

604th AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

604th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron discontinued, 15 Mar 1967

STATIONS

Freising, Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC William C. Packard, Jr. #1953

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Until December 1945 this organization was Company "C" of the old wartime 555th Signal Aircraft Warning Battalion. The old 555th was an Army Signal Corps unit assigned to the Fighter Wing under the 9th Tactical Air Command. In May 1944, when the 555th was located in England, preparations were completed for the pending invasion of Europe. In June of 1944 all components of the 555th, including Company "C", landed in France.

From the beginning of the invasion to the end of hostilities the 555th, a mobile outfit, moved in accordance with progress at the front lines. The mission was to detect and give early warning of the approach of enemy aircraft, and to provide ground control by radar and communications in directing Allied aircraft in action against the enemy. Though this organization was considered a non-combat unit, it was not spared its share of casualties. Considerable personnel losses occurred during the invasion and subsequently on reconnaissance missions. Some of the locations in the move across Europe were Paris, Belgium, Holland and Aachen. The arrival of V-E Day found the organization encamped in Ranis with some forward parties as far east as Czechoslovakia. Soon afterward the occupational site was set up near Wurzburg, Germany. The organization was then awarded the Meritorious Unit Service Plaque for service performed from April 1 1944 to April 1 1945.

In December 1945 Company "C" was re-designated an Air Corps unit. It was named the 604th Tactical Control Squadron and was located in Freising, Germany. The squadron personnel were billeted in hotels in the town. These quarters were kept until October 1946 when reconditioned billets were made available in the new squadron area. Accompanying this move was the influx of dependent personnel, and facilities were installed to accommodate the needs of the organization. The new facilities included : Schools, a Community Officers' Club, a NCO Club, a BOQ, an amateur radio station, appropriate Special Services functions, and a communications site.

In June 1948 the 604th personnel actively participated in the operation of the Berlin Airlift under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Fred J. Collins. Six months later, exactly three years after the unit's redesignation as the 604th Tactical Control Squadron, the name was changed to the 604th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. Lieutenant Colonel Collins was then replaced by Major McCary who was the commander until the summer of 1950 when he was relieved by Major William C. Hartless. At this point the squadron strength was increased by the influx of an unprecedented number of new personnel. The new airmen were trained by the " Old Airlift Vets " and operations went on in an uninterrupted manner.

Lieutenant Colonel (then Major) William C. Packard relieved Major Hartless and assumed command of the 604th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron in December 1951. Many additions and improvements took place: Tennis courts were installed, an old German reservoir located in the confines of the squadron was converted into a swimming pool, the billets were completely renovated, the large gravel parking lot in the middle of the squadron area was seeded

and converted into a parade ground, and new parking spaces were made available. The 604th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron also underwent an organizational change. The 15 5th Tactical Control Group replaced the 5cast Tactical Control Group as the next higher echelon in the command line.

For the first time on July 5th, 1946, organization records refer to the 555th as the 501st Aircraft Control & Warning Battalion. Its companies become the 601st through the 604th respectively. At the same time, minus personnel and equipment, Battalion Headquarters and the 603rd were transferred to Wiesbaden, and then inactivated. The remaining Squadrons (601st, 602nd and 604th) were assigned directly to Headquarters USAFE, and they too were inactivated. By September 25, 1947 the 501st AC&W Battalion was history.

In the early months of 1949, a worsening of the Russian and World situation occurred. These changes resulted in the 501st Tactical Control Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, being reborn on May 18th, 1949 as the 501st Aircraft Control and Warning Group. The newly christened unit was assigned to USAFE 2nd Air Division. On May 25th the 603rd AC&W Sqdn. was activated at Hof, Germany. By June 10th, 1949 also activated were the 601st AC&W Sqdn. at Rothwesten, near Kassel Germany (American Zone), the 602nd AC&W Sqdn. at Birkenfeld, Germany (French Zone), and the 604th AC&W Sqdn. at Friesing.

