

629 TACTICAL CONTROL FLIGHT



MISSION

LINEAGE

629 Tactical Control Flight

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

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, 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.

TPS-43E activity dominated the early months of 1978. On 20 January, the 606th TCS became the last CRP to receive the new radar set and several months later, on 31 March 1978, the remaining eight TPS-43ES stored at the 603rd TCS were released to the gaining FACPs. At this time, only two wing units still operated the TPS-44—the 626th and 636th TCFs. However, on 8 May 1978, TPS-43E radar sets became operational at the last two FACPs. This completed the wing's conversion to one type of radar set for the first time in the history of the 601st TCW. Several other operational "firsts" also highlighted 1978. The 629th TCF assisted the 636th TCF in its first practice deployment from 4 through 7 January 1978 and the 606th TCS controlled its first practice intercept several weeks later on 2 February. The intercept involved F-15 aircraft from Bitburg AFB. On 22 March 1978, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF officially came on line as operational units and were declared fully operationally ready. Their sister radar units in 2 ATAF had previously achieved the same status on 1 February 1977. Also, in another key development, a change of command ceremony was held on 31 December 1978 which passed control and ownership of the Wasserkuppe 412L fixed radar site from the wing to the German Air Force. This concluded the transfer of various 4 ATAF 412L sites to the Germans that had been planned since 1959. On the next day, the 616th AC&WS was officially inactivated. Since the 606th AC&WS was previously inactivated and the Doebraberger site turned over to the GAF on 1 July 1974, only the 615th AC&WS fixed 412L radar site at Boerfink remained assigned to the wing. The remaining five fixed radar sites were now owned and operated by the German Air Force.

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

14 Jan 1982 The first element of 622nd TCF personnel returned to Europe from Elf One in Saudi.

Remaining personnel returned by 21 January 1982. Members of the 629th TCF deployed to Elf One in late February 1982.

629 TCF Schwelentrup, DE

TPS 43E

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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