

# 825 AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON



## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

825 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron

## **STATIONS**

McChord AFB, WA  
Kamloops AS, BC, CN

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

## 56 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron - Kamloops (BC)

Construction of a radar site at Kamloops (SM-153/C-153) to become part of the Pinetree Line commenced in 1957. The actual site was at Mt. Lolo and by early 1959, the resident unit, 825th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, United States Air Force, arrived. The 825th was declared limited operational on 3 December 1958 with early warning status reports being forwarded to 5 Air Division at Vancouver. They were declared fully operational on 2 March 1959 and reported to 25th NORAD at McChord AFB.

The station was handed over to the RCAF on 1 April 1962 and the new occupants of the station were designated as 56 Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron, RCAF Station Kamloops. 56 AC&W Squadron was SAGE capable on 1 May 1963 and became 56 Radar Squadron. Then it became Canadian Forces Station Kamloops on 10 August 1967. CFS Kamloops was disbanded on 1 April 1988.

Kamloops, British Columbia Canadian Forces Station Kamloops (site SM-153), located 284 miles northeast of Vancouver, was situated northeast of the city of Kamloops. Kamloops is located in the Thompson Valley at the junction of the North and South Thompson Rivers. The operations section of CFS Kamloops sat atop of Mount Lolo, at a "not-so-low" altitude of 5,750 feet above sea level, while the domestic portion of the station lay 3,000 feet below and 6½ miles away. The site was constructed in 1957 to augment the Pinetree Line and provide more thorough aircraft control and warning to the air defence systems. It became operational the following year when radar and communications gear were installed, but it was used only on a limited basis.

In March of 1959, Kamloops became fully operational and home to the USAF's 825th AC&W Squadron. The 825th was under control of the 25th Air Division at McChord AFB, Tacoma, Washington. In April 1962, the RCAF assumed control of the radar site and subsequently named it RCAF Station Kamloops. No.56 AC&W took over the duties of providing radar coverage for their assigned area.

As a result of unification the RCAF Station was redesignated CFS Kamloops, and the Air Defence Command unit changed their name to 56 Radar Squadron. In August 1984, Kamloops was brought on-line with Canada West ROCC. The men and women of 56 Radar Squadron carried on at Kamloops until new government direction brought about the creation of the North Warning System. CFS Kamloops was officially closed on 1 April 1988.

Kamloops AS, BC, CN

Latitude: 50-48-08 N, Longitude: 120-07-36 W

Call Sign(s): Critical

825th AWN Squadron: activated ca. Apr 57 at McChord AFB, WA, as the 25th Air Division; moved to Kamloops AS, BC, Canada in Sep 57; transferred to Spokane ADS on 15 Mar '60; discontinued on 1 Apr 62.

825 Kamloops AS, BC, CN FPS-3A, FPS-20, FPS-87A; FPS-6B, FPS-507 FPS-87A; FPS-507  
03 Dec 1958 01 Apr 1988 USAF site, transferred to RCAF in April 1962.

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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.