

621 TACTICAL CONTROL FLIGHT

LINEAGE

621 Tactical Control Flight, 1 Oct 1973
inactivated on 30 Sep 1986.

STATIONS

Weisbaden AB, West Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

1 October 1986 The second phase of the TACS drawdown resulted in the inactivation of the 602nd TCS, 621st TCF, and the 636th TCF effective this date.

In addition to those changes mentioned above, still others were underfoot regarding a general TACS drawdown in the Central Region. Specifically, in order to meet the Fiscal Year (FY) 1985 and 1986 Department of Defense budget restrictions, the Air Staff directed the reduction of the

mobile TACS by two CRPs and four FACP's in two phases. Phase I resulted in the 1 June 1985 inactivation of the 619th TCF located at Grafenwoehr and the 1 August 1985 inactivation of the 602nd TCS at Turkheim and the 632nd TCF located at Schwelentrup. The second phase of this drawdown resulted in the 1 October 1986 inactivation of the 603rd TCS at Mehlingen, the 636th TCF and the 621st TCF at Wanna and Wiesbaden, respectively. In another area of the TACS drawdown interest, was the newly designated Operating Location C, 601st TCW. The 601st TCW, OL-C was designated and organized at Sembach AB on 1 February 1986, to provide ongoing communications support to both the ATOC and 601st TCW of which would otherwise end as a result of Phase II of the TAGS drawdown. The OL-C consists of four components; an ATOC support element, a stand-alone MFC, radio relay-elements, and a Combat Logistics Repair Team. (CLRT) . This team, in peacetime, is made up of the Chief of Maintenance and a small maintenance staff function for the OL-C. However, in event of war, these people would be augmented by wing staff personnel and become the CLRT. Another significant event at the start of 1986 involved the end of Elf One commitment at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia on 12 February 1986. This date marked the end of over five years (activated 9 October 1980) 601st TCW FACP support for Elf One operations at various locations in Saudi Arabia.

Two major events occurred in 1973. On 2 May, hQ USAFE announced that the 601st TCW would move to Wiesbaden AB on approximately 1 June 1973. Specifically, the 601st TCW, 601st TCS, 621st TCF (formerly Det 27), and the 601st TCMS were to move to Wiesbaden with personnel and equipment, whereas the 601st Supply Squadron, 601st Civil Engineering Squadron, 601st Security Police, 601st DASS, 601st Transportation Squadron, and 601st CSG were to move to Wiesbaden without personnel or equipment. It was also announced that an entirely new unit, the 7400th Air Base Group would be created on 1 June 1973 to operate and maintain Sembach AB. On 1 June 1973, the wing began its relocation from Sembach to Wiesbaden though the official ceremony marking the move wasn't held until 29 June 1973. The three O-2A aircraft relocated from Ramstein to Wiesbaden on 16 July 1973 and, seven days later, the Wiesbaden command post assumed all command and control functions for the 601st TCW. At this time, the Wiesbaden vehicle operations branch assumed responsibility for providing "round robin" resupply of outlying TAGS radar units. By 1 October 1973, the wing's relocation to Wiesbaden was essentially complete. In the other major occurrence during the year, the 601st TCW went through a major reorganization on 1 July 1973. In some of the major activations, the 601st TCG was once again activated and placed under the control of the 601st TCW. Also, the two 601st DASS detachments were activated as the 601st and 602nd DASC squadrons and their parent unit was inactivated. Further, all of the 601st TCS detachments were activated as numbered flights and squadrons and Det 1, 601st TCW, became the 601st TACC Squadron. Two other new units were brought on line in the form of the 601st Tactical Air Support Group (TASG) and the 601st Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (601st CAMS). The 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron or 20th TASS was not activated until 1 October 1973. Other miscellaneous activity during 1973 included the TAGS assisted demonstration of AWACS capabilities in April and the arrival of the first contingent of OV-10A pilots in October. On the last day of the year, TACP operating locations of the 601st and 602nd DASC Squadron's were discontinued. The TACPs were reactivated as detachment operating locations of the 20th TASS.

War broke out between Iran and Iraq on 22 September 1980. Shortly after, the Saudis requested and received US assistance in the form of various radar elements to ensure that Saudi Arabian airspace was not violated during the on-going hostilities. Indeed, early in October 1980, the 601st TCW received a short notice order to deploy a survey team to Riyadh to assist in setting up a mobile radar network in Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, stateside TAC elements dispatched a FACP, a TSQ-91V CRP operations central cell, and a TYC-10 MPC to Saudi Arabia. The overall radar operation in Saudi Arabia was collectively known as Elf One. Actually, Elf One's operation involved three operating locations set up along the eastern edge of the Arabian peninsula on the coast of the Arabian Gulf and in the central city of Riyadh. The MPC and E-3A AWACS aircraft operated out of the latter location. The TSQ-91V cell, along with the communications element of the Saudi Arabian SOC, was situated at a location on Dhahran AB, just inland from the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. The FACP operated out of Al Jubayl, also along the eastern coast of the country. The primary mission of this operation was to maintain an air defense enhancement package in Saudi Arabia in providing support to the Saudi Arabian government through air defense radar surveillance of the Gulf area. Some 500 personnel made up the population at the three operating locations. Since its activation in 1980, the wing has alternated with stateside TAC units in fulfilling the bulk of Elf One manning requirements. On 11 April 1981, the 602nd TCS began deploying en masse to Elf One with vans and equipment. Prior to this date, the majority of wing members who supported Elf One were taken more or less equally from all 601st TCW TAGS units. By the close of 1981, the 606th TCS, 619th TCF, 621st TCF, and 622nd TCF also served tours in Saudi Arabia.

Equipment: AN/TPS-43E

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.