

637 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

637 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 637 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

McChord AFB, WA, 16 Apr 1948-25 Jan 1949
Othello AFS, WA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Charles Trueblood, #1954
Maj William S. Meyer, #1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The rays emanating from its location on the continent. The nine stars denoting number of the air division to which it is attached

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

637 Othello AFS, WA

FPS-3/-20; FPS-5; FPS-7C; FPS-6; FPS-6A

FPS-7C; FPS-6A; FPS-26A Jan-52 31-Mar-75

BUIC-III. Site was located at top of Saddle Mountain, south of town of Othello. FPS-7C later became FPS-107. BUIC I ops ended 1 Mar 66.

The 637th AC&W Squadron began operating an AN/FPS-3 long-range search radar and an AN/FPS-5 height-finder radar in January 1952, assuming coverage from lashup sites L-29 and L-30. In 1956 the Air Force replaced the height-finder radar with an AN/FPS-6. In 1958 the 637th operated an AN/FPS-20 search radar and added an AN/FPS-6A height-finder radar. In July 1960 the site provided data to the regional SAGE center. In 1963 the AN/FPS-20 radar was replaced by an AN/FPS-7C set featuring an ECCM capability (the AN/FPS-7C was later modified to the AN/FPS-107 version). Also in 1963 the AN/FPS-6 was retired as an AN/FPS-26A height-finder radar was being installed, completed in 1964. The 637th Radar Squadron (SAGE) was deactivated on March 31, 1975.

637th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron/Detachment H/W-5

Note: 21 May 1947, with the activation of the 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Personnel of the the 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group were transferred in grade from Squadron D of the 412th AAF Base Unit to the 637th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

Note: Unit was activated with permanent station at McChord Field, Washington. The 637th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron is temporarily stationed at Long Beach Municipal Airport, Long Beach, California.

Note: 1948, Known also as USAF Detachment "H" for security purposes.

Located: 7 April 1948, Long Beach Airport, Long Beach, California (temporary location)

Note: The 637th Squadron was reduced to zero strength and all personnel of the Squadron transferred to the 636th Squadron. After all personnel were transferred to the 636th, the 637 was, while still at zero strength, moved to McChord Air Force Base Tacoma, Washington from its previous location at Long Beach, California. During the month of May 1948, authorization was received to re-man the 637th at McChord Air Force Base, with excess personnel from other squadrons in the Group.

Relocated: 16 April 1948 McChord AFB, Washington

Mission: 1948, Opening, manning and operating an Air Defense Direction Center and an Early Warning Radar system East of the Cascade Mountains, and in such other areas as may be designated by higher headquarters (Half Moon Bay, California). Installing, operating and maintaining necessary communications for the relay of information from the squadron air surveillance system to the ADCC at Silver Lake, Washington. Continuous training of all squadron personnel and other (531st) personnel as may be required. Establish necessary security measures at all squadron installations. Continuous planning and training toward full scale operations on a 24-hour basis, utilizing such equipment as may be designated by headquarters 505th Group, to include provision for administration and in using of personnel necessary for the accomplishment of such full scale operations.

Othello, Washington

Notes: Responsible for a gap-filler radar site at Okanogan, Washington

Note: September 1948, 637th Squadron was assigned the four California locations formerly belonging to the 636th Squadron. The detachments now consisted of: Pasco ADCC, Spokane EWS, Half Moon Bay ADCC, La Jolla, Palos Verdes, and Berkeley.

Personnel: 1 November 1948, 18 Officers and 637 Enlisted.

Personnel: 30 November 1948, 20 Officers and 314 Enlisted.

Relocated: 16 December 1948, Moses Lake, Washington, relocation started this date.

Personnel: December 1948, 20 Officers and 456 Enlisted

Relocated: 26 January 1949, from McChord AFB to Moses Lake Air Force Base, Washington

Note: Instructions concerning Squadron from Group Mission, March 1949:

The 637th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron maintains adequate security of own area and detachments. Takes immediate action to operate, on a normal operations basis effective at once, an Air Defense Direction Center at Moses Lake Air Force Base, Washington and radar surveillance from existing facilities at Spokane AFB, Washington. Maintain and operate the Radar Training Site at Half Moon Bay, California. Maintain Berkeley, California Detachment on a standby status. Radar surveillance station at Spokane AFB, Washington will report targets to the Air Defense Direction Center at Moses Lake AFB, Washington for plotting and filtering. The Air Defense Direction Center will tell tracks to the Air Defense Control Center at Silver Lake, Washington for identification and display. The Air Defense Direction Center may alert and scramble fighter aircraft at Moses Lake AFB, Washington and/or other bases for purpose of GCI.

