

602 TACTICAL CONTROL SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

602 Tactical Control Squadron constituted, 3 Dec 1945
Activated, 31 Dec 1945
Redesignated 602 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, 1 Dec 1948
Inactivated, 1 Dec 1968
Redesignated 602 Tactical Control Squadron, 29 Jun 1973
Activated, 1 Jul 1973
Inactivated, 1 Aug 1985
Activated, 30 Apr 1991
Redesignated 602 Air Control Squadron, 31 Mar 1992
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1993

STATIONS

Goddelau, Germany, 31 Dec 1945
Darmstadt, Germany (later, West Germany), 22 Feb 1946
Birkenfeld (later, Birkenfeld ACW Sta; Hahn/Birkenfeld ACW Sta), West Germany, 8 Dec 1948
Giebelstadt Air Aux Field (later, Giebelstadt AB), West Germany, 15 Jul 1956-1 Dec 1968
New Ulm City, West Germany, 1 Jul 1973-1 Aug 1985
Wueschheim AB, Germany, 30 Apr 1991-30 Jun 1993

ASSIGNMENTS

501 Tactical Control Group, 31 Dec 1945

51 Troop Carrier Wing [known as European Air Transport Service (Provisional)], 25 Sep 1947

United States Air Forces in Europe, 20 Dec 1947

7400 Air Force Communications Wing, 1 Jul 1948

United States Air Forces in Europe, 7 Feb 1949

501 Aircraft Control and Warning Group (later, 501 Tactical Control Group; 501 Tactical Control Wing), 10 Jun 1949

86 Air Division (Defense), 18 Nov 1960

Seventeenth Air Force, 1 Nov-1 Dec 1968

601 Tactical Control Group, 1 Jul 1973

601 Tactical Control Wing, 1 Jun-1 Aug 1985

601 Tactical Control Wing, 30 Apr 1991

601 Operations Group, 31 Mar 1992-30 Jun 1993

ATTACHMENTS

51 Troop carrier Wing [known as European Air Transport Service (Provisional)], 25 Jul-25 Sep 1947)

United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Jul-21 Dec 1948

7402 Aircraft Control and Warning Group, 21 Dec 1948-10 Jun 1949

Tactical Control Wing, Provisional, 1 Jul 1955-17 Nov 1957

COMMANDERS

Capt Gene B. Grove

Maj Troy B. Husband

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On an irregular hexagon divided per pale white and black, the black area spattered with white stars, a two-headed eagle counterchanged, surmounted by a light blue globe, edged black, land areas white; all above a light blue demi-radar screen, markings and edge black; surmounting and radiating from the radar screen, two red lightning flashes flanking the globe; all within a red border. Motto. VIGILANCE. Significance. The white and black background with stars signifies day and night or twenty- four hour operation. The black and white two-headed eagle with wings spread over the globe signifies constant surveillance to help secure the freedom of the world. The radar scope, with streaks of lightning flanking the world, represents the means by which the squadron performs the surveillance which is its mission. (Approved, 3 Mar 1958)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 602nd AC&W Squadron has its roots in the 602nd Tactical Control Squadron which was re-designated the 602nd AC&W Sq. on 23 November 1948 just before moving to Birkenfeld from Darmstadt. The mission of the 602nd was to provide early warning radar coverage and navigational aid to all aircraft flying over the occupied zones.

The main body of troops arrived at Birkenfeld on 8 December 1948. This was the first American unit to move into the French Zone and they came to build. From 12 Quonset huts of that first winter came the permanent structures familiar to post-1953 assignees.

"Cornbeef" the AC&W site had an AN/CPS-1 search radar, AN/CPS-4 height-finder, several radio relay sites (call sign: 03 Zulu) and Direction Finding sites (call sign: Cornbeef D/F) operational within a 100-mile radius of Birkenfeld. Cornbeef D/F was ultimately designated a Net Control Station (Master DF site) and directed the efforts of 5 other sites in the Northern Europe UHF D/F Net.

602 Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron personnel in 1951, 36 Officers and 392 Enlisted

602 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron mission: 1952, to operate and function as an TADC with FDP and TACC capabilities according to the situation requirements and as directed by higher headquarters. Operate and maintain a heavy ground radar station near Birkenfeld, Germany as well as a light ground radar station Southwest of Mainz, Germany. To control fighter aircraft on air defense intercept missions. to control fighter aircraft for tactical air operations in coordination with visual control parties. To operate and maintain a VHF/DF system as an aid to air navigation and furnish aircraft identification within the capabilities of assigned IFF equipment. To organized, supervise and monitor the overall training program of the organization.

602nd AC & W Squadron mission was to provide early warning radar coverage to the limits of its equipment and to provide navigational aid to all allied aircraft flying over the Occupied Zones of Europe (Call sign: "Cornbeef"). In addition to the installation of search (AN/CPS- 1) and Height-Finder (AN/CPS-4) radar on the Tech Site at Erbeskopf (located about 10 miles from the Base), 'the Squadron also established, manned and operated several Radio Relay Sites (Call sign:"03 Zulu") and Direction Finding (D/F) Sites (Call sign: "Cornbeef D/F") within a 100 mile radius of Birkenfeld. Combed D/F ultimately was designated a Net Control Station (Master) and directed the "fix" efforts of 5 other Sites in the Northern Europe UHF D/F Net.

5 June 1978 The 602nd TCS was declared operationally ready with respect to its E-3A AWACS interface capability.

2 October 1978 The 602nd TCS moved to Tuerkheim from Nelson Barracks in Neu Ulm for improved radar coverage in Southern Germany. Their new location was a former German Air Force radar site.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.