintenance.

On 30 June 1963, USAFSS had 26,849 personnel authorized — 1,655 officers, 23,047 enlisted, and 2,147 civilians; however, the assigned strength on 30 June 1963 was 29,068 — 1,719 officers, 25,254 enlisted, and 2,095 civilians.

In response to the Air Force problem of how to reduce or eliminate intermediate echelons and separate units, USAFSS initiated the "Operational Wing Concept." Under this concept, the mission unit was discontinued and a support squadron was organized. The functions of the mission unit were absorbed into the wing structure. The concept was implemented in Europe late in 1963 and in the Pacific in 1964.

## 1964

The motto "Freedom Through Vigilance" was adopted in January 1964.

As of 30 June 1964, USAFSS was authorized 24,643 personnel — 1,656 officers, 21,925 enlisted, and 1,062 civilians.



*By the mid-1960s AN FLR-9 “Elephant Cages” had become the mainstays of several USAFSS units, including this one at the then 6981st Security Squadron, ElmendorfAFB, Alaska.*

The Operational Wing Concept was implemented in the Pacific.

In early 1964, the USAFSS commander, Major General Richard P. Klocko, asked the Air Staff and the Strategic Air Command to support the addition of six RC-135s to the airborne effort.

## 1965

In June 1965, after many months of intense negotiations, the Office of the Secretary of Defense approved the addition of six RC-135s to the airborne effort. But even then, a debate

arose over where to base the RC-135s, and it took 18 more months of negotiations before a base of operations was finally selected. With the air war in Vietnam heating up, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as Da Nang, South Vietnam, and Kadena, Okinawa, were all considered.

On 26 March 1965, USAF headquarters issued instructions to USAFSS to transfer all Air Force Special Security Officer functions to the using commands effective 1 July 1965. This resulted in the transfer of 811 USAFSS personnel at some 50 locations around the world to the consumer commands.

The Gold Flow problem, an Air Force-wide program to reduce overseas manning, resulted in the reduction of 302 USAFSS personnel overseas.

The loss of an RB-57 over the Black Sea on 15 December 1965 resulted in a Government of Turkey ban on Airborne Reconnaissance Program flights from their country. The RB-57 was one of two aircraft in the Little Cloud project which were manned and maintained by the Pakistan Air Force at Peshawar.

United States Air Force Security Service Airborne Reconnaissance Program missions in Southeast Asia increased from one to two daily, using four RC-130s instead of two.

The first AN/FLR-9 systems became operational — at Misawa Air Base, Japan, in March 1965 and Clark Air Base, the Philippines, in April 1965.



*USAFSS' Detachment 2, 6925th Security Group Emergency Reaction Unit, Da Nang, AB, South Vietnam, October 1964.*



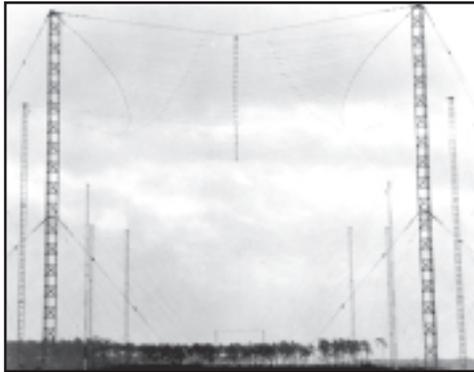
United States Air Force Security Service Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft (C-130s) began participating in tactical operations in Southeast Asia, supporting both USAF and Navy strike forces by providing alert warnings. This was the first time the command became involved in a regular program of providing tactical support to combat operations.

As of 30 June 1965, USAFSS was authorized 26,835 personnel — 1,686 officers, 23,062 enlisted, and 1,087 civilians.

The USAFSS Airborne Reconnaissance Program unit in the Pacific area performed the command's first airborne transmission security monitoring mission on a test basis.