On Jul. 15, 1953 the 604th AC&W Sqdn. was transferred to the 155th Tactical Control Group. The 603rd AC&W Sqdn. moved from Hof to Giebelstadt early in 1953, and eventually in the winter moved again to Langerkopf, near Kaiserslautern, Germany. The 807th Tactical Control Sqdn. moved from Landsberg to Kaiserslautern during the summer and fall of 1953; and Group Hdq. was also moved there in September of that year. In 1953 the 3rd Shoran Beacon Flight became a tenant at Rothwesten, receiving logistical support from the 601st AC&W Sqdn. there.

On 1 July 1955, the 501st and 526th TCGs merged to form the Tactical Control Wing, Provisional. In all, this consolidation process brought a number of elements together to form Twelfth Air Force's tactical control system. These included two tactical control squadrons (the 897th TCS and 619th TCS), six aircraft control and warning squadrons (the 601st AC&WS, 602nd AC&WS, 603rd AC&WS, 604th AC&WS, 615th AC&WS, and 616th AC&WS), and three Shoran Beacon Squadrons (the 3rd, 6th, and 7th Shoran Beacons). The Tactical Control Wing, Provisional, was created as a tentative measure designed to improve the effectiveness of the radar and aircraft control organizations within Twelfth Air Force. After operating as a provisional wing for two years, the unit had ample opportunity to determine the most suitable type of organization for the effective accomplishment of the USAFE tactical control mission. Accordingly, on 18 December 1957, this tentative status was dropped and the unit was designated the 501st Tactical Control Wing. Finally, on 18 November 1960, the 501st TCW merged with the 86th Fighter Interceptor Wing to form the 86th Air Division (Defense).

Tactical Control Wing (Provisional) Created. At Landstuhl Air Base, on 1 July USAFE organized the Tactical Control Wing (Provisional) and attached to it the 501st (807th Tactical Control Squadron and 601st, 602d, and 603d Aircraft Control and Warning Squadrons) and the 526th (619th Tactical

Control Squadron and 604th, 615th, and 616th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadrons) Tactical Control Groups. 1955

601st, 602d, 603d, and 604th Tactical Control Squadrons. On 1 December USAFE redesignated these units as aircraft control and warning squadrons. The squadrons had been assigned to the 7400th Communications Wing on 1 July and attached to USAFE from 1 July-20 December. On 21 December they were attached to the 7402d Aircraft Control and Warning Group. (The 7402d was organized as a tactical control group at Wiesbaden on 1 July and assigned to the 7400th Communications Wing. Headquarters USAFE redesignated the 7402d as an aircraft control and warning group on 16 December.) 1948

501st Aircraft Control and Warning Group Activated. Headquarters USAFE activated the 501st on 10 June and stationed the group at Zwingenberg, Germany. At the same time, USAFE reassigned the 601st, 602d, 603d, and 604th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadrons from the 7402d Aircraft Control and Warning Group to the 501st. 1949

Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Mission: June 1949, To provide surveillance and early warning service. Furnish navigational aid and weather information to aircraft when requested, fulfill intelligence mission as outlined in USAFE Regulations, Control Fighter aircraft for interception and maintain the training of all personnel at the prescribed level.

Mission: 1951, To provide surveillance and early warning service. Furnish navigational aid and weather information to aircraft when requested. Fulfill intelligence mission as outlined in USAFE Regulations. Control fighter aircraft for interception.

Personnel:

20 June 1949, 20 Officers and 288 Enlisted

1951, 35 Officers and 366 Enlisted.

Commanders:

June 1949, Major James G. McCary

1951, Willaim C. Packard Jr.

Equipment:

Radar:

June 1949, SCR-527, SCR-584

1951, AN/CPS-1, AN/CPS-4

Radio:

June 1949, AN/TRC-1

Operations:

June 1949, TTQ-1

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 10 Mar 2012

Updated:

Sources

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