

# 4670 GROUND OBSERVER SQUADRON

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

4670 Ground Observer Squadron

Organized, 16 Apr 1951

Activated, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 1 Mar 1959

## STATIONS

Roslyn AFS, NY

## ASSIGNMENTS

EADF

26 Air Defense, 6 Feb 1952 (2 Feb 1952)

## COMMANDERS

Lt Col Maurice A. Broner, 16 April 1951 to August 1953

Lt Col James R. Geary Jr. from August 1953 to August 1955

Lt Col Jerome G. Schweickert, Aug 1955

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

**EMBLEM**

**MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATION**

The 4670th COS was organized at Roslyn AFS, NY on 16 April 1961, with headquarters and detachments located as follows:

Roslyn AFS, NY #1, 4670th GOS  
New Haven, Ct Det #2, 4670th GOS  
White Plains, NY Det #3, 4670th GOS  
Trenton, NJ Det #4, 4670th GOS  
Harrisburg, Pa. Det #5, 4670th GOS  
Pittsburgh, Pa. Det #6, 4670th GOS  
Baltimore, Md. Det #7, 4670th GOS  
Richmond, Va. On 16 April 1951

The unit was attached to the 26th Air Division (Def), Roslyn AFS, NY and on 2 February 1952, it was relieved from attached and assigned to the 26th Air Division (Def).

During the period 16 April 1951 through 1 April 1955, the unit gained two detachments, making a total of nine (9) detachments assigned. The newly assigned detachments were organized as Det # 8, located at Roanoke, Va. and Det # 9, located at Charleston, W. Va.

In July 1952, with the inception of "Operation Sky-watch," the original seven detachments and Det #8, Roanoke, Va. were placed on "Skywatch." (24 hours operation).

Due to a realignment in air division areas on 1 March 1956, the detachments located in Pittsburgh, Pa., Richmond & Roanoke, Va., Baltimore, Md., and Charleston, W. Va. were reassigned to other Ground Observer Squadrons. Two detachments located at Manchester, NH and Albany, NY were reassigned to the 4670th GOS and organized as Dets #10 and #11 respectively.

On 1 August 1956, the detachment located at White Plains, NY was discontinued and its area of operation was consolidated with the Trenton Filter Center area.

At the present time, the five detachments assigned to the 4670th GOS are operating on a 24 hour basis.

DET #1, 4670th Ground Observer Squadron, United States Air Force, was activated in 1950 at 294 Cedar Street, New Haven, Conn. In November of 1951, Life Magazine carried a pictorial story of the activities of this center while at this location. In November of 1952, the Filter Center was moved to its present address at 54 Wall Street in New Haven.

Early in 1953, the Branford observation post played a primary role reporting the crash of a Navy aircraft in Long Island Sound. The occupants of the plane were rescued and as a result, the spotters on the post received a citation from the Navy Department.

Later in 1953, the New Preston observation post reported the crash of an Air France airliner which ran out of fuel. Their prompt reporting resulted in the timely arrival of ambulances and fire equipment which undoubtedly saved many lives.

In August of 1955, this Center, through its communications network aided Civil Defense officials in rushing much needed serums and other medical supplies to the flood ravaged areas of the state. For its work in this disaster, commendations were received from the Department of the Air Force and Civil Defense officials.

January of 1956 saw a maximum effort recruiting campaign for GOC Volunteers in the entire area, including the observation posts. All communications media were used to sell the program to the public. Highly successful, it resulted in some 2000 volunteers.

On March 15th, the realignment of Filter Center areas took place and changed the requirement for observation posts from 134 to 99.

The Vertical Plotting System was installed in June of 1956. For approximately three months prior to the installation date, it was necessary to operate from a "lashup" arrangement in order to continue functioning as an Air Defense unit while the changeover to the new system was being made. This new system necessitated retraining all old volunteers as well as those new personnel just joining the center.

The manning document for this detachment requires four officers and twelve airmen. A roster is attached showing their names, ranks and duty assignments.

At the present time, there are 433 civilian volunteers active in the Filter Center and some 2474 on the observation posts in the entire area of responsibility. Volunteers who have been trained but are inactive for one reason or another number above 10,000.

#### DETACHMENT NO. 1

54 Wall Street, New Haven, Connecticut

#### DETACHMENT No. 3

200 East State St., Trenton, N. J.

The Trenton Filter Center began operation in February 1950 and was then located in the main or new Post office building. Major Norris L. Farrington was the Detachment Commander at that time. In August of 1954, operation was moved to the old Post office building where it is still located. Captain John Bodak was the succeeding commander and was with the outfit until 27 March 1956 when Lt. Colonel John Dietz assumed command.