On 28 September 1965, the Air Force Chief of Staff approved the release of communication security violators' names in transmission security reports. This was a first in transmissions security reporting. The approval granted release of names down to division level.

Major General Louis E. Coira assumed command of USAFSS effective 16 October 1965, replacing Major General Richard P. Klocko who was reassigned as commander of the Air Force Communications Service.



*A CM-1 Antenna of the 6910th Security Wing, Darmstadt, Germany in 1965.*

## 1966

The USAF Airborne Radio Direction Finding Program was nicknamed Phyllis Ann. The first Phyllis Ann EC-47 Airborne Radio Direction Finding Program aircraft arrived at Tan Son Nhut, Air Base, Vietnam, in April 1966 for use by the newly activated 6994th Security Squadron.

The first AN/FLR-12 antenna system became operational.

In 1966, Office of the Secretary of Defense requested USAF to provide an objective evaluation of its electronic warfare system effectiveness. Later that year, the Chief of Staff, USAF, directed the establishment of an Electronic Warfare evaluation function in USAFSS. CSAF assigned this task to USAFSS because: (1) USAFSS was a disinterested command — it neither built nor operated electronic warfare systems; (2) USAFSS had the necessary core skills; (3) it had access to the critically needed intelligence data; and (4) it had a close working relationship with NSA as the Air Force component of the service's cryptologic system. The task was to assess the effectiveness of protective electronic countermeasures employed by U.S. aircraft during air strikes against North Vietnam.

On 30 June 1966, USAFSS had 26,157 personnel authorized — 1,507 officers, 22,447 enlisted, and 2,203 civilians.



*Main gate of USAFSS' 6987th Security Squadron at Shu Lin Kou, Air Station, Taiwan in 1965.*



*Major General Louis E. Coira took command of USAFSS in 1965.*



*Personnel assigned to USAFSS' Air Force Cryptologic Depot at Kelly AFB perform maintenance on equipment--circa 1965.*

Assistant Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance placed Air Force Airborne Radio Direction Finding Program assets in the Electronic Warfare Program.

The United States Air Force Security Service entered a new era in operational systems development during the first half of 1966 with the completion of system 466L (FLR-9 and FLR-12).

The United States Air Force Security Service organized the 6993d Security Squadron. It was physically located at Lackland Air Force Base Annex One (Medina Base, Texas).

## 1967

In June 1967, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, was announced as the most economical location and the base that would leave the six additional RC-135 aircraft in the best post-hostility posture. As a result, SAC and USAFSS developed plans to activate organizations at Kadena to operate the RC-135 program in Southeast Asia. In response, USAFSS activated the 6990th Security Squadron on 15 July 1967, and SAC established the 82d Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron on 25 August 1967.

The first three Combat Apple RC-135 aircraft arrived at Kadena AB on 10 September 1967, followed by the remaining three in October 1967, November 1967, and January 1968. On 12

September 1967, only two days after the first aircraft arrived at Kadena AB, the first operational Combat Apple mission was flown. By November 1967, daily scheduled Combat Apple missions of 18 hours and 45 minutes were being flown, including 12 hours and 30 minutes on the primary orbit.

On 30 June 1967, USAFSS was authorized 28,498 personnel — 1,483 officers, 24,509 enlisted, and 2,506 civilians.



*Antenna array of the 6932nd Security Group, Samsun, Turkey--1964.*



United States Air Force Security Service Airborne Reconnaissance Program units began performing airborne transmissions security monitoring on a time available, non-interfering basis.

In consonance with a USAF program to increase the use of women in the Air Force, USAFSS assigned women to its units in Karamursel, Turkey; Iraklion, Crete; Chicksands, United Kingdom; Misawa, Japan; and Shu Lin Kou, Taiwan; as well as at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, and Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. This was the first time enlisted women were assigned to USAFSS operational sites overseas.



*Operations site of the 6924th Security Squadron, Da Nang, South Vietnam in 1966.*

On 16 January 1967 the Air Force Special Communications Center established a 24-hour/7-day per week function to provide direct support to any agency needing information. This data base was the culmination of several years of developmental effort by the Center. It proved increasingly valuable in permitting rapid response to complex queries for technical and intelligence data.

The 6990th Security Squadron was organized at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, to receive the six RC-135 aircraft assigned to the Pacific Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort. The first RC-135 Airborne Reconnaissance Program mission, named Combat Apple, was flown on 12 September 1967.

The Iron Horse system was put into operation at Da Nang AB (6924th Security Squadron) and Monkey Mountain, South Vietnam.

In 1967, USAFSS assigned its new electronic warfare evaluation mission to the Air Force Special Communications Center (later AF Information Warfare Center) at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. The USAFSS assigned the mission to the Air Force Special Communications Center because the Center had a cadre of experienced analysts. In addition, the Center's analytic task was phasing down which made the necessary office space available. This new mission was the first major change in the command's mission in many years. The initial evaluations were disseminated electrically in Comfy Coat reports. Later, the effort was expanded to cover evaluation of Navy and ground electronic warfare, and Army,

Navy, and Marine personnel were assigned to the Air Force Special Communications Center. As the years passed, general usage of the term Comfy Coat came to mean all operational electronic warfare effectiveness evaluations being conducted by the Air Force Special Communications Center.

## 1968

The Government of Pakistan refused to renew the lease for the USAFSS site at Peshawar (6937th Communications Group). The unit closed by the end of 1969.

On 30 June 1968, USAFSS had 27,365 personnel authorized — 1,481 officers, 23,350 enlisted, and 2,534 civilians.

The 6990th Security Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, won the Travis Trophy for its highly significant contributions toward the fulfillment of both national and tactical cryptologic objectives.

## 1969

The Department of Defense decided to reduce forces in Turkey and realign the intelligence posture there. This realignment caused the subsequent closure of the USAFSS sites at Trabzon and Samsun and the establishment of a USAFSS squadron (6934th Security Squadron) at Sinop.



*Then Lt Col Doyle E. Larson, commander of the 6990th Security Squadron, accepts the NSA Travis Trophy for 1968 from the Director of NSA, VADM Noel Gaylor.*



The 6994th Security Squadron, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, received the Travis Trophy for outstanding contributions to the cryptologic efforts of the U.S.

On 30 June 1969, USAFSS reported 28,637 personnel authorized — 1,618 officers, 24,558 enlisted, and 2,461 civilians.

Major General Carl W. Stapleton replaced Major General Louis E. Coira as commander effective 19 July 1969.

## 1970

The pilot class of the USAFSS Senior Officers Orientation Course was conducted at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas. The results were “unfavorable,” so the course subsequently went through an 18-month period of revision and refinement.

A small ceremony attended by representatives of the U.S. and Pakistani Air Forces closed out the tenure of the USAFSS “Communications Unit” (6937th Communications Group) at Peshawar, Pakistan, on 7 January 1970, thereby ending 15 years of valuable intelligence support at the site.

The year 1970 saw the operational wing concept fall by the wayside as USAFSS reorganized its subordinate unit posture to strengthen the role of the Regions under this concept. All USAFSS overseas wings were redesignated as

groups and their subordinate units placed under the direct control of the two Regions.

On 30 June 1970, USAFSS reported 25,123 personnel authorized — 1,390 officers, 21,507 enlisted, and 2,226 civilians.

In 1970, the increasing hostile threat against Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft focused national level emphasis on reducing manned reconnaissance flights in high threat areas. Consequently, USAF deployed a series of unmanned drone vehicles and piloted airframes. The first of these systems to be deployed was Combat Dawn, an unmanned drone staged and operated from Korea.



*Major General Carl W. Stapleton commanded USAFSS from 1969-1972.*

## 1971

United States Air Force Security Service acquired its first medical facility on 1 July 1971 when the USAF Hospital at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, was transferred from the Air Training Command (ATC) to USAFSS.



