29 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON

MISSION

The 29 Intelligence Squadron develops and implements plans and policies in support of national-level intelligence requirements and services. The squadron conducts operational intelligence threat collection and assessment, technical security support, research and development, training, evaluation, acquisition, deployment and other user support functions for DOD and all national consumers.

LINEAGE

11 Photographic Technical Unit constituted, 25 Sep 1944
Activated, 5 Oct 1944
Redesignated 91 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, 4 Mar 1949
Inactivated, 28 May 1952

432 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron constituted, 14 Jan 1954
Activated, 18 Mar 1954
Inactivated, 18 May 1959
Activated, 19 Aug 1966
Organized, 18 Sep 1966
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1975

91 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron and 432 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron consolidated and redesignated 29 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, 16 Oct 1984

Redesignated 29 Intelligence Squadron and activated, 1 Oct 1993

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 5 Oct 1944

Buckley Field, CO, 13 Nov 1944
MacDill Field (later, AFB), FL, 13 Apr 1946
McGuire AFB, NJ, 17 Aug 1948
Barksdale AFB, LA, 1 Oct 1949
Lockbourne AFB, OH, 10 Dec 1951-28 May 1952
Shaw AFB, SC, 18 Mar 1954-18 May 1959
Udorn RTAFB, Thailand, 18 Sep 1966-31 Jul 1975
Fort George G. Meade, MD, 1 Oct 1993

ASSIGNMENTS
311 Photographic Wing, Mapping & Charting (later, 311 Reconnaissance Wing; 311th Air Division), 5 Oct 1944
91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 4 Mar 1949-28 May 1952
432 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 18 Mar 1954
432 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 8 Feb 1958-18 May 1959
432 Tactical Reconnaissance (later, 432 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 18 Sep 1966-31 Jul 1975
694 Intelligence Group, 1 Oct 1993
70 Operations Group, 1 May 2005 – 31 Dec 2008
70 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group 1 Jan - 6 Oct 2009
707 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group 7 Oct 2009 – 4 May 2016
691 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group 5 May 2016

COMMANDERS
Maj C. F. Tankersley
Maj Robert D. Elliot
Lt Col Robert Vidoloff

HONORS
Service Streamers
World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers
Vietnam
Vietnam Air Offensive
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III
Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV
TET 69/Counteroffensive
Vietnam Summer/Fall 1969
Vietnam Winter/Spring
Sanctuary Counteroffensive
Southwest Monsoon
Commando Hunt V
Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII
Vietnam Ceasefire

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Presidential Unit Citation
19 Sep 1967-1 Nov 1968
1 Nov 1968-31 Oct 1969

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device
1 Jan-30 Jun 1967
1 Jul-18 Sep 1967
21 Nov 1969-20 Nov 1970
21 Nov 1970-6 Apr 1971
18 Dec 1972-27 Jan 1973
1 Jun 2001-31 May 2003

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1994
1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995
1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1998
1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2000
1 Jun 2004-31 May 2005
1 Jun 2006-31 Dec 2007
1 Jun 2008-1 Jun 2009
1 Jan-31 Dec 2010
1 Jan-31 Dec 2011
1 Jan-31 Dec 2012
1 Jan-31 Dec 2013
1 Jan-31 Dec 2014
1 Jun 2015-31 May 2016

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
18 Sep 1966-28 Jan 1973

EMBLEM

91 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron emblem. It is hoped that word will be forthcoming very soon on the acceptance by Headquarters United States Air Force with reference to our requested Squadron insignia. Just when it looked like it had been approved, all the way up the line someone re-wrote the regulation. So, it started back through channels to Washington. The design was done by Sergeant Warren J. Ward of the Photomapping Section (1949/1950).

