

670 RADAR SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

670 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
670 Radar Squadron

STATIONS

Camp Cook, CA, 5 May 1950-21 Aug 1951

San Clemente Island AFS, CA
San Pedro, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Albert L. Perkins, #1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

670 San Clemente Island AFS, CA FPS-3; FPS-4; FPS-8/GPS-3; FPS-6 May-52
1960 Sq relocated to RP-39, San Pedro Hill AFS (Fort MacArthur), CA. A new ARSR-4 site (owned by the US Navy) has been activated further to the south on Mt. Thirst.

The 670th AC&W Squadron began operations in May 1952 with a single AN/FPS-3 radar. A year later, an AN/FPS-4 height-finder radar joined the site. In 1955 an AN/FPS-8 came to the island. This radar subsequently was converted to a AN/GPS-3. In 1956 an AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar replaced the AN/FPS-4. This site was deactivated in 1960 and relocated to San Pedro Hill (RP-39).

San Pedro Hill/Fort MacArthur Assuming coverage duties from the closed San Clemente Site (P-39), this Los Angeles area site was an ADC/FAA joint-use facility that began operations in 1961 with an FAA ARSR-1C radar. The Air Force provided the height-finder radars. In 1963 these radars included AN/FPS-6B and AN/FPS-27 sets. In 1966 an AN/FPS-27 radar was in operation. The tending 670th Radar Squadron was deactivated in April 1976. The FAA assumed control of the property although the Air Force continued to operate the height-finder tower.

History of San Clemente Island AFS, CA: This radar site was preceded by Lashup-Permanent radar site LP-39 which began operations in November 1951 with an AN/TPS-1C search radar. The LP-39 site was then replaced by Permanent site P-39. The 670th AC&W Squadron began operations in May 1952 with a single AN/FPS-3 radar. A year later, an AN/FPS-4 height-finder radar joined the site. In 1955 an AN/FPS-8 came to the island; this radar subsequently was converted to a AN/GPS-3. In 1956 an AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar replaced the AN/FPS-4. This site was deactivated in

1960, and the 670th AC&W Squadron relocated to Fort MacArthur / San Pedro Hill AFS (RP-39), a joint-use Air Force / Army / FAA radar site. San Clemente Island was handed over to the Navy. In 1972, at a new location to the south on Mount Thirst, the Navy installed an AN/FPS-20 search radar (later modified to the FPS-93A version) in an arctic tower for range safety and bombing exercises. In the late 1990's, the AN/FPS-93A was replaced by an ARSR-4 radar at the Mount Thirst location, and is now shared with the Air Force for the JSS program (the FAA maintains the radar for the Navy, but reportedly does not use the data).

1951: "... The U. S. Air Force (USAF) 670th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron (AC&W) from Norton Air Force Base, established a radar station manned by approximately 200 military, and 25 civilian technician personnel, These operations were in support of the North American Air Defense (NORAD) command. Barracks, BOQ, and messing facilities were improved for their use. The USAF assumed responsibility for logistic support, utilities, Wilson Cove maintenance, and messing."

1959: "... Three Navy officers and 39 enlisted men, along with 200 Air Force officers and men, and 25 civilian technicians and specialists, now manned and maintained a radar site and the airstrip."

1960: "... The Air Force 670th AC&W radar squadron moved from the island, leaving it completely in Navy hands."

670th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Camp Cooke, CA, assigned to the 544th AC&W Gp; transferred to 27th AD 6 Feb 52; moved to San Clemente Isl, CA by 1 Feb 52; transferred to L.A. ADS 1 Oct 59; redesignated to 670th Radar Sq (SAGE) (from AC&W Sq) 1 Apr 61; moved to Ft. MacArthur AT, CA in Apr 61; transferred to 27th AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 26th AD 19 Nov 69; redesignated 670 Radar Sq 1 Feb 74; inactivated 1 Apr 76.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *27th Air Division (Defense)*. @1955.