

## 810 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

810 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron  
Redesignated 810 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

### STATIONS

Dobbins AFB, GA, 20 Jun 1953-15 May 1956  
Andrews AFB, MD, 15 May 1956  
Winston Salem AFS, NC, #1957

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

Maj Clifford N. Keith, #1957

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### EMBLEM

### MOTTO

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

On 9 October 1956, movement orders were issued from Eastern Air Defense Force, directing the 810th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron move from Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, to Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

This order, in effect, stated that another link in the Air Defense chain was to move from its sphere of "paper planning" into a reality.

From this date, the men, materials and equipment needed to operate this radar installation started to flow onto a small plot of land of approximately 22 acres, which was still the center of considerable "hustle and bustle" from civilian contractors, designated by the Corps of Engineers, to construct the necessary structures to house and sustain these vital elements.

Throughout December 1956 and January 1957, the Squadron received its living strength and gradually grew to its required proportions. By the end of February 1957, it was flexing its muscles and ready to go to work, but ironically the "GO" signal was not yet given.

To date the 810th AC&W Squadron is standing by for this signal to start sweeping the skys; all the time gathering the loose ends and smoothing the rough edges that arose during the move and from the very newness of the operation.

Headquarters, 85th Air Division at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C., announced the appointment of Major Clifford N. Keith as the Commander of the 810th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Funding shortfalls in FY 1957 forced the Air Defense Command to hold up construction at this site. However, the 810th AC&W Squadron finally began operating ANLMPS-11 and AN/FPS-GA radars in late 1957. The ANLMPS-11 set was replaced by an AN/FPS-8 set that saw service between 1960 and 1962.

In 1962 the 810th began operating AN/FPS-24 search and AN/FPS-26 height-finder radars along with the previously installed AN/FPS-6 set. In 1963 Winston-Salem began providing data for the SAGE system. The Air Force inactivated the 810th in July 1970.

The squadron was originated at Andrews AFB, MD in Oct 1956 and became operational in Oct 1957. The heart of the operation is the AN/FPS 24 Frequency Diversity Search Radar, A height finder (FPS-26) a ground to Air Transmitter Receiver Site and a FST-2 computer

Winston Salem AFS, NC is located at Union Cross Road approx 10 miles S of Winston Salem. 10 Miles NW of Point, NC 23 miles SW of Greensboro and about 6 miles SE of Kernersville NC.

The unit has approx 20 civilians and 150 military personnel to operate the site.

810th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina  
Equipment: MPS-11 (1957)

810	Winston-Salem AFS, NC	MPS-11; FPS-8; FPS-24; FPS-6A; FPS-26	FPS-24; FPS-26
26	late 1957	31-Jul-70	Site was located just west of town of Union Cross, NC.

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810th Radar Sq (SAGE): activated 20 Jun 53 at Dobbins AFB, GA, assigned to 35th AD; moved to Andrews AFB, MD and assigned to 85th AD Jul 56; moved to Winston Salem AFS, NC in Dec 56; transferred to 35th AD 1 Sep 58; transferred to 32nd AD 15 Nov 58; transferred to Washington ADS 1 Jul 61; redesignated from AWN Sq to 810th Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Mar 62; transferred to 33rd AD 1 Apr 66; 'reassigned to 20th AD 19 Nov 69; inactivated 31 Jul 70.

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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *85 Air Division, Defense. 1957.*