29 Intelligence Squadron emblem approved, 22 May 1996

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Under the provisions of Strategic Air Command General Order 65, series of 49, and orders of 311th Air Division and 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, the 91 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron was responsible for the operation, logistics, administration (including promotion and reduction) of the Detachment. It was in December of 1949 that the Squadron Commander unified all reproduction capability under the supervision of a Technical Squadron Officer. Some Engineer personnel were detailed to work in the Squadron shop while Air Force personnel worked in our vans. 1st Lt. Jackson retained his disciplinary powers as detachment commander; assumed the Supply Officer responsibility of both shops and carried on most of the routine correspondence and reporting required of the detachment.

Detachment records were dispatched to the Squadron Orderly Room to be maintained there. OJT and other pertinent operational records on the Enlisted Men of this organization became the function of the Officer in Charge of Reproduction. It was at this time that the enlisted men were placed in groups of four or five and these groups in turn were put in several different barracks throughout the squadron area. It was some time before the men became used to this stepping-stone toward unification. Friendliness, Espirit de Corps, moral, and efficiency reached a low.

Despite these facts which were beyond the control of anyone at this level, tended to keep the detachment from operating as a separate section, it has come a long way in the past year. Many of the Enlisted Men have been promoted. Many others have met the classification board and have received an advanced rating on the skill of their Military Occupational Specialties. A few men completed the lithography course at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and have returned to do a much better job than before.

Model making has extensive use in; analyzing; studying and evaluating an enemies potential or for briefing for an assault or aerial attack on a target. While a photograph may show exactly what a target may look like at the instant of photography it can not show the appearance at any other time of day. With a model, accurately constructed, photographs may be made, using a single light source, to depict the target an any given time of day. It is very important in high speed aerial operations that every distracting or misleading factor be removed from target identifying materials. Since factors in this problem is the proper shadow pattern at time of attack. No media is better able to accomplish this goal than through models built to scale.

Operations is the section that all work, both incoming and outgoing, is processed before it is routed to the proper sections or requesting agencies.

Since this squadron arrived on this base last September 3,842 work orders have been processed. Some were large reproduction Job involving many thousand impressions and some were plain drafting Jobs, big or little, large or small the work orders were accepted (cheerfully); most of the time satisfying the customer (We think they were - and we sincerely hope so).

Photo lab--How the work is divided with all Base type work; UR reports, identification photographs, official portraits, etc., being done in Building 30; while the production work is done in T-19 fulfilling all the requirements of the tactical group. Both laboratories are under the direction of the 91st Reconnaissance Technical Squadron Commander. The Air Base Squadron personnel were assigned to the Base Laboratory and are supplemental by such personnel of the 91st Reconnaissance Technical Squadron as could be spared with all operating under the supervision of the Air Base Group Photo Officer, Major Jin Waters.

Daring the past twelve months approximately 80% of the authorized personnel and equipment have been received by the laboratory. This availability of materials and men have made it possible to establish a laboratory with superior facilities than ever enjoyed by the Squadron.

Photo mapping--The most operationally important project processed during the month was the preparation of a four sheet multiple "USAT Target Complex Mosaic Series 25" and one "USAT Target Complex Chart-Series 100" of an area centered on the down town district of Houston, Texas. These target materials were compiled in compliance with Second Air Force Operations Order 53-50 dated 21 August 1950.

In summary, the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing was assigned the task of accomplishing single lens mapping type photography of the assigned mosaic area at a scale of 1:12,000, also sufficient photography within the chart area to permit the compilation of one 1;100,000 scale chart.

After several attempts which were of little consequence due to excessive cloud coverage in the area sufficient photographs were received in the Indexing and Plotting Section at 0030 hours, 21 September 1950 to commence work on the mosaic.

The mosaic area consisted of 343 individual photographs distributed among 14 flight lines. Due to the largeness of the mosaic lay down at this scale (78” x 78”) it was necessary to assemble it in a semi-controlled manner holding to points obtained from the best source material available a 1:500,000 scale Sectional Aeronautical Chart of San Antonio.

