

770 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

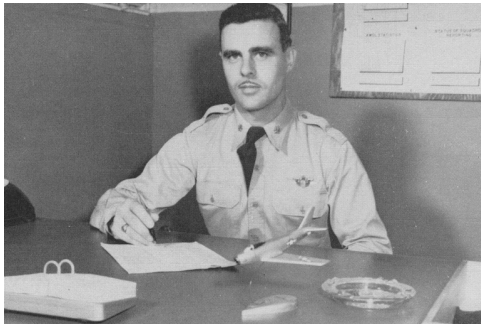
770 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron activated, May 1948
Redesignated 770 Radar Squadron (SAGE), 1957

STATIONS

Palermo AFS, Ocean City, NJ

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS



Maj William H. Sheppard (USAF photo)

Maj William H. Sheppard
LTC George A. Haws

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 770th Radar Squadron (SAGE), located at Palermo Air Force Station, near Ocean City, New Jersey, was activated in May 1948. For the past twelve years this squadron has played a very important role in the business of defense for the nation as an Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. Since 1957 the 770th AC&W Squadron has been converted to the 770th Radar Squadron (SAGE) thereby improving the role played in the Radar link in the 26th Air Division Chain of Defense. It's mission is to provide radar information to the Washington and New York Air Defense Sector and also to provide backup for (SAGE) in any emergency.

The 770th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Palermo Air Force Station, Ocean City, New Jersey, was established in May 1948, and has been functioning as a very important radar link in the 26th Air Division (Defense) Chain in the Eastern United States ever since. Its mission is to detect and identify all aircraft and to intercept and destroy hostile aircraft.

Radar types: AN/CPS-6B, AN/TPS-1, AN/CPS-4

770 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Palermo, New Jersey

770th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Palormo AFS, NJ, assigned to 503rd ACM1 Gp; transferred to 26th AD 6 Feb 52;. transferred to 4710th Def Wg 16 Feb 53; transferred to 4709th AD Wg 1 Mar 56; transferred to 4621st AD Wg 18 Oct 56; transferred to NY ADS on 8 Jan 57; redesignated from AC&W Sq to 770th Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Oct 58; transferred to Washington ADS and moved to Ft. George G. Meade, MD 1 Oct 61; transferred to 33rd AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 20th AD 19 Nov 69; redesignated 770 Radar Sq 1 Feb 74.

CPS-4; FPS-3; FPS-20; FPS-6
FPS-65; FPS-6

Squadron relocated to Ft. Meade, MD (RP-54/Z-227). GATR was R-14. Palermo AFS itself re-opened a year later as site Z-54 with the 680th Radar Squadron (transferred from Yaak AFS, MT, P-11). After final site closure, GATR was designated as R-28.

In 1948 the Air Force activated an AN/TPS-1B Lashup search radar at this southern New Jersey site (L-13) that fed into a manual control center established at Roslyn, New York. This radar site was incorporated into the Lashup system and the follow-on permanent network. In 1951 AN/CPS-5 and AN/TPS-10A height-finder radars were added to the site. By April 1952 the 770th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/CPS-4 and AN/FPS-3 sets. In the spring of 1957, this site was one of the first to deploy an AN/FPS-20 search radar. The site also received two AN/FPS-6 height-finder radars at this time. The site became a SAGE feeder in June 1958. By late 1959 this station also was performing air-traffic-control duties. On October 1, 1961, the 770th Radar Squadron (SAGE) and the site designation left for Fort Meade, Maryland (RP-54) (a joint-use Army / Air Force radar site). Plans to convert the Palermo site to a gap-filler annex were cancelled following the loss of Texas Tower No. 4 (TT-4) in Jan 1961. The AN/FPS-20 search radar was retained, operated by Detachment 1 of the New York Air Defense Sector. This unit was redesignated the 680th Radar Squadron (SAGE) (relocated from Yaak AFS, MT, P-11) in 1962, and the P-54 site designation returned to Palermo in 1963 as Z-54. [The Fort Meade radar site was redesignated as Z-227.] In 1963, the AN/FPS-20 was upgraded into an AN/FPS-65. In 1968 one AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar was retired. Radar operations ceased 30 March 1970, and the 680th Radar Squadron was deactivated in May 1970. The GATR site (R-28) remained in use until 1976.

Originally an ACWS the 770th Radar Squadron was first located at Palermo AFS, NJ and was responsible to the 4710th Air Defense Wing and the 26th Air Division

In March 1956 the squadron was placed under the operational control of the 4709th ADW and in October in was transferred to the 4621st ADW

Two years later the 770th was redesignated the 770th Radar Squadron and was incorporated into the Semi Automatic Ground Environmental System.

In March 1959 the FAA acquired joint usage of the units radar facilities assuming full responsibility for the maintenance and operation of the AN/FPS-20 equipment.

In Oct 1961 the 770th moved from Palermo AFS to Fort George G. Meade, MD without equipment or personnel. Later the number of personnel assigned to the unit was 17 officers and 134 enlisted people and 9 civilians

Two months later in December the search, selective identification feature and height finders underwent SAGE tests with all being certified SAGE operational. The communications, crypto and wire maintenance sections were then placed under the control of the Army. No Air Force personnel

were assigned to those sections.

In April 1965, the Ground to Air Transmitter/Receiver site at Manassas, VA was assigned to the unit.

The Back Up Intercept Control system of operations at the squadron became effective in March 1966. The squadron lost its NORAD CGI capability and became a NORAD surveillance station

In April 1970 a GATR site under the control of the 770th was activated at Palermo AFS, NJ and continued to operate until Jul 1976 when it was inactivated

This station became operational in 1962 with an AN/FPS-67 and two AN/FPS-6B radars. The 770th Radar Squadron moved here from former site P-54 located in Palermo, New Jersey. In 1963 one of the AN/FPS-6Bs was replaced by an AN/FPS-90. On July 1, 1963, the site was redesignated Z-227. Manned by the 770th Radar Squadron, this site came under TAC jurisdiction in 1979.

L-13/LP-54/P-54/Z-54 - Palermo

In 1948 the Air Force activated an AN/TPS-1B long-range search radar at this southern New Jersey site that fed into a primitive control center established at Roslyn, New York. This radar site was incorporated into the Lashup system and the follow-on permanent network. In 1951 AN/CPS-5 and AN/TPS-10A height-finder radars were added to the site. By April 1952 the 770th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/CPS-4 and AN/FPS-3 sets. In the spring of 1957, this site was one of the first to deploy an AN/FPS-20 radar. The site also received two AN/FPS-6 height-finder radars at this time. The site became a SAGE feeder in June 1958. By late 1959 this station also was performing air traffic control duties. On October 1, 1961, the 770th and the site designation left for Fort Meade, Maryland (RP-54). The Palermo site was then operated by Detachment 1 of the New York Air Defense Sector. This unit was redesignated the 680th Radar Squadron in 1962 and the P-54 site designation returned to Palermo in 1963. In 1963, the AN/FPS-20 was upgraded into an AN/FPS-65. The 680th was deactivated in May 1970.



(USAF photo)

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 20 Jul 2011

Updated:

Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *4710 Defense Wing*. Taylor Publication Co. Dallas, TX. Nd.

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