

## 70 INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE WING



### MISSION

The 70 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Wing, with headquarters at Fort George G. Meade, Md., integrates Air Force capabilities into global cryptologic operations, directly supporting national-level decision makers, combatant commanders and tactical war fighters. The wing works closely with the National Security Agency and Central Security Service, leveraging the net-centric capabilities of a worldwide cryptologic enterprise to conduct national missions and enable national-tactical integration for joint and Air Force combat operations around the world. The effect on the battle space is immediate, high-impact and decisive. The wing includes six operational intelligence groups located in the U.S., Pacific and European theaters.

### LINEAGE

70 Observation Group, established, 1 Sep 194

Activated, 13 Sep 1941

Redesignated 70 Reconnaissance Group, 2 Apr 1943

Redesignated 70 Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 11 Aug 1943

Disestablished, 30 Nov 1943

Reestablished and redesignated 70 Reconnaissance Group, 10 Mar 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 26 Apr 1947

Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

70 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing established, 23 Mar 1953

Activated, 24 Jan 1955

Redesignated 70 Bombardment Wing, Medium, 25 Oct 1961

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1962

Redesignated 70 Bombardment Wing, Heavy and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Feb 1963

Inactivated, 31 Dec 1969

70 Bombardment Wing, Heavy and 70 Reconnaissance Group consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Redesignated 70 Air Base Group, 16 Sep 1994

Activated, 1 Oct 1994

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1998

Redesignated 70 Intelligence Wing, 17 Jul 2000

Activated, 16 Aug 2000

Redesignated 70 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Jan 2009

## **STATIONS**

Gray Field, WA, 13 Sep 1941

Salinas AAB, CA, 13 Mar 1943

Redmond AAFld, OR, 15 Aug 1943

Corvallis AAFld, OR, 25 Oct 1943

Will Rogers Field, OK, 14 Nov-30 Nov 1943

Hill Field (later, AFB), UT, 26 Apr 1947-27 Jun 1949

Little Rock AFB, AR, 24 Jan 1955-25 Jun 1962

Clinton-Sherman AFB, OK, 1 Feb 1963-31 Dec 1969

Brooks AFB, TX, 1 Oct 1994-1 Oct 1998

Ft George G. Meade, MD, 16 Aug 2000

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

4 Air Support (later, 4 Ground Air Support; IV Ground Air Support; IV Air Support) Command, 13 Sep 1941

II Air Support Command, Nov 1942

III Air Support (later, III Reconnaissance) Command, c. 6 Aug-30 Nov 1943

325 Reconnaissance Wing (later, 325 Air Division), 26 Apr 1947-27 Jun 1949

Second Air Force, 24 Jan 1955

825 Air (later, 825 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 1 Aug 1955-25 Jun 1962

Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962

816 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963

17 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Jul 1965-31 Dec 1969

Human Systems Center, 1 Oct 1994-1 Oct 1998

Air Intelligence Agency, 16 Aug 2000

Eighth Air Force, 1 Feb 2001

## **ATTACHMENTS**

5 Air Division, 26 Oct-17 Dec 1956

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

O-38, 1941

O-46, 1941-1942

O-47, 1941-1943  
O-49, 1941-1943  
P-39, 1943  
B-25, 1943  
L-5, 1943  
Unkn, 1947-1949  
RB-47, 1955-1962  
KC-97, 1955-1961  
B-47, 1961-1962  
B-52, 1963-1968, 1968-1969  
B-52C, 1968-1969  
B-52D, 1968-1969  
B-52E, 1963-1968  
KC-135, 1963-1968, 1968-1969

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Hillford R. Wallace, 13 Sep 1941  
Maj Wallace J. O'Daniels, 1 Apr 1942  
Maj G. Robert Dodson, 3 May 1942  
Col Don W. Mayhue, 9 May 1942  
Lt Col G. Robert Dodson, 3 Nov 1942  
Lt Col Stanley R. Stewart, 3 Dec 1942  
Lt Col G. Robert Dodson, 3 Jan-30 Nov 1943  
Unkn, 26 Apr 1947-27 Jun 1949  
Col Lester C. Hess, 24 Jan 1955  
Maj Lewis P. Gaby, 14 Feb 1955  
Lt Col Albert S. Harwell Jr., 14 Apr 1955  
Col Lester C. Hess, 10 May 1955  
Col William Burke, 26 Jun 1955  
Col Donald O. Tower, 26 May 1958  
Col John H. Kunkel Jr., 6 Aug 1958  
Col Irby V. Tedder, 1 Apr 1960  
Col James O. Britt, 16 Apr 1960  
Col George E. Glober, by 4 May 1961-25 Jun 1962  
Col Paul N. Bacalis, 1 Feb 1963  
Col Orie O. Schurter, 12 Jun 1964  
Col William R. Brown, 15 Nov 1965  
Col Therwin S. Walters, 13 Apr 1968  
Col William R. Brown, 5 Oct 1968  
Col Raymond P. Lowman, 30 Nov 1968  
Col Robert T. Calhoun, 26 Mar 1969  
Col Raymond P. Lowman, 30 Sep-31 Dec 1969  
Col Robert M. Hudson, 1 Oct 1994  
Col Klaus Bartels, 24 Jun 1996-unkn

