

63 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

33 Photo Lab, Bombardment Group, Very Heavy constituted, 4 Aug 1944
Activated, 19 Sep 1944
Inactivated, 4 Jan 1946
Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948
Reconstituted and redesignated 63 Intelligence Squadron, 19 Aug 2013
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Sep 2013

STATIONS

Dalhart AAFld, TX, 19 Sep 1944
Smokey Hill AAFld, KS, 11 Dec 1944
Seattle Port of Embarkation, 4-8 Aug 1945
Ie Shima, 8 Sep-16 Dec 1945
Camp Anza, CA, 30 Dec 1945-4 Jan 1946
Joint Base Langley-Eustis ABS, VA, 15 Sep 2013

ASSIGNMENTS

382 Bombardment Group, 19 Sep 1944-4 Jan 1946
655 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 15 Sep 2013

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Jaime L. McGowan

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



On a disc Azure, environed by a dragon Gules, garnished Sable, eyed Or, fanged Argent (Silver Gray) grasping in sinister claw a key bendwise of the fourth, a pyramid, the dexter side bearing a simplified data-link icon Argent (Silver Gray) the center of the first, the pyramid sinister of the sixth, all within a narrow border Silver Gray. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Silver Gray border and inscribed "ET IMPROBIS NULLUM REFUGIUM" in Silver Gray letters. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Silver Gray border and inscribed "63D INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON" in Silver Gray letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The pyramid embodies the endurance of Intelligence operations over the millennium. The data link icon represents tactical intelligence dissemination to friendly forces in hostile environments during combat operations. The sides of the pyramid symbolize modern day, 24/7/365 intelligence collection. The dragon is symbolic of superior wisdom, dominance and unparalleled abilities and serves as an allusion to the Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance mission, with the key representing the unique influence all-source intelligence has on mission effectiveness of all levels of warfare. (Approved, 27 Oct 2014)

MOTTO

ET IMPROBIS NELLUM REFUGIUM--And to the Wicked, No Refuge

OPERATIONS

Created along with five other squadrons that fall under the 655th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group out of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, the 63rd IS represents the newest Air Force Reserve squadron to fall under the umbrella of the 480th ISR Wing and 497th ISR Group, who operate Distributed Ground Station - One (DGS-1) of the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System (DCGS). The unit exploits near-real-time data from the U-2, Global Hawk (RQ-4), MC-12, MQ-9 Reaper and MQ-1 Predator platforms and provides fused, multi-source intelligence to combatant commanders, as well as to joint and coalition forces.

Being new, the 63rd IS was created as an Air Force Reserve unit upon the arrival of Lt. Col. Jaime L. McGown on Feb. 25. In fact, the unit is so new there is no official squadron emblem, although a group of Airmen is hard at work to change that. The squadron is broken up into two flights: a signals intelligence (SIGINT) reporting-focused flight and a multi-source intelligence analysis-focused flight. The members of the 63rd IS come from varying backgrounds and experiences, but all of them look to make an impact, supporting the warfighter through the use of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. "I had never done anything involved with the DGS before and that's why I decided to join the unit – to gain some DGS experience and contribute to the fight," stated one member of the multi-source intelligence flight.

So far, McGown has filled approximately 87 percent of the required manning, both in the Air Reserve Technician (ART) and Traditional Reservist (TR) positions, and hopes to be 100 percent operational by the end of the 2014 calendar year. The squadron members will undergo Combat Mission Ready (CMR) training for the DGS-1. "The training is great," said one of the individuals going through mission qualification training. "I'm looking forward to a regular shift and the active-duty mission." While the 63rd IS isn't 100 percent integrated right now, it will be soon, said McGown. Its members will be able to apply their varying experiences and knowledge they've gained through their individual DGS training to the mission at hand.

Two Air Force Reserve intelligence squadrons activated at JB Langley-Eustis, Va., last week. The 63rd Intelligence Squadron, which reports to the 480th ISR Wing and the 497th ISR Group, activated during a Dec. 6 ceremony at Langley-Eustis. The squadron is responsible for operating the distributed ground station-one, allowing it to exploit near real-time data from the U-2, RQ-4 Global Hawk, MC-12 Liberty, MQ-9 Reaper, and the MQ-1 Predator, according to a Dec. 10 release. Lt. Col. Brian Mueller assumed command of the 42nd IS during an activation and assumption of command ceremony also at Langley-Eustis the following day, according to a Dec. 11 release. The 42nd IS supports current operations and contingency planning by "providing targeting, focused products" to the 36th Intelligence Squadron and the Air Force Targeting Center at Langley-Eustis, states the release. The 42nd IS traces its lineage to the 42nd Photo Lab, which was activated in September 1945 at Smokey Hill Army Airfield, Kan., as part of the 456th Bombardment Group's conversion plan for the invasion of Japan. The lab was inactivated once the invasion was cancelled and has since been redesignated as the 42nd IS, according to the release. 2013

