

653 AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

653 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron

STATIONS

Tinker AFB, OK, 18 Jun 1953-12 Nov 1954

Alexandria AFB (later England AFB), LA, 12 Nov 1954-1 Aug 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Ralph W. Towne, #1955

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

653

England AFB, LA

MPS-14; TPS-1D; TPS-10D; MPS-7; FPS-20

FPS-20A (FAA) Nov-55-Jun-63



Maj Ralph W. Towne

This site became operational in November 1955 when the 653rd AC&W Squadron activated AN/MPS-14, AN/TPS-1D, and AN/TPS-10D radars. The AN/MPS-14 continued to operate until site closure. An AN/MPS-7 was added in 1957. In 1959 the site was operating an AN/FPS-20 search set. In March 1963 the Air Force ordered the site to close, and operations ceased on 1 August.

653rd Squadron: assigned 1 Jan 51 at Stewart. AFB, NY, as the 540th AC&W Group; inactivated on 6 Feb 52; reactivated 18 Jun 53 at Tinker AFB, OK and assigned to the 33rd Air Division; moved to Alexandria AFB, LA in fall of 54; base of assignment redesignated England AFB, LA in 55; transferred to Oklahoma City, ADS on 1 Jan 60; transferred to 4752nd Air Defense Wing 1 Sep 61; transferred to Oklahoma City ADS 25 Jun 63; discontinued 1 Aug 63.

The 540th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, also activated on 1 January 1951 was activated as a command and control organization under the 32d AD for general surveillance radar squadrons, and the 653d Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was organized for operational deployment to a permanent radar station being constructed as part of the ADC network.

The 540th AC&W Group was inactivated with the 653d AC&W Squadron was re-assigned to the 33d Air Division at Tinker AFB, Oklahoma on 18 June 1953, ending MCC operations by the EADF.

England AFB

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closure. In 1958 the site was operating an AN/FPS-20 search set. In March 1963 the Air Force ordered the site to close and operations ceased on April 23.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 16 Jun 2020
Updated: 23 May 2023

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook, *366 Fighter-Bomber Wing, England AFB, LA, 1955*, Army Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1955.