

# 6910 SECURITY GROUP

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

6910 Security Group established and organized, 23 May 1951

Discontinued, 27 Jul 1951

Reestablished and organized, 28 Jul 1951

Discontinued, 1 Sep 1956

## STATIONS

Brooks AFB, TX, 23 May-27 Jul 1951

Wiesbaden AS, Germany, 28 Jul 1951

Landsberg AS, Germany, 18 May 1953

Rhein-Main AB, Germany, 1 Feb-1 Sep 1956

## ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force Security Service, 28 Jul 1951

6900 Security Wing, 1 Oct 1953-1 Sep 1956

## COMMANDERS

Col Dabney H. Maury, 23 May 1951

LTC Frank J. Grady [Acting], 27 Nov 1952

Col Robert H. Augustinus, 10 Jan 1953

Cpt W. P. Thompson, Dec 1953

LTC Frank J. Grady, May 1954

LTC N. T. Blanchette, 22 Jun 1955

LTC Don W. McKinney, 14 Jun 1956-31 Aug 1956

## HONORS

### Service Streamers

### Campaign Streamers

### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The USAFSS gained its first two units above squadron level, the 6910th Security Group (SG) at Brooks AFB, Tex., on 23 May and the 6920 SG on 1 September at Johnson AB, Japan. The 6910th moved to Germany later in July with its headquarters stationed at Wiesbaden and group operations stationed at Darmstadt. 1951

With war raging in Korea and threats of a Soviet invasion seemingly looming in West Germany, Air Force Security Service expedited the expansion of its signals intelligence capabilities in Europe and the Far East. On 23 May 1951, USAFSS activated the 6910th Security Group at Brooks AFB, Texas—the command's first operational group-level organization. Struggling to staff the 6910th and to put together a management plan for USAFSS operations in Europe, the command rushed the 6910th SG to Germany.

On 28 Jul '51, Colonel Mawy, Major Chester A. Murgatroyd, Capt. Raymond W. Pahutka and I took the 6910/h to Wiesbaden, which at that time was the headquarters of USAFE. The city and its bases were severely overcrowded and it was necessary to split the group, with Headquarters at # 7 Beethovenstrasse in Wiesbaden and Operations at Darmstadt. The group was then deactivated at Brooks and reactivated at Wiesbaden, with an Operating Location at Darmstadt.

The headquarters building in Wiesbaden was a fabulous old three-story mansion located near downtown. It looked like a movie set, with a cathedral entry, a marble fireplace, a grand staircase and a sunken bathtub. The city itself would make everyone's list of the best places. It had been a resort for centuries and had sustained very little war damage. The location is excellent, with swift access to the rest of central Europe.

It would have been a great assignment except for the shortage of the most basic military facilities and services. We had no vehicles and no military bus service. Supplies of any kind were rare and we mostly bought our own. Airmen were initially billeted at Camp Fieri, a scruffy little artillery Kaserne in the boondocks. The lack of family housing for married 6910th personnel also posed severe problems.

Many new arrivals had to accept remote family quarters in liavaria and see their families via weekend flights known as Hubby Hops. Remotely-housed wives were forbidden to enter Wiesbaden but it was rumored that a wife or two were hanging around the BOQ posing as Schatzies [girlfriends], surely the first time for that particular deception.

The 6910th Security Group Headquarters managed the intelligence production cycle in Wiesbaden while its analysts carried out the group's traffic exploitation mission in Darmstadt. According to Carlton, the 6910th activities at multiple locations created much confusion back at USAFSS Headquarters in Texas.

The transfer of the 6910th Security Group from Texas to Germany happened with such haste that original orders had to be cancelled. Finally, the group commander and his staff were appropriately designated in special orders dated 10 September 1951.

When the 6910th deployed to Germany in 1951, the entire organization—headquarters and operations—was to be located at Wiesbaden, but lack of adequate space in Wiesbaden caused a change of plans. As explained by Bill Carlton, who helped create the original plan, a cadre of 2nd RSM analysts were to be transferred from Darmstadt to Wiesbaden, forming the nucleus of 6910 Operations. A severe space crunch in Wiesbaden resulted in splitting the 6910th into Group Headquarters in Wiesbaden and 6910th Operations co-located with the 2 RSM at Ernst Ludwig Kaserne in Darmstadt. The cadre of 2nd RSM analysts transferred in place to the 6910th SG, and new 6910th analysts were diverted from Wiesbaden to Darmstadt.

Likewise, the 6910th SG Headquarters Squadron Section was activated at Darmstadt instead of Wiesbaden since the 6910th operational mission and most of its personnel were being assigned to Darmstadt. Maj. Louis R. Lammie, who had been commander of the USAFSS HQ Squadron Section at Brooks AFB, became commander of the 6910th HQ Sqdn Section at Darmstadt. Retired USAFSS Col. Duane E. Russell discussed 6910th Darmstadt Operations in 1999.

In early 1953, Col. Maury returned to the United States and retirement, replaced by Col. Robert H. Augustinus as 6910 Security Group Commander.

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