

636 TACTICAL CONTROL FLIGHT

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

15 March 1977 The 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF were activated at Carl Schurz Kaserne near Bremerhaven in 2 ATAF. This marked the completion of mobile radar expansion into Northern Germany. Control of these three units, like the other three in 2 ATAF, was charged to the 600th TCG,

14 November 1977 The 626th and 636th TCFs moved off Carl Schurz Kaserne to a land fill area at Muellplatz Grauer Wall (located just down the road from Carl Schurz).

1 December 1977 The 636th TCF controlled its first mission, a sortie of two F-111's out of Lakenheath AB, England. However, like the other two newly activated units, they would not be

fully operationally ready for several months.

22 March 1978 The 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF came on line as operational units and were declared fully operationally ready.

31 Mar 1978 By the close of March 1978, the remaining eight TPS-43ES at the 603rd TCS were released to their gaining units. Only two wing units still used the TPS-44 (the 626th and 636th TCFs),

8 May 1978 TPS-43E radar sets became operational at the 626th and 636th TCFs. This completed the wing's conversion to one type of radar set for the first time in the history of the 601st TCW. This swapout also brought the UPA-62 Planned Position Indicator into use at all 601st TCW mobile radar units.

21 June 1978 The 636th TCF participated in its first exercise from a deployed location when the FACP collocated with the 1st British Corps ASOC for exercise Whirly Gig.

21 February 1980 Higher headquarters chose Nordholz to become the temporary operating location for the 626th and 636th TCFs until their permanent site was readied at Wanna.

14 Aug 1980 The 626th and 636th TCFs completed their move to Nordholz from their previous site on the Bremerhaven city dump.

24 Jun 1981 The 606th TCS, 600th CSS, and 626th and 636th TCFs provided on-site assistance in support of recovery operations for an F-15 which crashed near Bremerhaven, Germany.

17 March 1982 Members from the 606th TCS and 636th TFC responded to an F-5 crash near Aversdorf, Germany, where they provided the majority of support for crash site investigation activity.

1 October 1986 The 615th AC&WS fixed radar site at Boerfink was inactivated.

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 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 FACPs 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.

Almost a year later under project Creek Brahman, on 15 March 1977, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF,

and 636th TCF were activated at Carl Schurz Kaserne near Bremerhaven. This marked the completion of mobile radar expansion into Northern Germany. But, unknown to wing officials at that time, the final bed-down of these latter two flights would become a monumental headache.

In several other TAGS related events during the year, on 14 November 1977, the 626th and 636th TCFs moved off Carl Schurz Kaserne to a location on top of the Bremerhaven City Dump at Muellplatz Grauer Wall, just down the road from their previous site. They would operate here, literally surrounded by garbage, for the next three years. Also, on 1 December 1977, the 636th TCF controlled its first mission, a sortie of two F-111s out of RAF Lakenheath, England. However, like the other two newly activated units, they would not be fully operational for several months.

Several other operational "firsts" also highlighted 1978. The 629th TCF assisted the 636th TCF in its first practice deployment from 4 through 7 January 1978 and the 606th TCS controlled its first practice intercept several weeks later on 2 February. The intercept involved F-15 aircraft from Bitburg AFB. On 22 March 1978, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF officially came on line as operational units and were declared fully operationally ready. Their sister radar units in 2 ATAF had previously achieved the same status on 1 February 1977. Also, in another key development, a change of command ceremony was held on 31 December 1978 which passed control and ownership of the Wasserkuppe 412L fixed radar site from the wing to the German Air Force. This concluded the transfer of various 4 ATAF 412L sites to the Germans that had been planned since 1959. On the next day, the 616th AC&WS was officially inactivated. Since the 606th AC&WS was previously inactivated and the Doebraberg site turned over to the GAF on 1 July 1974, only the 615th AC&WS fixed 412L radar site at Boerfink remained assigned to the wing. The remaining five fixed radar sites were now owned and operated by the German Air Force.

The 603rd TCS deployed to Gruenstadt from 9 November through 15 December to support this demonstration. In several other TAGS related events during the year, on 14 November 1977, the 626th and 636th TCFs moved off Carl Schurz Kaserne to a location on top of the Bremerhaven City Dump at Muellplatz Grauer Wall, just down the road from their previous site. They would operate here, literally surrounded by garbage, for the next three years. Also, on 1 December 1977, the 636th TCF controlled its first mission, a sortie of two F-111s out of RAF Lakenheath, England. However, like the other two newly activated units, they would not be fully operational for several months.

Many major events occurred in 1980. The 601st TASF gained additional CH-53Cs and OV-10As, a major wing reorganization occurred, the 626th and 636th TCFs finally moved off their garbage dump near Bremerhaven to another temporary site in Nordholz, and the 412L site at Boerfink shut down to undergo the GEADGE modification. However, all this activity was overshadowed by the distant guns being sounded in the Persian Gulf area; called the Arabian Gulf after the fall of the Shah of Iran.

Tactical Control Flight
Nordholtz, Germany
Wanna, Germany

Bremerhaven, Germany
Inactivated: 1 October 1986

636 TCF 636 TCF Bremerhaven, DE TPS 43E 15-Mar-77 14-Aug-80

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The second phase of this draw down 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.

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