Assembly scale determination, projection, computation and construction, map point control selection and plotting, principal point and pass point determination and transfer, obtaining contact prints suitable for mosaic compilation etc, utilized a total of approximately 30 hours time and actual print lay down was started at 0800 on 22 September.

During the same period, stickup for the marginal information, pertinent to each of the four sheets, was ordered from the Reproduction Section and affixed to the stock pile of frames prepared by this section. With the exception of graticule layout and labeling, the frames were completed prior to the final print assembly

Due to the overall size of the mosaic at lay down scale, it was not feasible to ship it intact to the 4203d Photographic Technical Squadron for final lithographic reproduction. It was decided to reduce it photographically to fit the frames, using facilities. available in the Squadron Photo Laboratory, to provide the 4203d Photographic Technical Squadron with four positive contact prints of the reduced mosaic at reproduction scale.

Reduced contact prints were made in the laboratory on type 1 paper. This type was used in lieu of Type 9, water-proof, and much differential shrinkage was noted upon delivery of the materials to the 4203d Photographic Technical Squadron. This tends to cause a change in scale in the final reproduced copy also as the projection is inked to the frame it tends to relocate features in respect to their geographic positions. It is suggested that action "be taken to obtain a low shrinkage photographic medium of 24" x 24" size for this type of work.

Work required by all sections in conjunction with the mosaic was spread over an 85 hour period and consumed approximately 819 total man hours.

It should "be pointed out that upon receipt of official notification, (on or about 22 August), that this Section would be required to compile target materials on the Houston area. A request was submitted through the Base Chart Store for certain selected large scalp "quad" sheets which would have been of great value in both the accomplishment of the required aerial photography as well as in the actual compilation of the target materials.

It is anticipated that considerable time would have been cut from the total time required for both of these phases if suitable large scale maps were provided at the outset. The most expeditious procedure known to the map store was used in requesting these maps; that of requesting them by TWX and asking that they be returned by Air Hail. As of this date none of the requested maps have been received.

It is felt that the maintenance of a small but complete stock of charts by the Photo mapping Section and a continuing program of collecting source information directly from other Federal agencies plus a few copies of newly reproduced areas or editions from accredited mapping agencies would greatly enhance the position of the section. The total volume of this stock would fill approximately one (1) four drawer filing cabinet.

The terrific "head start" attained when source material is utilized to the maximum extent would overshadow by many times any of the inconveniences which would be brought about by adoption of this program. It must not be forgotten that no chart or map can be of a better quality than the basic materials used in their compilation. An axiom of charting is source material of a smaller scale than the intended chart should never be used but in the most isolated cases.

The Houston Target Chart was compiled from two tri-met runs across the chart area. The northern most of these was flown from East to West and the southern flight in a West to East direction. The flight line spacing was approximately 25 miles.

Due to either poor film, camera malfunction, or some other undetermined cause, the right oblique of both runs were practically cleared and of no use at all. A single vertical strip was also ised which ran in an S-W direction across the approximate center of the area to be charted. Considerable inaccuracy was introduced into the chart because of: the type of source material provided; (1:500,000 scale WAC), the loss of the aforementioned right oblique. The above materials were provided at 0030 hours, 22 September 50 and the actual chart compilation commenced at that time. A total of 245 man hours were used in all phases of chart compilation and 160 man hours were expended on border Information and in drafting the final color separation plates for use by the 4203d. Final work on the chart was completed at 1200 hours, 25 September after a total of 405 man hours were consumed.

A day or so after the commencement of the Houston Target Chart compilation, sufficient

photography was accomplished so as to give vertical single lens photo coverage of the entire chart area. Due to its late arrival the photography could not be incorporated into the metal template radial line control assembly but the photography was used by the Drafting Section for purposes of "filling in" information.

In that both the mosaic and chart were being compiled concurrently it was not possible to utilize the 1:12,000 scale photography of the mosaic area for purposes of the target chart compilation.

