

# 754 RADAR SQUADRON



## MISSION

## LINEAGE

754 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron  
Redesignated 754 Radar Squadron (SAGE)  
Redesignated 754 Radar Squadron

## STATIONS

Wurtsmith AFB, MI, 27 Nov 1950-20 Jul 1951  
Port Austin AFS, MI

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

754 Port Austin AFS, MI FPS-3, FPS-20; CPS-4; FPS-24; FPS-6 (2) FPS-24; FPS-26A. FPS-91A; FPS-116 (JSS). Jun-52 Dec-88 BUIC-III. Remained as a blue-suit site into the JSS era. Had the last operational FPS-24 in the US Air Force inventory. Site replaced by FAA data-tie site at Canton, MI (just west of Detroit).

As a "Lashup" radar site, Port Austin began operating an AN/TPS-1C (TPS-1D?) in November 1951 (July 1951?). The site then joined the "Permanent" radar network, and the 754th AC&W Squadron began operations in June 1952 using an AN/FPS-3 set. An AN/CPS-4 was added in 1954. This radar was replaced in 1957 by an AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar. A second AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar was added a year later. In 1958 this site began operating an AN/FPS-20 radar, which replaced the AN/FPS-3. SAGE operations began in August 1959. In early 1962 the site received and operated an AN/FPS-24 search radar, and the AN/FPS-20 was retired. In 1964 an AN/FPS-26A height-finder radar was installed, and one AN/FPS-6 was removed later that year. The other AN/FPS-6 was removed in 1968. This site came under TAC control in October 1979. Circa 1982, the main bearing of the AN/FPS-24 search radar failed catastrophically. The FAA long-range radar site at Canton (Detroit), MI, was then used as a temporary data-tie site until an AN/FPS-91A search radar could be installed at Port Austin AFS in 1983. Also, the AN/FPS-26A was replaced by an AN/FPS-116 height-finder radar for the JSS Program. The site remained in use as a "blue-suit" site until 1988 when it was closed altogether, again replaced by the FAA radar site at Canton.

Site Location Section 31, R13E, 1 mile south of Port Austin, Huron County, MI The GATR site is in Section 36, R12E, west of the radar site. Site History and Findings of Fact: 67.08 acres were acquired in 1956, and developed into the radar station and GATR facility. It was used as a long range radar station in support of the 23rd/NORAD region, Duluth International Airport, MN. 16.5 acres were terminated in 1961 and sold to Mr. Gary Regnier. The remaining 50.93 acres

comprising the Air Force Station closed in Feb 1989 and excessed to GSA Nov 1990. An extensive clean-up contract was established by the Corps of Engineers resulting in: removal of several underground storage tanks and the radar antenna electrical service to the GATR site severed and cutting/removal of power poles removal of asbestos, oil spills, and contaminated soil

754th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Oscocla, MI, assigned to 541st ACEIW Gp; moved to permanent site at Port Austin, MI Jul 51; transferred to 30th AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to 4708th Def Wg 16 Feb 53; transferred to 30th AD 8 Jul 56; transferred to Detroit ADS 1 Apr 59; redesignated from AC&W Sq to 754th Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Sep 59; transferred to 34th AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 29th AD 14 Nov 69; reassigned to 23rd AD 19 Nov 69; redesignated 754 Radar Sq 1 Feb 74.

HISTORY PORT AUSTIN AFS MI Station facility was constructed in 1950-51 and served as a manual Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron under the central NORAD Region until 1959. In that year it was converted to a long range radar station under the then 34th Air Division, headquartered at Battle Creek, Michigan. In 1965 a BUIC II mission was assumed. This BUIC III was a larger computerized system of air defense which required a complete new building be erected to house the computer, operations consoles, programmers, computer maintenance, and an extensive telephone panel room. An additional building was also erected to the west of the new BUIC III building and housed the Director of Operations and a large Operations training team. On 15 Jan 1970, the station reverted solely to that of long range radar, and is currently operating in that capacity under the 23rd Air division of Duluth, Minn.

The 754<sup>th</sup> AC&W Squadron began operations at this site in June 1952. The site used an AN/FPS-3 set. An AN/CPS-4 was added in 1954. This radar was replaced in 1957 by an AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar. A second height-finder radar was added a year later. In 1958 this site began operating an AN/FPS-20 radar. SAGE operations began in August 1959. In early 1962 the site received and operated an AN/FPS-24. This site came under TAC control in October 1979.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.