*An EC-121 College Eye in flight. USAFSS personnel served aboard the aircraft in the late 1960s during operations in Vietnam providing vital threat warning data to US aircrews.*



Primarily because of the command's contributions during the Southeast Asia war, USAFSS units earned 46 Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, two Presidential Unit Citations, the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Award, and two special awards for outstanding contributions to the National Cryptologic Effort during 1967-1971. Prior to 1967 (1948-66), command units had garnered only 33 such awards.



*Operations site of the 6915th Security Group, Hof, Germany.*

The C-130 fleet from Japan replaced the aging C-130 fleet in Europe.

The 6908th Security Squadron was activated at Nakhon Phanom Airport, Thailand, to operate Senior Book and Compass Flag programs, as well as process and report the intercept collected from both platforms.

The 6300th Support Squadron (later redesignated 6300th Aerospace Support Squadron) was activated at Ko Kha, Thailand, on 1 July 1971 to support Cobra Talon.

Hof AS, Germany, was turned over to the United States Air Forces in Europe and the 6915th Security Squadron was inactivated.

On 30 June 1971, USAFSS was authorized 23,163 personnel — 1,314 officers, 19,827 enlisted, and 2,022 civilians.

## 1972

The first class of the Revised Senior Officers Orientation Course was conducted at HQ USAFSS with favorable results.

The USAFSS School at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The USAFSS School was the first one in the Air Force to receive this recognition.

President Nixon announced a major reorganization of U.S. intelligence agencies and activities on 5 Novem-

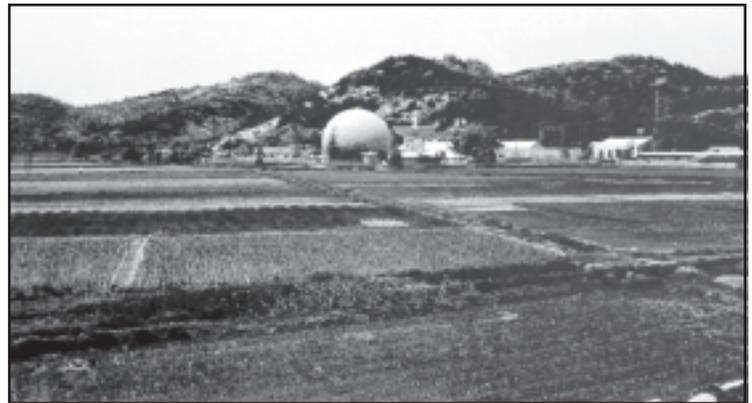
ber 1971, causing a flurry of reorganization planning activities during the remainder of Fiscal Year 1972. One of the principal objectives of the reorganization was to establish a more coherent structure for manning the U.S. cryptologic effort to include the creation of a "National Cryptologic Command." A significant milestone in achieving this objective was reached on 14 April 1972 when the Secretary of Defense approved for

implementation the National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSACSS) organizational plan.

On 30 June 1972, USAFSS was authorized 20,755 personnel — 1,300 officers, 17,190 enlisted, and 2,285 civilians.

The United States Air Force Security Service organized the Air Force Communications Security Center on Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, on 1 July 1972 to execute Air Force COMSEC missions assigned to USAFSS. It also had overseas units assigned to assist Air Force theater activities with various COMSEC services.

In Japan, DOD Program Budget Decisions resulted in a complete realignment of the cryptologic structure, forcing the closure of Wakkanai AS (6986th Security Group) and inactivation of the 6918th Security Squadron at Hakata AS and the 6988th Security Squadron, the command's airborne



*Detachment 3, 6994th Security Squadron, Nakhon Phanom, Thailand. The unit was inactivated in November 1972.*

unit at Yokota AB. Concurrently, projects associated with the 6988th Security Squadron, such as Bench Royal and Rivet Gym manning for College Eye, were discontinued, and the remaining Combat Dawn mission was transferred to the 6903d Security Squadron at Osan Air Base, Korea.