Col Robert M. Hudson, 1 Oct 1994  
Col Klaus Bartels, 24 Jun 1996-30 Sep 1997  
Unkn, 1 Oct 1997-1 Oct 1998  
Col Harold J. Beatty, 16 Aug 2000  
Col James O. Poss, 11 Jul 2002  
Col Fred W. Gortler III, 15 Jan 2004  
Col Jim H. Keffer, 29 Sep 2005  
Col John D. Stauffer, 18 Dec 2007  
Col John D. Bansemer, 15 May 2009  
Col Mary F. O'Brien Jun 2011  
Col Kevin D. Dixon Jul 2013  
Col Thomas K. Hensley Jul 2015

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

15 Feb-30 Dec 1957

15 Apr-1 Oct 1968

1 Jan-31 Dec 1995

1 Jan-31 Dec 1997

1 Jun 2004-31 May 2005

1 Jun 2006-31 Dec 2007

## **EMBLEM**



Shield: Azure, on a bend nebuly between six billets or, two crowing cocks palewise gules.



Azure, on a bend nebuly Or between six billets in bend three and three in bend of the like, two cocks Gules, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "70 ISR WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The cock is a bird of great courage and fortitude, symbolic of watchfulness. He is always prepared for battle and is qualified to defend and protect his rights at all times. The nebulous line pattern represents clouds. The billets, symbols of vital information obtained when making air surveys and preliminary investigations vital in military strategic reconnaissance, reflect the Wing's parent unit. (Approved, 5 Jan 1943)

#### **MOTTO**

WE WATCH OUT FOR YOU

#### **OPERATIONS**

Conducted observation, artillery adjustment, and fighter and bomber support training with Army ground forces, 1941-1943. Flew antisubmarine patrols along the west coast from 7 Dec 1941 through Sep 1942. Active in the reserve forces of Fourth Air Force, 1947-1949. Operated from Lockbourne AFB, OH, 24 Jan-19 Oct 1955, while permanent base underwent construction. From Little Rock AFB, AR flew strategic reconnaissance to meet the Strategic Air Command's (SAC) global commitments, Oct 1955-1962. Deployed at Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco, 26 Oct-17 Dec 1956. From Jun 1958 to Sep 1961, provided B/RB-47 combat crew training for other SAC units, while continuing RB-47 and KC-97 operations. Converted to B-47s in late 1961, but inactivated prior to becoming combat ready. Replaced the 4123d Strategic Wing at Clinton-Sherman AFB, OK, in Feb 1963. Conducted strategic bombardment training and air refueling, Feb 1963-Dec 1969. For several months each in 1968 and 1969, all wing aircraft, most aircrew and maintenance personnel, and some support people loaned to SAC units engaged in combat operations in Southeast Asia. Operated and maintained Brooks AFB from 1 Oct 1994 to 1 Oct 1998.

Time to Change Business Cards: The Air Force on Jan. 1 renamed the 480th Intelligence Wing at Langley AFB, Va., and the 70 IW at Fort George G. Meade, Md., as the 480th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing and 70 ISR Wing. Further, the intelligence groups under these wings are now designated as ISR groups, the service said in a release yesterday. These moves are part of the ongoing transformation of the service's ISR organizations that began in June 2007. "Throughout the transformation process, we have broadened our scope beyond signals intelligence to include all elements of ISR," Maj. Gen. Craig Koziol, Air Force ISR Agency commander. He continued, "The renaming of our units to ISR solidifies our dedication to delivering the best trained forces and most effective capabilities and conducting integrated ISR operations for ground, air, space, and cyberspace missions." Under the ISR changes, the agency is now a field operating agency of the Deputy Chief of Staff for ISR (A2) on the Air Staff.

The 70 Bombardment Wing was originally activated on September 13, 1941, at Gray Field, Fort Lewis, Washington, as the 70 Reconnaissance Group, equipped with thirteen obsolete O-47 type aircraft. With the coming of Pearl Harbor, the 70 Reconnaissance Group assumed a mission of coastal scouting and anti-submarine patrol along the Pacific coast. Although this mission was not spectacular, the personnel of the 70 served with great pride and honor.

