

658 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

658 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 658 Radar Squadron (SAGE)
Inactivated

STATIONS

Winnemucca AFS, NV

ASSIGNMENTS

MISSION EQUIPMENT

FPS-3/-20
FPS-6B
FPS-66
FPS-90

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operations site was located on top of Winnemucca Mountain. Cantonment and housing areas were located below, near town.

Winnemucca AFS, NV typified some of the problems with the mobile radar program. Because the program received minimal funding, the cantonment area was sited on Department of the Interior land located several miles away from the radar, rather than on adjacent land owned by the Southern Pacific Land Company. Delays in the decision-making process set the date for beneficial occupancy back to February 1955. Operational status was finally achieved by the 658th AC&W Squadron in 1956. The site used an AN/FPS-3 radar. By 1959 this radar had been joined by a pair of AN/FPS-6B height-finder radars. In 1960 the AN/FPS-3 was replaced by an AN/FPS-20 search set. At the end of 1961 this search set had been upgraded into an AN/FPS-66. At this time Winnemucca was providing a feed into the SAGE system. In 1963 the two height-finder radars were converted to AN/FPS-90 units. In 1967 one AN/FPS-90 was removed from service. The 658th Radar Squadron (SAGE) was deactivated in June 1968.

658th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Mitchel AFB, NY, assigned to 503rd ACW Gp; moved to Santini, NY in Fall of 51; inactivated 5 Jan 52; reactivated 20 Jun 53 at Hamilton AFB, CA, assigned to 28th AD; moved to Winnemucca, NV ea, Feb 56; transferred to San Francisco ADS 1 Jul 60; transferred to Reno ADS 15 Sep 60; redesignated from ACE1W Sq to 658th Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Mar 61; transferred to 26th AD 1 Apr 66; discontinued 18 Jun 68.

The 658th Radar Squadron was activated in 1957 as a manual ACWS. On 1 Jan 1963 we became part of the SAGE system as a BUIC III site under the Reno Air Defense Sector. With the phasing out of READS, the 658th became a long range radar site. As such, the squadron furnished range height and azimuth data for the detection and control of both civil and military air traffic.

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Sources

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