Mosaic--The Mosaic Section is officially a part of the Photo mapping Section but it actually works separately on many of the projects assigned to it as a result of operations of the elements of the 91st. Strategic Reconnaissance Wing.

Successfully completed recently was a semi-controlled mosaic of Ladd Air Force Base, Alaska, requested by the A-3, Training, of the Alaskan Air Command. This mosaic was constructed from a single set of prints that ware printed in the Adjutant General's photographic laboratory in what in known as the Records Section located in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. The prints were of such poor quality that they were copied and reprinted before the Job was laid out More recent is the mosaic completed to specifications on the Houston, Texas area. This particular Job was for inclusion In a target folder similar to those required by Strategic Air Command in the fulfillment of its mission.

It is becoming more and more evident that one of the greatest drawbacks within the section Is the low index of experience of the personnel assigned. Therefore, it has been decided that an extensive OJT program will be initiated and the latest techniques in the art of mosaic making thoroughly demonstrated. After such a demonstration it will be required of each man that he accomplish a complete Job bt himself to qualify for a skilled SSN or AFSC as the case may be.

As the elements of the 91at. Strategic Reconnaissance Group do more flying in the newly assigned aircraft it is expected that a series of cities can be covered by photography and from it an interesting and instructive program laid on. The skills of all concerned will be exploited for the collective good of the Squadron by this project.

Reproduction--The outstanding accomplishment of the month was the printing of a five (5) color charts of Charlotte, N. C. The job was accomplished as a training project and the results were very gratifying; registration was maintained throughout the run and the WAC specification for colors was closely matched.

The mechanical condition of the presses has always presented difficulties. Maintaining registration has always been a problem. During the month it was noted that the re-make of plates was exceptionally high for one of the presses. Investigation disclosed that the plate cylinder gear was worn, causing slippage and the breaking down of plates. New gears have been requisitioned and it is hoped the situation will soon be remedied.

Indexing and plotting--A total of 13,737 linear miles of project photography was evaluated and plotted. In addition, 4,368 miles of training photography was also evaluated. Approximately 1,550 exposures were final lettered, and the section conducted over 60 mission critiques with the flying crews of the various squadron.

During the latter part of the month, a maximum effort by the flying squadrons of the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Group produced the necessary photography to complete two projects, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Houston, Texas. This section worked in close coordination with the 91st Strategic Reconnaissance Group during this maximum effort in order to advise the flight crews immediately as to the results of their missions. The required photography for the Houston project was selected and final lettered for the Photo Mapping Section for their use in the compilation of the charts and mosaics required.

Chart Store--During the month of September approximately 10,000 charts were issued. 780 man hours of work were required to accomplish the mission of the Chart Store. A requisition containing 2,800 charts was received from the Aeronautical Chart Service Store for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 301st Bombardment Group. The Chart Store recently has received several copies of World Aeronautical Charts which are classified as "Confidential". This has presented a storage problem, "but at the present this section is utilizing a safe in the Operations Section for this material.

The responsibility of issuing Pilot Handbooks on the basis of one set for every aircraft assigned plus two sets per squadron has been since last November that of the Chart Store. Wing Regulation 100-2 dated 23 August 1950 placed the job in Base Publications. It is the guess of the Squadron this was not a satisfactory arrangement because Wing Regulation 100-2A dated 14 September 1950 again makes it the responsibility of this Squadron.

As the system is established all requisitions for Handbooks are made by the Commanding Officer of the Squadron and when received the books are distributed on the predetermined schedule to the tactical units, Base Operations and the flight sections. Amendments to the Handbooks are received on an automatic issue based on the number of books already received and are distributed to the using agencies. It is the sole responsibility of each agency to post and keep current all books in their possession. Periodic checks are made by the Air Inspectors to ascertain that the latest information has been inserted so that a book is always accurate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES
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Sources

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Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.
91st Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. 1950
91st Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. Nd.
Shaw AFB, SC, 1956. Army and Navy Publishing Company of Louisiana. Baton Rouge, LA. 1956.