

609th TACTICAL CONTROL SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Cannon AFB, NM, 15 Oct 1969-15 Jun 1976

Hessisch-Oldendorf AFS, Germany, 15 Jun 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

1 April 1976 The 609th TCS and 619th TCF were activated in Northern Germany marking the beginning of wing radar operations in 2 ATAF. The 609th TCS' location at Bad Muender was a former Royal Netherlands Air Force Hawk missile launch site. The 619th TCF's location at Schwelentrup was approximately 18 miles south of Hessisch-Oldendorf.

1 May 1976 The 629th TCF was activated at Schwelentrup and was placed under the 609th TCS (as was the 619th TCF) .

1 February 1977 The 609th TCS and its two subordinate flights were declared operationally ready.

1 May 1978 The 609th TCS was declared operationally ready with respect to E-3A AWACS interface capabilities.

22 March 1982 Close to 120 609th TCS personnel deployed as the original response team to an A-10 crash site near Barnttrup, Germany.

30 Mar 1982 The 609th TCS controlled a NATO AWACS mission while deployed to Loccum, Germany. This was the first time that a USAFE TAGS unit had done so while deployed at a field operating location.

However, on 2 January 1982, a request was approved to make the FACP at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, a primary control agency and on 10 January 1982, members of the 622nd TCF controlled the Elf One FACP's first training mission as a primary control agency. In another "first", on 15 January 1982, the 609th TCS was assigned the task of being the first USAFE CRP to participate in the Unit Type Code (UTC) program. The UTCs are digital codes used to identify pre-selected deployment packages made up of varying equipment and personnel; the contents of which depended on the tactical need at the time. Anyway, the 609th TCS began their UTC tear down and inventory on 18 January 1982, with the equipment being loaded and weighed seven days later. Next, prior to 30 January 1982; the clinic was officially designated as the 601st Tactical Hospital. Originally, the hospital designation was put into effect with the concept of Sembach's clinic being a 2nd echelon unit with an air transportable hospital. Though the concept had not changed, HQ USAFE decided the "hospital" classification was not required and the unit was inactivated effective 30 January 1982. Also in 1982, the bulk of EIFEL I equipment was installed at ATOC Sembach by the close of 1981. Pre-qualification software tests began in June 1982 and, on 29 July 1982, initial operational capability ceremonies took place at Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AAFCE) Headquarters. Last, on 5 November 1982, testing of the new "HARD HAT" TSQ-91V operations central configuration began at the 601st TCS.

The 609th TCS and 619th TCF were activated at Bad Muender and Schwelentrup respectively on 1 April 1976. A month later, on 1 May 1976, the 629th TCF was also activated at Schwelentrup. Equipment for the 609th TCS came from Cannon AFB, New Mexico, and that for its two flights arrived from the 103rd TCF, Orange County, Connecticut, and the 101st TCF, Worcester, Massachusetts. Shortly after, on 21 May 1976, Hessisch-Oldendorf Air Station was officially opened under project Creek Control and, on 20 September 1976, the 600th TCG and 600th Combat Support Squadron (CSS) were activated to provide control and support for 2 ATAF radar units. This left three new units yet to be activated. Almost a year later under project Creek Brahman, on 15 March 1977, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF were activated at Carl Schurz Kaserne near Bremerhaven. This marked the completion of mobile

radar expansion into Northern Germany. But, unknown to wing officials at that time, the final bed-down of these latter two flights would become a monumental headache.

Going into 1977, the 609th TCS and its two subordinate flights were declared operationally ready on 1 February. Also, yet another TAGS milestone was reached on 22 March 1977, when the 603rd TCS received the first two "E" model TPS-43 radars. After initial checkout at the 603rd TCS, one of the TPS-43Es was sent to the 601st TCS on 22 April 1977. Four days later a TPS-43E radar was used for the first time in an exercise as the 601st TCS participated in Certain Fighter. Eventually, all wing mobile radar units would receive the TPS-43E radar set

Tactical Control Squadron

Located: Cannon AFB, Clovis, New Mexico

15 October, 1969 – June, 1976

Mission: Control and Reporting Center

Subordinate to: 602nd TCG Bergstrom AFB, Austin, Texas

Relocated: 1976 Bad Muender, Germany

Note: 1976, 609th Tactical Control Squadron was reassigned to 601st Tactical Control Wing (Hessische-Oldendorf, Germany;) (1978)

Commanders:

Equipment: TPS-43, Ser. No. (25)19 (Recollection); TPS-43E (upon deployment to Germany); Recollections

Information for 609 TCS Bad Muender, DE

Call Sign(s): Fan Belt

Perm ID	Sage ID	JSS ID	Unit	Location	Early Equip.	Final Equip.	Oper. Date	Inact. Date	Notes
			609 TCS	609 TCS Bad Muender, DE		TPS 43E	01-Apr-76	?	