Host base activities at Misawa Air Base, Japan (6921st Security Wing) were transferred from Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) to USAFSS on 1 July 1972.

The 6910th Security Group was moved from Darmstadt, Germany, to Augsburg, Germany.

As a part of the reorganization of U.S. Intelligence Agencies and Activities, both HQ European Security Region and HQ Pacific Security Region were deactivated, on 30 June and 31 December 1972, respectively, eliminating the intermediate headquarters between USAFSS and its field units in Europe and the Pacific.

The TEABALL/WCC concept was implemented. This concept provided for the relaying of intelligence data to USAF weapons controllers located in the 6908th Security Squadron operations area at Nakhon Phanom Airport, Thailand. The weapons controllers used the data to enhance positive control of USAF aircrews over North Vietnam for both offensive and defense purposes.

## 1973

On 24 February 1973, Major General (later Lieutenant General) Walter T. Galligan replaced Major General Stapleton as commander of USAFSS. Shortly thereafter, General Galligan directed a comprehensive, command-wide manpower and organization review of the USAFSS organizational structure which, on 1 July 1974, resulted in a major reorganization of the command.

Program Budget Decision 138C, dated 22 December 1972, cut four RC-130 Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft from the European Airborne Reconnaissance Program fleet, effective in early 1973.

The TEMPEST (compromising emanations) function was transferred from the Air Force Cryptologic Depot to the AF Special Communications Center, effective 20 April 1973.



*A voice processing specialist works with a receiver at a USAFSS unit--early 1970s.*

On 30 June 1973, USAFSS was authorized 20,898 personnel — 1,274 officers, 17,122 enlisted, and 2,502 civilians.

The command's European Airborne Reconnaissance Program unit (the 6916th Security Squadron) moved from Rhein Main Air Base, Germany, to Athens, Greece, on 30 June 1973.

Beginning on 2 October 1973, HQ USAFSS, its European units, and the AF Special Communications Center became actively engaged in providing intelligence and electronic warfare support to U.S. forces/agencies observing the Arab/Israeli War.

## 1974

United States Air Force Security Service implemented the Main Operating Base/Forward Operating Base concept on 1 January 1974. Under this USAFSS/SAC concept, 12 Rivet Joint ASRP RC-135 aircraft and crews were based at the Main Operating Base (Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska) where they received the bulk of their support, but flew many of their missions from the Forward Operating Base (Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, and RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom) where they received only mission essential support.



*A combat damaged EC-47P of the 6994th Security Squadron after recovering at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam in 1973.*

A major reorganization of USAFSS resulted in the restructuring of most USAFSS units. Significant actions included: (1) a major reorganization of six USAFSS host units overseas; (2) a restructuring of USAFSS units engaged in airborne operations, including activation of the 6944th Security Wing at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska; (3) activation of the 6955th Security Group at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, and the resubordination of five USAFSS squadrons (including the emergency reactions units) under the newly formed group; and (4) the downgrading from groups to squadrons of three USAFSS tenant units.

On 21 May 1974, Major General H. P. Smith assumed command of USAFSS, replacing Major General (later Lieutenant General) Walter T. Galligan who was reassigned as commander of 5th Air Force at Fuchu Air Station, Japan. General Smith came to USAFSS from the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) where he served as Deputy Director for Intelligence.

On 30 June 1974, USAFSS was authorized 18,017 personnel — 1,069 officers, 14,427 enlisted, and 2,521 civilians.

In the face of constant reductions, the only solution for USAFSS was to find ways to do the job better. The Command's Rivet Joint modernization proposal, which the Secretary of Defense approved on 29 July 1974, represented one approach toward improved operations. It was aimed at replacing the obsolete equipment in the 12-aircraft Rivet Joint fleet.

