

## 776 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

776 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron  
Redesignated 776 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

### STATIONS

Point Arena, CA

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

Maj Ben M. Hagan, #1954

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



## MOTTO

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

776th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Point.Arena AFS, CA, assigned to 542nd ACFW Gp; transferred to 28th AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to San Francisco ADS 1 Jul 60; redesignated from ACFW Sq to 776th Radar Sq (SAGE) 15 Jan 61; transferred to Portland ADS 1 Aug 63; transferred to 26th AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 27th AD 15 Sep 69; reassigned to 26th AD 19 Nov 69.

## CALIFORNIA

LP-37/P-37/2-37/5-34 - Peak Hill Road/Point Arena

By December 1951 the 776th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-4 radars at this site located near the coast 120 miles north of San Francisco. 1955 the 776th received an AN/FPS-8 that subsequently was converted to an AN/GPS-3. In 1958 AN/FPS-20 and AN/FPS-6 radars had replaced the original sets. An AN/FPS-6B joined the site in 1960, the year the site came into the SAGE system. Point Arena AFS replaced its AN/FPS-20 with an AN/FPS-24 radar in 1961. By 1963 the 776th Radar Squadron (SAGE) had replaced its AN/FPS-6 height-finder radars with AN/FPS-26A and AN/FPS-90 models. The 776th held additional responsibilities during the 1960s as Point Arena was designated as a Backup Intercept Control site for both the BUIC I and BUIC II programs. In 1979 the site came under TAC jurisdiction. The 776th subsequently was deactivated and an element of the 26th Air Defense Squadron continued operations. A reorganization in 1987 placed the site under the Southwest Air Defense Sector of the 25th Air Division.

Point Arena, CA

Maj Ben M. Hagan, #1954

Point Arena AFS, CA

Latitude: 38-53-29 N, Longitude: 123-32-46 W

Call Sign(s): Madam; Cat's Eye

776 Point Arena AFS, CA FPS-3; FPS-4; FPS-8/GPS-3; FPS-24; FPS-6, -6B; FPS-26A FPS-24; FPS-90; FPS-26A; FPS-93; FPS-116 Dec-51 1998 The FPS-24 at this site was the first production model. Site now replaced by FAA/USAF JSS site at Rainbow Ridge, CA, with ARSR-4. The 776th Radar Squadron was reactivated at the OTH-B (East) radar facilities.

Point Arena AFS was first called Hill Peak Road, designated as Lashup-Permanent site LP-37, operating an AN/TPS-1B radar. By December 1951 the 776th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-4 radars at this site located near the coast 120 miles north of San Francisco. In 1955 the 776th received an AN/FPS-8 that subsequently was converted to an AN/GPS-3. In 1958 AN/FPS-20 and AN/FPS-6 radars had replaced the original sets. An AN/FPS-6B joined the site in 1960, the year the site came into the SAGE system. Point Arena AFS replaced its AN/FPS-20 with an AN/FPS-24 radar in 1961 (the first production model). By 1963 the 776th Radar Squadron (SAGE) had replaced its AN/FPS-6 height-finder radars with AN/FPS-26A and AN/FPS-90 models. The 776th held additional responsibilities during the 1960s as Point Arena was designated as a Backup Intercept Control site for both the BUIC I and BUIC II programs. The AN/FPS-24 was replaced with an AN/FPS-93A model circa 1976. In 1979 the site came under TAC jurisdiction, operating AN/FPS-91A and AN/FPS-116 radars under the JSS program. The 776th subsequently was deactivated and an element of the 26th Air Defense Squadron continued operations. A reorganization in 1987 placed the site under the Southwest Air Defense Sector of the 25th Air Division. The site is now closed, replaced by FAA/USAF JSS site at Rainbow Ridge, CA (J-83A), with an ARSR-4 radar.

Prior to July 2 1947, the Air Force acquired 97.20 lease acres approximately 8 miles east-southeast of Point Arena for use as a radar site. The site was known as Point Arena Comm Fac Annex, and Point Arena Radar Site, CA. Improvements were not listed. On Sept 30, 1949, the lease was terminated. County Assessor's records indicate that property currently occupied by the Point Arena Air Force Radar Station, totaling app 98 acres, was acquired by the Air Force in 1955, 1961, and 1965. This site was currently active at the time of the 1993 report. A second site, located app ½ mile west of the city of Point Arena, was used as a submarine/aircraft lookout station during WWII. No records were located regarding purchase or lease of the property. The report states that local officials pointed out this is the one remaining lookout tower of a string of towers in place during WWII. It is located on the cliffs south of the wharf at Point Arena, and is accessed via a dirt road. The site consists of a small wooden structure (8' X 8') on top of a rusted metal tower app 25' tall. The metal support members are rusted and rungs are missing from the access ladders. Three modern antenna poles and three small recently installed sheds are located near the tower, and are used by the California Highway Patrol. The property was owned by a private party at the time of the 1993 report.

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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.

Unit yearbook. *28 Air Division (Defense)*. 1954.