Redesignated: December 1949, From Aircraft Control Squadron to Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron.

Reorganized: 8 December 1949, 637th Squadron reorganized minus Half Moon Bay Detachment Commanders:

21 May 1947, Captain Donald N. Hayes

July - 22 September 1948, Major Ferdinand A. McCally(?)

22 September 1948 - (?), Captain Kenneth Proctor

January 1949, Major William W. Moore

1949, Major Edwin L. Burrill

July 1949, Captain G.F. Gorgel

Equipment:

Radar

February 1949, AN/TPS-1B, (from Fort Stevens, Oregon)

22 March 1949, AN/TPS-10A

February 1949, AN/CPS-4 Serial No. 35, (from Fort Stevens, Oregon)

1948, BN-2 IFF (frequency limits 162 - 174 Mcs (MHz))

1949, AN/CPS-1 Serial no. 7, (loaned to Washington ANG 11 May 1949)

July 1949, Listed as having 3 radar sets. Third probably an

December 1949, AN/CPS-5

Radio

August 1948, SCR-634 VHF/DF set;

Pasco Air Defense Direction Center/Detachment J

Located: Pasco, Washington, 46° 40' North, 119° 20' West

Personnel: July 1948, 2 Officers and 49 Enlisted

Note: 17 August 1948, Unit shut down until end of the month, due to gasoline shortages.

Personnel: September 1948, 2 Officers and 37 Enlisted

Personnel: October 1948, 2 Officers and 22 Enlisted.

Personnel: November 1948, 2 Officers and 27 Enlisted

Personnel: December 1948, 1 Officer and 41 Enlisted

Reassigned: 7 December 1948, 531st Group would take over the Pasco ADDC

Commanders:

September 1948 - 2 December 1948, 1st Lt. Wilson M. Talbott

2 December 1948, Lt. Sundberg

Equipment:

Radar

July 1948, AN/TPS-1B

July 1948, AN/CPS-1

November 1948, BN-2 IFF set

Miscellaneous

December 1948, One Jeep

December 1948, Five 6x6 trucks

December 1948, Six 2-wheeled trailers

December 1948, Two water trailers

Spokane Early Warning Station/Detachment H/W-6

Note: Also known as Detachment H for security reasons.

Located: 1948, Spokane Airfield/Air Force Base, Bong, Washington, 47° 37' North, 117° 39' West.

Personnel: July 1948, 1 Officer and 19 Enlisted.

Note: 17 August 1948, Unit shut down until end of the month, due to gasoline shortages.

Personnel: September 1948, 1 Officer and 25 Enlisted

Personnel: November 1948, 1 Officer 13 Enlisted

Note: 19 November 1948, operations ceased due to lack of gasoline.

Personnel: December 1948, 1 Officer and 29 Enlisted

Note: December 1948, Lack of gasoline hindered activities at the station

Commanders:

September 1948 - 1 December 1948, 1st Lt. Glen J. Wood

2 December 1948, Lt. Robert L. Hickman

1949, Captain John A. Helton

1949, Captain Leonard J Swiger

Equipment:

August 1948, AN/TPS-1B, from Pasco Air Defense Direction Center; operated on 1251 Mcs (MHz) (standby)

October 1948, AN/CPS-5, arrived and placed in storage (Primary)

2 November 1948, AN/CPX-2 IFF set, arrived and placed in storage

1948, BN-2 IFF (frequency limits 162 - 174 Mcs (MHz))

Half Moon Bay Air Defense Direction Center/Detachment G

Note: Also known as Detachment "G" for security reasons.

Personnel: September 1948, 2 Officers and 16 Enlisted

Personnel: October 1948, 3 Officers and 48 Enlisted

Personnel: November 1948, 5 Officers and 93 Enlisted

Personnel: December 1948, 5 Officers and 90 Enlisted

Note: May 1949, The Half Moon Bay detachment to provide facilities for summer encampment training of the Air National Guard Aircraft Control and Warning units from 7 August to 4 September 1949 and to furnish GCI training for the 79th Fighter Wing at Hamilton Air Force Base beginning on or about 6 May 1949.

