

6901 SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

6901 Special Communications Group organized, 1 Aug 1955

Activated, 1 Oct 1955

Discontinued, 31 Mar 1968

STATIONS

Landsberg AB, Germany, 1 Oct 1955-1 Nov 1956

Zweibrucken (later, Zweibrucken Communications Annex; Zweibrucken Army Installation),
Germany, 2 Nov 1956-31 Mar 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

6900 Security Wing, 1 Oct 1955-1 Oct 1961

USAF Security Service, 1 Oct 1961-31 Mar 1968

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

With a commitment to return Landsberg to West German control, the 6901st Special Communications Group and its support element, the 6905th Comm Squadron, relocated to Kreuzberg Kaserne (aka Turenne Kaserne), 77 Zweibriicken, West Germany, on 1 November 1956. Eleven months later, the 6905th Comm Squadron was inactivated.

Accommodations on Kreuzberg Kaserne added to Gwinn's disappointment. Many of the open bays housed as many as twenty-four airmen, and the mess hall food was lousy.

Being a second echelon processing center, the 6901st Special Communications Group processed traffic—communications intelligence and electronic intelligence—collected by other organizations; it had no intercept capability of its own. Subordinate to the 6900th Security Wing, the 6901st was tasked to provide technical support to the command's radio squadrons mobile and detachments in Europe. The group also monitored and provided advisory warning for airborne recon missions in Europe. To deliver technical support around the clock, the 6901st operated a surveillance and warning center. The intercept units forwarded a copy of intercepted messages to the 6901 where analysts analyzed traffic and generated reports and technical feedback as applicable. In addition, a 6901st voice transcription section transcribed backlogged tapes from USAFSS sites that recorded more intercepted messages than they could process and tapes recorded by collaborating foreign entities. A separate section processed and exploited ELINT data.

In the early 1960's, the 6900th Scry Wing created a secure operations communication network linking 6901st Operations to all USAFSS units in Europe and to the National Security Agency. An OPSCOMM terminal at each site communicated with a teletype terminal in the 6901st OPSCOMM area. In addition, a 6901st OPSCOMM operator could manually connect (patch) any site's OPSCOMM link to another unit—providing secure operational communications between two or more sites. USAFSS implemented a similar OPSCOMM capability amongst its units in the Far East in 1962.

The 6901st Special Communications Group operated under the control of the 6900th Security Wing from its arrival in Europe on 1 October 1955 until the 6900th wing was deactivated on 1 October 1961. From that point through March 1968, the 6901st commander reported directly to HQ USAFSS. By the end of the first decade of 6901st SCG operations in Europe, the U.S. Defense Department was looking at ways to reduce intelligence gathering budgets while NSA was consolidating many of the military's second echelon analysis and reporting functions at Agency headquarters, Fort Meade, Maryland. Decisions were made to close the 6901st operations at Zweibriicken. With its mission absorbed by other organizations, primarily other USAFSS units and NSA, the 6901st SCO was inactivated on 31 March 1968.

During its stay at Zweibriicken, the 6901st Spec Comm Group detached teams to a few field stations in England and Germany for extended periods.

In 1956, the 6901st Special Communications Group at Landsberg activated Detachment 1, 6901st SCG at RAF Chicksands. Traffic analysts assigned to the 6950th Security Group who had been

performing second echelon analysis at Chicksands transferred into Det 1, 6901st SCG and relocated to Zweibriicken in late 1956. Detachment 1 of the 6901st was subsequently inactivated.

6901 Special Communications Group Zweibrucken, Germany 1956-1968

Detachment	Location	Period
Det 1	Chicksands, England,	1 Feb 1956-1 Dec 1956
Det 1	Baumholder, Germany,	1961-2Feb 1962
Det 1	Rothwesten, Germany,	2 Feb 1962-1 July 1962
Det 1	Munich, Germany,	21 Jan 1963-1 Jan 1966
Det 2	Frankfurt, Germany,	1 Aug-1963-1 Jul 1964
Det 2	Frankfurt, Germany,	1 Jul 1965-1 Jan 1966

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 7 Aug 2022
Updated:

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