The reconnaissance group was inactivated June 27, 1949, and reactivated January 14, 1955, as the 70 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, assigned to the 801st Air Division, Second Air Force, SAC.

On August 1, 1955, the 70 Wing was moved to Little Rock Air Force Base, and on June 2, 1958, it went out of the reconnaissance business and assumed the mission of a combat crew training wing. It remained in this status until October 25, 1961, when it was reorganized and designated the 70 Bombardment Wing.

The Air Force's mission interests in computer network operations sparked the first movements into cyberspace as an Air Force domain. On 5 July 2006, Air Combat Command created a network warfare wing by redesignating the 67th Information Operations Wing at Lackland AFB, Tex., as the

67th Network Warfare Wing. On that same date, the 70 IW at Fort Meade, Md., realigned under HQ AIA. That second action began the Air Intelligence Agency's transformation from a SIGINT staff headquarters into an intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance organization. The reorganization returned the Air Force's "heavy lift" cryptologic wing to leadership under an ISR organization. The 70 1W integrated Air Force capabilities into global cryptologic operations, directly supporting national-level decision makers, combatant commanders and tactical warfighters. 2006

On 16 August 2000, the Air Intelligence Agency activated the 70 Intelligence Wing at Fort Meade, MD. The wing's public affairs office covered activation in a news release.

In an era of military downsizing, unit realigning and base closures, it's a bit surprising to see the establishment of a new unit. But that is exactly what has happened as commanders and members of the 694th Intelligence Group, the 543rd IG and the 373rd IG all came together to stand in formation as the Air Force's newest wing was established here Aug. 16.

The 694th IG is colocated with wing headquarters at Fort Meade, while the 543rd and 373rd Intelligence Groups are based at Medina Annex, San Antonio, Texas, and Misawa AB, Japan, respectively. All three groups and their squadrons had previously belonged to the 67th Intelligence Wing. Dubbed the Air Force's "Cryptologic Wing," the 70 Intelligence Wing is the primary Air Force provider of signals intelligence to national leaders, combatant commanders and combat forces.

The revisions made in 2000 were fairly transparent to personnel in the 67th and 70 wings. A few airmen moved into newly created 70 wing positions, but for the majority it was business as usual. More radical changes were on the horizon. The chart that follows depicts the 70 wing with its three groups and subordinate squadrons.

*During these early years, the 70 RW maintained an operational reconnaissance mission. Crewmembers and maintainers ensured we had an "eye in the sky," launching missions from here at home and spending many months at various operating locations throughout the world. Prior to the emergence of U-2 aircraft, the B-47 was the perfect airframe to overfly and photograph potential adversaries. For most of the 1950s, nothing could touch a Stratojet. Surface-to-Air Missiles were in their infancy, Anti-Aircraft Artillery could not reach it, and enemy fighters could not climb to the Stratojet's altitude. It could virtually fly with impunity.*

*While the 70 RW was a photographic reconnaissance organization, other RB-47s were equipped with sensitive monitoring equipment and flown right at and sometimes beyond the border into the USSR. This would prompt the Soviets to fire up their defenses, and the RB-47 crew would monitor, record, and bring home the data. This was then used as the basis for effective war plans to be carried out by bomb wings like the 384th. This cat-and-mouse game of testing a potential enemy was extremely perilous. Aircrews were pushing the limits, and many of them were shot from the sky without so much as a peep in the newspapers.*

*The 384 BW handled bomber alert duties, spending countless days and nights on alert status with their aircraft armed, fueled, and ready to go at a moment's notice. 384th aircrews also commonly*

*participated in REFLEX operations, spending short but continually recurring periods of time at forward locations around the world.*

*The 384 BW accomplished a truly remarkable feat by being certified combat ready just nine months after receiving its first aircraft. Stringent SAC requirements called for a specified percentage of the crews to be certified in order for the wing to be considered combat ready. Since aircrew members were fresh out of student status, beginning to arrive about the same times the aircraft did, preparing the group to become fully combat ready was a tremendous task. The culture of the organization would accept nothing less than full effort, and when the newly formed wing was mission capable by September 1956, it became the first such SAC wing to do so in such a short time.*

*The 70 RW eventually shifted from a reconnaissance mission to a purely training mission and was redesignated the 70 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing. This training role would prove to be a glimpse at the future of the base. On 2 June 1958, the wing accepted its first group of students and began training them to fly the Stratojet. This continued for over three years, then the wing switched from RB-47 to B-47 aircraft and became the 70 Bombardment Wing. The days of the 70 at Little Rock AFB came to an end on 25 June 1962 when the wing was inactivated. (The 70 exists today as the 70 Intelligence Wing at Fort Meade, Maryland.) Many of the aircrew members remained at the base and transferred to the 384 BW, which was still serving in a bomber alert role.*

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.  
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