Reorganized: 8 December 1949, Half Moon Bay Detachment, two officers and fifty-two airmen were transferred to the 668th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Half Moon Bay, California. This new squadron is a unit of the 542nd Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Hamilton AFB, California.

Commanders:

September 1948, 1st Lt. W.R. Goode Jr.

October 1948, 1st Lt. Roy W. Holloman

December 1948, Captain Leonard J. Swiger

Equipment:

Radar

September 1948, AN/CPX-1 IFF, operated on 157 to 187 Megacycles (MHz)

November 1948, AN/CPS-1, operated on 2800 Megacycles (MHz)

10 November 1948, AN/TPS-10, received from McChord Air Force Base Washington

Radio

November 1948, CF-1B, carrier 79.5 to 87.5, not used

November 1948, BC-640 two each, 135.00 and 140.58 , not used

November 1948, BC-639, two each, 135.00 and 140.58, not used

November 1948, SCR-573 vans, Direction Finding set, not used

November 1948, SCR-574 vans, Direction Finding set, not used

December 1948, CF-2-B 72.8 to 79.5

December 1948, BC-624 "A" channel 116.10, "B" channel 139-32, "C" channel 135.00, "D" channel 140.58

Miscellaneous

December 1948

One Staff Car

One Jeep

One Weapons Carrier

Two 1 1/2 ton trucks

La Jolla/Detachment M

Note: Also known as Detachment M for security reasons.

Note: 1948, Not operational - guard status only

Personnel: September 1948 - November 1948, 0 Officers and 2 Enlisted.

Personnel: December 1948 0 Officers and 4 Enlisted.

Reassigned: February 1949, Detachment turned over to 506th Tactical Control Group

Commanders:

September-December 1948, S/Sgt D.L. Naumann

January 1950, Captain John A Helton

Palos Verdes (Estates)/Detachment K

Note: Also known as Detachment K for security reasons.

Note: 1948, Not operational - guard status only

Personnel: September 1948, 0 Officers and 1 Enlisted

Personnel: October/November 1948, 0 Officers and 5 Enlisted

Personnel: December 1948, 0 Officers 4 Enlisted

Reassigned: February 1949, Detachment turned over to 506th Tactical Control Group

Commanders:

September 1948, T/Sgt H.D. Lowenthal

December 1948, T/Sgt Rustin

Berkeley/Detachment L

Note: 1948, Known also as USAF Detachment "L" for security purposes.

Note: 1948, Not operational - guard status only

Personnel: September 1948, 0 Officers and 1 Enlisted

Personnel: October/November 1948, 0 Officers and 2 Enlisted

Personnel: December 1948, 0 Officers and 4 Enlisted

Commanders:

September 1948 - 1949, Sgt V.H. Markwad NCOIC

1949, Captain Gerald S. Harris

1950, Sgt V.H. Markwad NCOIC

Detachment P

Activated: 6 June 1949 (AFHRA B0722 pg 1199)

Located: October 1949, Moses Lake Air Force Base, Washington

Mission: October 1949, Air Defense Direction Center

637th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Saddle Mt, WA, assigned to 505th Gp; transferred to the 162nd ACE1W Gp 25 May 51; assigned to the 25th AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to the 4702nd Def Wg Jan 53; site redesignated to Othello AFS, WA 1 Dec 53; transferred to the 9th AD 8 Oct 54; transferred to the 25th AD 15 Aug 58; transferred to the 4700th AD Wg 1 Sep 58; transferred to Spokane ADS:15 Mar 60; redesignated from AC6W Sq to 637th Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Sep 60; transferred to Seattle ADS 1 Sep 63; transferred to the 25th AD 1 Apr 66; inactivated 1 Mar 70; reactivated (date unknown); inactivated 31 Mar 75.

Saddle Mountain/Othello

The 637th AC&W Squadron began operating an AN/FPS-3 medium-range search radar and an AN/FPS-5 height-finder radar in January 1952, assuming coverage from sites L-29 and L-30. In 1956 the Air Force replaced the height-finder radar with an AN/FPS-6. In 1958 the 637th operated an AN/FPS-20 radar plus an AN/FPS-6A. In July 1960 the site provided data to the regional SAGE center. In 1963 this radar was replaced by an AN/FPS-7C set featuring an ECCM capability. The 637th was deactivated on March 31, 1975.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *25 Air Division (Defense). 1953-1954*

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