The year 1975 was a relatively quiet one for wing radar units. But, 1976 was, altogether, quite a different story. In an effort to provide mobile radar coverage services for Northern Germany, the 601st TCW planned on opening up several new units in 2 ATAF. Final planning stages for Creek North were completed by 31 March 1976, and, by year's end, the wing's mobile TAGS network grew by 40 percent. This expansion project involved the activation of eight units and first took in the development of three new sites in Northern Germany—Hessisch Oldendorf, Bad Muender, and Schwelentrup. Hessisch Oldendorf was the site of a former Royal Netherlands Air Force Hawk missile battery headquarters and the other two locations were its satellite missile launch sites. The 609th TCS and 619th TCF were activated at Bad Muender and Schwelentrup respectively on 1 April 1976. A month later, on 1 May 1976, the 629th TCF was also activated at Schwelentrup. Equipment for the 609th TCS came from Cannon AFB, New Mexico, and that for its two flights arrived from the 103rd TCF, Orange County, Connecticut, and the 101st TCF, Worcester,

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During January 1982, a major accomplishment was realized at the FACP level. Although controllers had previously provided back up to AWACS and SOC controllers, the FACP members had never been designated as primary controllers. Because of this back up role, the FACP had never been scheduled to control practice intercepts or refuelings. However, on 2 January 1982, a request was approved to make the FACP at Al Jubayl, Saudi Arabia, a primary control agency and on 10 January 1982, members of the 622nd TCF controlled the Elf One FACP's first training mission as a primary control agency. In another "first", on 15 January 1982, the 609th TCS was assigned the task of being the first USAFE CRP to participate in the Unit Type Code (UTC) program. The UTCs are digital codes used to identify pre-selected deployment packages made up of varying equipment and personnel; the contents of which depended on the tactical need at the time. Anyway, the 609th TCS began their UTC tear down and inventory on 18 January 1982, with the equipment being loaded and weighed seven days later. Next, prior to 30 January 1982; the clinic was officially designated as the 601st Tactical Hospital. Originally, the hospital designation was put into effect with the concept of Sembach's clinic being a 2nd echelon unit with an air transportable hospital. Though the concept had not changed, HQ USAFE decided the "hospital" classification was not required and the unit was inactivated effective 30 January 1982. Also in 1982, the bulk of EIFEL I equipment was installed at ATOC Sembach by the close of 1981. Pre-qualification software tests began in June 1982 and, on 29 July 1982, initial operational capability ceremonies took place at Allied Air Forces Central Europe (AAFCE) Headquarters. Last, on 5 November 1982, testing of the new "HARD HAT" TSQ-91V operations central configuration began at the 601st TCS.

Next, a number of changes in terms of unit designations and their locations were identified and became effective 1 June 1985. First, the USAF Clinic was relieved from assignment of the 601st TCW and further assigned to the 66th ECW, Secondly, both the 601st TCW and the 52nd TFW at Spangdahlem were relieved from assignment to Seventeenth Air Force and further assigned to the 65th Air Division. Other units assigned to the 65th Air Division included headquarters 601st Air Support Operations Group (ASOG) at Frankfurt, and headquarters 602nd ASOG at Mohringen, which were relieved from assignment to the 601st TCW. Up until 1 May 1985 both the 601st ASOG and the 602nd ASOG were designated headquarters 601st and 602nd ASOCGs respectively. Next, the 7201st Comptroller Squadron at Sembach AB was relieved from assignment of the 601st TCW and further assigned to the 66th ECW. Moving along, the 601st TCS at Preum, the 603rd TCS at Sembach, 615th AC&WS at Neubruecke, the 600th TCG at Basdahl, and the 609th TCS at Hessisch-Oldendorf, were all relieved from assignment to the 601st TCG and further assigned to the 601st TCW. As one could readily see, the switchover was entirely on paper as the old units just received new designations. Also, later in the month, it was learned that, effective 15 May 1985, the 601st TASG commander's staff would be dissolved.

Those responsibilities normally performed by the TASG commander's staff were transferred to other squadrons assigned to the 601st TCW. For instance all matters dealing with heli-copter operations were transferred to the 601st TASS commander. Other matters that dealt with helicopter maintenance or jet engine maintenance would be referred to the 601st CAMS effective this date. Effective 8 April 1985, the 601st TASG deputy commander for operations and all its subordinate staff agencies were absorbed into other areas under the 601st TCW.

600th Tactical Control Group. The command activated this group at Hesisch-Oldendorf, Germany, on 20 September and assigned the 600th to the 601st Tactical Control Wing. The 600th exercised command over USAFE tactical air control system (TACS) units in northern Germany. 1976

609th Tactical Control Squadron.

Tactical Air Command transferred the 609th from Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, to Hesisch-Oldendorf Germany, where it was assigned to the 601st Tactical Control Wing. The 609th provided a control and reporting post element in the TACS organization to improve airspace management and surveillance activities in northern Germany. 1976

601st Tactical Control Wing. On 1 June several organizational changes took place in the wing. The 600th and 601st Tactical Control Groups were inactivated, and their squadrons—the 601st, 603d, 606th, and 609th—were reassigned to the wing. At the same time, the 601st Tactical Air Support Squadron was reassigned from the 601st Tactical Air Support Group to the 601st Tactical Control Wing, in preparation for the group's inactivation on 15 October. And, on 1 August, the 602d Tactical Control Squadron was inactivated. (Also assigned to the wing were two paper organizations—the 20th and 704th Tactical Air Support Squadrons.) 1985

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources