

## **75<sup>th</sup> RADIO SQUADRON (MOBILE)**

USAFSS Unit	Dates at Brooks AFB, TX	Permanent Deployment
75 <sup>th</sup> RSM	(1951)	Ankara, Turkey

### **LINEAGE**

### **STATIONS**

Brooks AFB, TX, 20 Jun 1953-8 Nov 1953

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

#### **EARLY USAFSS OPS IN TURKEY**

The shroud of secrecy surrounding USAFSS operations in Turkey was comparable to that involved in Detachment D, 2nd RSM intercept activities in Berlin during the early 1950's. Turkey's alliance with the West after World War II had been precipitated by Soviet threats against Turkey, and a tenuous East-West detente ruled against the official stationing of U.S. intelligence gathering forces in Turkey. Instead, USAFSS intercept operators and analysts served incognito in Turkey, officially

assigned as "logistics specialists" assisting in the modernization of the Turkish air force. The first USAFSS contingent in Turkey was assigned to the Joint American Military Mission for Aid to Turkey-U.S. Air Force Group (JAMMAT-USAFG) in Ankara in 1951.

The USAFSS team that arrived in 1951 consisted of Morse intercept operators, ELINT intercept operators, Russian linguists, analysts, radio maintenance technicians and a couple of teletype communicators. Initially, the USAFSS-Ankara intercept station included three Morse and one voice intercept positions. The airmen established the first USAFSS intercept station within the JAMMAT-USAFG facilities. Assigned to JAMMAT for support, the USAFSS-Ankara team reported operationally to the 6910th Security Group in Germany.

Retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant George Barthel was among the first USAFSS cadre assigned to the JAMMAT-USAFG. He arrived in Ankara in October 1951 as a SSgt. after completing traffic analysis school at Brooks AFB, Texas. Maj. William Dacko and Capt. Carl Asmussen were the commander and communications officer, respectively. A few other USAFSS men were already in place in Ankara when Barthel arrived. In addition to their intercept mission, the USAFSS-Ankara team was heavily involved in establishing detachments at Samsun and Trabzon—small Turkish cities on the Turkish coast on the Black Sea.

The first officially acknowledged USAFSS unit in Turkey appears to have been Detachment 1, 75th Radio Squadron Mobile. This unit began operations as Project Penn in the JAMMAT area in Ankara in September 1951. (Det 1, 75th RSM operated covertly in Turkey, and no other details on the detachment are available prior to 1951.) Another USAFSS unit associated with Ankara (in 1953) was Detachment 1, 14th RSM. George Barthel received orders assigning him to Det 1, 14th RSM on 1 May 1953—he remembers being assigned only to the JAMMAT prior to being assigned to Det 1, 14th RSM at Ankara. The following month (20 June 1953), George was reassigned in place to Det 1, 75th RSM. He rotated from Ankara to HQ USAFSS, Kelly AFB, in November 1953. A Detachment 1, 75th RSM Personnel Action Memorandum dated 23 September 1953 listed the rank, name and job title of most, if not the entire, Det 1 staff—a total of 99 assigned Air Force personnel. Key personnel on that PAM are listed below.

#### Det 1, 75th RSM Key Personnel— 1953

Rank	Name	Title	Remarks
Maj.	Dacko, William		Commander
Capt.	Asmussen, Carl B.		Comm Officer
IstLt.	Smith, Conrad H.		Adjutant
MSgt.	Langenkamp, Arthur B.	NCOIC, Admin Section	Plus 3 admin spec
MSgt.	Coleman, Albert W.	NCOIC, Comm Center	Plus 4 crypto ops
TSgt.	John, Frank L.	NCOIC, Technical Svcs	Plus 4 radio maint.
A1C	Davis, George J.		Supply Specialist
MSgt.	Fedyshyn, Stanley N.	NCOIC, R/T Russian Ig	Plus 25 Russian Ig
MSgt.	Palagi, Roland	NCOIC, Intercept Ctrl	Plus 5 1 Morse ops
TSgt.	Barthel, George G. E.	NCOIC, Traffic Analysis	Plus 3 Analysts

Both the 75th RSM and 14th RSM were activated at Brooks AFB in 1951—the 14th RSM in October and the 75th on an unknown date. The 8th RSM assisted in the activation of the 14th at

Brooks, providing housing for 14th personnel when the squadron stood up.<sup>136</sup> The 14th RSM was reportedly training at Brooks for intercept duty on Cyprus, but the relocation to Cyprus did not materialize.<sup>137</sup> The 14th RSM most likely provided the resources used to activate an intercept site on Crete, and Det 1, 75th RSM replaced Project Penn as the USAFSS identifier in Ankara.

Former USAFSS ELINT intercept operator (SSgt.) Bill McFall discussed the Ankara intercept facility in 2006.<sup>138</sup> He arrived in Ankara after a circuitous route (Darmstadt and Landsberg, Germany) in early August 1953. Three weeks later (26 August), he was a member of a six-man team that activated the USAFSS intercept site at Trabzon.

My tour in Trabzon was a part of JAMMAT (Joint American Military Mission for Aid to Turkey). The 75<sup>th</sup> and later the 34th RSM's were attached to and stationed in the basement of the JAMMAT building. There was a PX in the basement, and next to that, an iron door (with sliding peep hole) that allowed entrance into squadron Operations. Major Dacko ran all of the field teams from there. Samsun and Trabzon were the only ones during my days there.

Arriving in Trabzon in deuce-and-a-half trucks, the airmen lived in apartments in Trabzon and received \$9.00 per day per diem in lieu of rations. They established the USAFSS intercept site on a summit outside Trabzon.

When we set up the installation in a picnic area on top of Boztepe near a mosque above Trabzon, we set up two 6 x 6 van body trucks (one blue with many antennas and the other a GRC-26 RDF van) and a few Jamesways [huts], along with some dishes, some cones and some wire antennas on the edge and top of the mountain. We had two diesel generators that ran 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The original team was a First Lieutenant Pietre and six noncoms—TSgt. Johnson, SSgt. Roe, SSgt. McFall, A1C Howard, A1C Sheets and A1C Fontaine. We were soon joined by another dozen enlisted men and six months later, another first lieutenant. The original crew was sent to school at Keesler AFB as Special Training Airman Radar Observers. Some of us were instructors at the Keesler electronics school and some were radar repairmen from other bases.

At the time we left for overseas (Landsberg, Germany), the project was so classified no one could be told where we were going other than some APO number. To this day I have never seen anything that releases us from what we saw and did there. Our families didn't know where we were for a long time.

The succession of changes in the identifier for USAFSS operations in Turkey during Bill McFall's tour of duty added to the confusion. From the time he disembarked a troopship in Bremerhaven, Germany, his military assignment orders reveal the circuitous route to Trabzon, plus the tumultuous evolution of USAFSS unit identifiers in Turkey in 1953-54.

Date	Assignment	Remarks
29 Jun '53	6910th Security Group/Darmstadt	Interim stop
10 Jul '53	6910th SG HQ/Landsberg AB	Interim stop
6 Aug '53	Det 5, JAMMAT, APO 206A Ankara, Turkey	

26 Aug '53    Trabzon, Turkey    Arrived to set up intercept site  
21 Sept '53    Det 1, 75th RSM, APO 206A Designator change only  
8 Feb '54    Team B, Flight A, 34th RSM, APO 206A    Trabzon had its own identifier \*

\* Trabzon site also was known as OL-2, Flight A, 34th RSM in Feb '54  
Having helped set up the USAFSS SIGINT site at Trabzon, SSgt. McFall flew out of a newly created local dirt airstrip in June 1954.

/ left Trabzon on the first plane to use the then newly completed gravel, airfield in Trabzon. It was a C-47 and Turks came for miles to see such a large airplane. Fontaine, Roe, Dougherty, Elliott and I all were discharged at Camp Kilmer, NJ, on 3 July 1954. I might add that Sheets, Fontaine, Dougherty and Roe are all dead. I miss them.

George Barthel's transfer from JAMMAT to Det 1, 14th RSM and ultimately to Det 1, 75th RSM was related to a reorganization of U.S. forces in Turkey.<sup>139</sup> U.S. Air Forces Europe assumed responsibility for logistic support for all U.S. forces in Turkey, resulting in JAMMAT being replaced by "The United States Logistic Group" (TUSLOG); see Appendix H. By 1955, each U.S. military unit and civilian component in Turkey had its own TUSLOG detachment number. USAFSS-Ankara was TUSLOG Detachments.

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Sources