Lt. Colonel Dietz became the State Ground Observer Corps Coordinator in July of 1956 and his position was filled by Captain Carmine J. Coppola. Also at this time the White Plains Filter Center was combined with Trenton.

Mrs. Selma Waterson is the Administrative Supervisor for the Filter Center and has been active in its operation since the day it first opened.

The center handles a four state area and has the most heavily populated area as part of its responsibility.

The Harrisburg Filter Center began operation on 2 August 1950. It was located in a basement office of the State Capitol building. Captain Edward F. Lennon and two airmen were originally assigned. Civilian volunteers were trained in the operation of the Filter Center and mobile training units began organizing observation posts. In July 1952, the Filter Center changed from a stand-by status to twenty-four hours "Operation Skywatch".

On 1 September 1953, the Harrisburg Filter Center was moved from its basement quarters in the Capitol Building to its present location on the second floor of the Central Industrial Building, 100 North Cameron Street.

Since Captain Lennon organized the detachment, eight officers have served as commander. Lt. Clarence E. Woglemuth, Major James J. Mchale, Major Cyrus Grayson, Captain Albert J. Knstant, Captain Vincent J. McCoola, Major Robert P. Loughrey, Major George H. Smith and Captain Carter H. Cowan, the present Commander. Mrs. Eleanor Heagy, who has been the Civilian Administrative Supervisor since January 1954, was a member of the first civilian volunteer class trained at the Filter Center. The volunteers publish a monthly newsletter, "The Volunteer", which is distributed to 37.5 Observation Posts and 9,000 volunteers.

The Harrisburg Filter Center was apparently one of the first Filter Centers to produce its own radio program. Prepared by S/Sgt. Galloro, who is also the announcer, the program, "Eyes on the Skies", was started in September 1955. It is broadcast over station WHBG, Harrisburg. Later, another fifteen minute weekly "platter and chatter" program, "Air Defense Go Ahead", was started over station WKBO.

The detachment has increased from its original number of one Officer and two airmen, to its present strength of four officers and twenty airmen. Eleven "Sector Sergeants" are assigned permanently to their areas in the field where they have a primary responsibility to organize observation posts and to train volunteers in their areas.

The Harrisburg Filter Center is scheduled to change to a "Ready-Reserve" status, sometime after December 1956.

Detachment No. 4  
100 N. Cameron St. Harrisburg, Penn.

The Manchester Filter Center was first opened in the Post Office building in June 1949 and closed in September of that year. An evaluation of the program was taken in September 1949 and in April 1950 it was again reactivated at its present location, 1257 Elm Street. Full operation began in September of that year after the horizontal plotting board and telephones were installed. In July 1952, the Manchester Filter Center was on Skywatch and has remained on the same status since that date.

Major W. H. Campbell, Commande

Detachment 4, 4670 GOS was responsible for the areas of New Hampshire, southern Maine, eastern Vermont and eastern Massachusetts. Now under the 26th Air Division it is responsible for the southern tip of Maine the south eastern section of New Hampshire, eastern Massachusetts and the major portion of Rhode Island. In June 1956 the vertical plotting board was installed and the efficiency of operation has steadily increased.

Detachment No. 10

1257 Elm Street Manchester, N.H.

The beginning of the Albany Filter Center dates back to the World War II era. In 1942 the Center was opened in the Bond Building on State Street in downtown Albany. The Air Warning Service, as it was known then, closed down in May 1944 when an Allied victory was imminent.

In October 1950 the Ground Observer Corps was organized and a new Filter Center was constructed in the Bond Building. It remained there until April 1952 when it was moved to its present location at 268 Central Avenue, which is on New York Route 5 through the capitol district. The assigned military personnel were under control of the 32d Air Division in Syracuse until March 1956 when a complete realignment of the Eastern Air Defense Force Filter Center areas reassigned this unit to the 4670th Ground Observer Squadron under 26th Air Division at Roslyn Air Force Station, New York. Conversion to the vertical type plotting board began at this time replacing the long used horizontal table.

Detachment 11

268 Central Ave. Albany, N. Y.

The Filter Center celebrated four years of round-the-clock activity in July 1956 and is scheduled to revert to a ready reserve status in the near future.

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USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

Unit History. *26th Air Division, Defense. 1956.*