

702 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

702 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 702 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

Dobbins AFB, GA, 1 Dec 1953-23 Mar 1955
Savannah AFS, GA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 1955 the 702nd AC&W Squadron began operating AN/MPS-7, AN/TPS-10D, and AN/MPS-14 radars. From 1957 to 1958 an AN/GPS-3 also saw service at Hunter. By 1959 only AN/FPS-BOA and AN/MPS-14 sets were operating here. In 1961 Hunter received an AN/FPS-26 height-finder radar. In 1962 the FPS-BOA was upgraded to become an AN/FPS-67 and Hunter joined the SAGE system. The 702nd was deactivated in June 1979.

702 Savannah AFS (Hunter AFB), GA MPS-7; TPS-10D; GPS-3; FPS-20/-67; MPS-14; FPS-26 FPS-67B; FPS-26 1955 30-Jun-79 Located on the west side of Hunter Army Airfield (originally Hunter AFB).

In 1955 the 702nd AC&W Squadron began operating AN/MPS-7, AN/TPS-10D, and AN/MPS-14 radars. From 1956 to 1958, an AN/GPS-3 also saw service at Hunter AFB. By 1959 only AN/FPS-20A and AN/MPS-14 sets were operating here. Circa 1961 Hunter received an AN/FPS-26 height-finder radar. In 1962 the FPS-20A was upgraded to become an AN/FPS-67, and Hunter joined the SAGE system. The AN/FPS-67 was upgraded to an AN/FPS-67B in 1966, and the AN/MPS-14 was removed in 1968. When Hunter AFB was transferred to the US Army becoming Hunter Army Airfield (AAF), the radar site was renamed Savannah AFS. The 702nd Radar Squadron was deactivated 30 June 1979.

702nd Radar Sq (SAGE): activated 1 Dec 53 at Dobbins AFB, GA, assigned to 35th AD; moved to Hunter AFB, GA by Mar 55; transferred to 32nd AD 15 Nov 58; transferred to Montgomery ADS 1 Jul 61; redesignated from AMI Sq to 702nd Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Feb 62; reassigned to 32nd AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 33rd AD 14 Nov 69; reassigned to 20th AD 19 Nov 69; redesignated 702 Radar Sq 1 Feb 74; inactivated 5 Jun 79.

The 702nd was activated as ACWS by DoD executive order on 1 Dec 1953. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the site were held on 20 Sep 1954 and rapid development of the site was initiated.

By Nov 1955 the foundations for most of the structures had been laid and the following month the framework for buildings began to take form. The towers which would support the radars were begun in Feb 1955 and by April the 702nd ACWS was complete

Following major testing to determine the accuracy of the mechanical and electrical equipment, the radars and equipment became fully operational in November.

Squadron was fully operational in Nov 1955.

By Nov 1956 the first operational anniversary of the squadron there were four radars operating 21 officers and more than 200 airmen assigned to the unit.

In 1959 work was started on a new tower for the height finding radar. Working was completed in Nov 1960 giving the 702 ACWS the most sophisticated and advanced radar of the times.

Because the new radar was unique. The 702nd complex was tested and retested for seven months. Following testing other radar units sent their radarmen to train with the new system.

In Feb 1962 the 702nd was redesignated the 702nd Radar Squadron (SAGE) and became a 20th AD unit in 1969.

Located on Hunter AAF in the SE corner of Savannah, GA, the 702nd Radar Squadron is anything a but remote assignment. Downtown Savannah is only a matter of minutes away. Being a tenant n has some organization on a major Army installation has some definite advantages: a large hospital, PX, commissary and other essential facilities.

Since all barracks and dining facilities on post are administered by the Army, most 702nd personnel elect to receive their quarters allowance and live in the city of Savannah or its suburbs.

Equipped with AN/FPS-67 Search Radar and AN/FPS-26 height radar, the 702nd watches part of the coast line of three states, Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. In addition to the above mentioned radars, the squadron has the standard SIF/IFF equipment (AN/UPX-14) and data processing equipment (AN/FST-2B) The T-2 is scheduled to be replaced by the AN/FYQ-47 in the near future. The site has standard air to ground transmitter-receiver (GATR) one of two time division data link (TDDL) schools operated by the 20th Air Division is located at Hunter AAF.

A source of pride to all squadron personnel is the lounge and patio built entirely by self-help. After closure of the gap fillers and the MPS-14 Height Finder, we found ourselves with some extra space on hand. By relocating some supplies and junk we came up with one empty Quonset hut. With expert planning and many hours of perspiratory labor, chiefly by SMSgt McOnie, SMSgt Smith, MSgt Brown, TSgt Atkinson and SSgt Blackburn along with number other volunteers, this empty building was transformed into a beautiful break room and lounge. Materials for the project were procured with proceeds from donations, auctions of personnel items, bake sales by the wives and contributions from local merchants.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.