When the last C-47 Airborne Radio Direction Finding aircraft returned to its base

at 1545 hours on 15 May 1974, it marked an end to a relatively brief but proud era in USAFSS airborne operations. For eight years, the Airborne Radio Direction Finding program had provided valuable support to U.S. and friendly tactical commanders throughout Southeast Asia.

Yet another era in USAFSS mission operations ended on 30 June 1974 when the 6910th Security Group at Augsburg, Germany, and the 6994th Security Squadron at Ubon, Air Force Station, Thailand, were inactivated. The 6910th Security Group had been a mainstay of USAFSS operations in Europe since December 1953, while the 6994th Security Squadron served as the Command's unit in Vietnam during the war. At one time, the 6994th Security Squadron and its detachments operated the mission equipment aboard some 48 EC-47 aircraft in South Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand.



*Major General H. P. Smith, commanded USAFSS from 21 May, 1974-10 August 1975.*

On 1 July 1974, the Consolidated Security Operations Center, a joint USAFSS and Army Security Agency was activated in San Antonio, Texas, at Lackland Air Force Base Annex (formerly Medina Base).

The United States Air Force Security Service deployed a 114-man emergency reaction unit to San Vito, Italy, for 60 days resulting from the Cypriot/Cretan Crisis.

On 16 August 1974, Greek protesters penetrated the base perimeter at Iraklion AS, Crete (6931st Security Group) inflicting considerable damage to U.S. property located near the station's perimeter fence.



United States Air Force Security Service Commander, Major General H. P. Smith, established a Crisis Management Team (consisting of operations specialists having an intimate knowledge of unit operations, posture, and functions) to be available to the USAFSS Battle Staff for consultation during future crisis situations.

Colonel (later Major General) Norma E. Brown became the first woman to command an Air Force wing when she assumed command of the 6940th Security Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas, on 1 December 1974.

## 1975

For nearly eight years, Combat Apple played a key role in Southeast Asia operations. Then, on 30 April 1975, after the emergency evacuation of U.S. and South Vietnamese personnel from Saigon, the last Combat Apple mission was flown.

The Air Force Special Communications Center (AFSCC) was redesignated the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center (AFEWC), effective 1 July 1975, to reflect more accurately the Center's EW mission and give it greater visibility throughout the Defense Department.

Early in 1974, General John Vogt, Commander in Chief, United States Air Forces in Europe, (CINCUSAFE), based on his experience with intelligence support during the Vietnam War, established a requirement for timely intelligence support. Headquarters USAF decided USAFSS could best provide this support through its 6911th Security Squadron (M) which would become a direct support unit. But first the unit had to undergo a significant expansion of personnel, equipment, and real estate and be moved from Rhein Main, Germany, to Hahn Air Base, Germany. That happened on 25 July 1975 when it was converted to a Direct Support Unit

(DSU) immediately responsive to requests from European consumers, mainly USAFE, for intelligence support of a primarily tactical nature.

United States Air Force Security Service ended an era on 24 June 1975 when it turned in all of its administrative aircraft — two O-2s and three C-118s — ending 24 years of airlift support to the command headquarters. The Kelly Air Force Base, Texas-based USAFSS Flight Operations Section closed out operations with an unblemished flying safety record (zero accident rate) for those 24 years, averaging 2,200 flying hours per year.

On 25 July 1975, the Turkish government ordered all U.S. operations at Karamursel Air Station shutdown immediately, due to an arms embargo imposed against Turkey by the U.S. Congress.

Major General Kenneth D. Burns replaced Major General H. P. Smith as USAFSS Commander effective 11 August 1975.

As of 31 December 1975, USAFSS was authorized 17,202 personnel — 1,042 officers, 13,684 enlisted, 1,418 civilians, and 1,058 foreign national civilians.



*Ceremonies marking the inactivation of USAFSS' flight operations--Kelly Air Force Base, Texas, 24 June 1975.*