The 63d Intelligence Squadron was originally activated as the 33rd Photo Lab, Bomb Group Heavy

on 19 September 1944 at Dalhart Army Air Field, Texas and assigned to the 382nd Bombardment Group. The 382d was reactivated in September 1944 as a B-29 unit. The unit deployed to the island of Ie Shima from September to December 1945 and was awarded the World War II, Asiatic-Pacific Theater service streamer for their service. In December 1945 the squadron was redeployed and ultimately inactivated in January 1946 at Camp Anza, California. The squadron was redesignated as the 63d Intelligence Squadron 19 August 2013 and reactivated at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia 15 September 2013. The 63 IS maintained an active duty partnership with the 30 IS, a subordinate organization to the 480 ISRW at JB Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Lt Col Jaime L. McGown assumed command effective 15 September 2013. During a six-month absence in 2016, Maj Laura M. Jones served as interim commander and Lt Col McGown was succeeded by Lt Col Jennifer L. Mulder on 14 May 2016 who commanded throughout the reporting period.

The primary purpose of the 63 IS was to “provide strategic depth to the DCGS enterprise” through direct support of their classic association partners the 30 IS and the 480 ISRW by providing highly skilled team of skilled, “mission-ready intelligence professionals...” for various roles within the Distributed Common Ground System-1 (DGCS-1) at Langley AFB, Virginia and various intelligence functions as deployed Airmen in support of Combatant Commanders (COCOMS) world-wide. The new application of Analysis and Exploitation Team (AET) analysis for Remote Piloted Aircraft (RPA) was one of the more significant on-going evolutions for the squadron in 2020. It required them to adapt to a changing technological environment because it meant less time spent doing analysis and creation of products but more time spent in support of Request for Information (RFI) and Analytical support. As the AET concept grew, the 63 IS was able to leverage their high level of experience. They provided four members who participated in the first Functional Assessment conducted by the 30th Intelligence Squadron to certify squadron members as Analytical Exploitation Team (AET) Chiefs. The four-hour event tested the leadership and positional knowledge of the candidates by demanding they execute time-dominant analysis and dissemination in a crisis situation.

Analysts within the Cross Functional Team-3 provided near real time (NRT) support against reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) tasked mission sets while providing finished intelligence products to the 609th AOC’s weekly Graphic Intelligence Summary (GRINTSUM). Other 63 IS squadron members continued supporting the 497 ISRG with processing, exploitation and dissemination tasking and satisfied 19 RFIs that, over the course of several months, culminated in 108 products that supported a total of 190 airborne ISR missions at both high altitude and multiple altitude and 48 medium altitude. Analyst that normally supported remote piloted aircraft (RPA) lines have transitioned to the new Analysis and Exploitation Team (AET) construct. In August 2020, the 63 IS’s continuing direct support for the 480 ISRW led to four Operations Intelligence specialists (AFSC 1NOX1) completing Difference Training and being fully integrated into two Analysis and Exploitation Teams (AETs) with the 30 IS, their CAU. These members contributed almost immediately to the mission because of their experience providing background and current analysis. Several member also assisted with training and guidance for the Standards and Evaluation (STAN/EVAL) program. A Signals Intelligence Analyst (AFSC 1N2X1 A) became the first member of the 63 IS to complete the new High Altitude ISR Command and Control (C2) training and certification. The position was revamped under the DCGS Next

construct and it now combines multiple positions from the old construct. The new, rigorous certification process allowed airmen to participate in missions as the primary Threat Warning Reporter for U-2 and RQ-4 missions around the globe. Other Members of the 63 IS tracked and plotted threats, produced tactical reports (TACREPs) and provided assessments of products. Several 63 IS squadron members were selected to assist by supporting the AET that was looking at adversary Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV). The extensive knowledge and background of 63 IS members highlighted new tools to identify a threat to a task force (TF) operating in Southwest Asia.

The 63 IS placed a priority on training so they would consistently be capable of providing highly-skilled Airmen and officers in support of their CAU and they devoted a number of Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs) to focused on-the-job-training (OJT). One example is the three-squadron training event. The event was the culmination of ten hours of preparatory training per member of all intelligence disciplines. On Sunday of the September UTA the three ARC units (63 IS 42 IS, and 192 IS) at Joint Base Langley-Eustis AFB, Virginia conducted difference training to achieve Basic Certification in Distributed Ground System (DGS) operations. The 63 IS and 192 IS (Virginia Air National Guard) were the primary audience as well as instructors with a member of the 42 IS providing Joint Targeting Cycle training. This arrangement was so successful that it will likely be repeated during later Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs) in a continual effort to complete the academic requirements for 63 IS members. The 63 IS also offered two officers additional training towards their certification as Mission Operations Commander (MOC) on the DGS-1 ops floor providing 48 hours of High-Altitude ISR mission support

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 12 Dec 2013
Updated: 22 Jan 2023

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