

6912 ELECTRONIC SECURITY GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

6912 Radio Squadron, Mobile constituted and activated, 8 May 1955
Redesignated 6912 Security Squadron, 1 Jul 1963
Redesignated 6912 Electronic Security Group, 1 Aug 1979
Inactivated, 15 Jul 1988

STATIONS

Landsberg AB, West Germany, 8 May 1955
Bingen Kaserne, West Germany, 30 Jul 1955
Templehof Central Airport, West Germany, 1 Jul 1959-15 Jul 1988

ASSIGNMENTS

6910 Security Group, 8 May 1955
6910 Radio Group, Mobile, 1 Sep 1956
6910 Security Wing, 1 Jul 1962
European Security Region, 31 Jan 1970
United States Air Force Security Service, 30 Jun 1972
Electronic Security, Europe (later European Electronic Security Division), 30 Sep 1980-15 Jul 1988

COMMANDERS

Col Robert Reed, 1954-56

Lt Col Ed Allen, 1956-58

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1975-30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1979-30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984

EMBLEM



Approved, 21 Oct 1980

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 6912th RSM moved to Bingen am Rhein in June and July 1955. A group remained in Landsberg as Det. 1 and later moved to Landshut. The main body of Operations moved in July. The Squadron moved into the Operations site at Dromersheim overlooking the Nahe Valley about 16 Kms from Bingen. The Operations site was on a hill above the valley at the top of some vineyards. The antenna farm was in a field of wheat and other grains, possibly turnips, too.

Intercept operations took place in vans backed up to a cinder block building. The site was rather cramped on the side of the hill. The perimeter fence was just above the top row of grape vines. It took professionals to get the vans into the area; but many of us were given a short course on

driving trucks to pull the vans. It was problematic whether or not the “mobile” in the unit's name could be effected with selected airmen driving those vans away from the building, out through the gate, and down the narrow and winding hillside and then negotiate the narrow, twisting streets of Dromersheim.

The 6912th did go MOBILE. Early in 1957, probably in the early spring, operations were moved to Kuberg Hill above Bad Kreuznach. The road up the hill to the Dromersheim site was badly in need of repair. While at Bingen/Dromersheim, the 6912th had a Detachment at Hof. There was also a Detachment for COMSEC (Communications Security) at Lindsay AB, Wiesbaden.

By 1959, the Landshut Detachment had been assigned to the 6910 th and moved to Sembach AFB. The 6912 th was moved from Bingen to Berlin. The 6912 th Radio Squadron (Mobile) became the 6912 th Security Squadron in July 1963, the 6912 Electronic Security Squadron in 1979 and one year later the 6912 Electronic Security Group.

The command has been through several iterations from USAFSS to ESC (Electronic Security Command) to AIA (Air Intelligence Agency) to a new organization under the Air Combat Command. The Command, as an independent organization, no longer exists but is headquartered on Security Hill, (originally part of Kelly AFB now closed) and is logistically attached to Lackland AFB.

U.S. Air Force units—including all USAFSS organizations— evacuated Landsberg Air Base in the 1955-56 period, returning the base to German control for use as a West German Air Force pilot training base. The 6912th Radio Squadron Mobile became the first USAFSS unit to leave Landsberg in the summer of 1955.

The 6912th RSM relocated to Bingen in June-July 1955, leaving behind on an interim basis a newly created Detachment 1, 6912th RSM at Landsberg Air Base. Plans for the move were well underway when SSgt. Paul Morgan arrived in the squadron on 15 June. Assigned as the chief clerk in Operations, his full-time job over the next few weeks involved transporting squadron property to the unit's new facilities in the Bingen area. Reporting to the motor pool where he obtained a military drivers license for, among other vehicles, the deuce-and-a-half (6 x 6) truck, Morgan participated in the convoys between Landsberg and Bingen that supported the 6912th relocation—altogether five or six trips.

Relocation of the 6912th Radio Squadron Mobile to Bingen necessitated reorganization of the squadron's detached units. The 6912th RSM deactivated Det 1, 6912th RSM at Linz, Austria, concurrently activating Det 1, 6912th RSM at Landsberg—probably hi July 1955. In turn, the squadron's unit in Linz, Austria, became Operating Location 1 (OL-1) of Det 1, 6912th RSM. Detachment 1 of the 6912th represented the squadron in USAFSS matters at Landsberg until the following year when the 6912th permanently moved its Det 1 from Landsberg to Landshut, Germany.

Humbert D. Kincaid was a member of an advance party that deployed to Landshut in the spring of 1956 to set up the Det 1, 6912th RSM operations site. The advance party spent "a few months" at

Landshut—preparing for the transfer of the unit mission—before Kincaid returned to Landsberg to "help bring H-I vans over when we were ready to set up Ops."

In July 1956, Detachment 1, 6912th RSM traveled in convoys (primarily 6x6 trucks and tractor-towed H-I vans) transporting the detachment's equipment and personnel from Landsberg to Landshut. Fifty-seven airmen and one officer (Capt. Edward E. Frisa, who was the Det 1 commander) made the move between 14 and 19 July.

while his comrades bounced around sitting on wooden benches under a canvas tarp in the back of the truck. Henry Miller-Jones, another 6912th Bingen veteran, jokes about taking windowsills off local houses at 06:45 a.m. while navigating a 6 x 6 through the twisty, hilly roads of Dromersheim and other villages enroute to Operations. Cobblestone streets and other perilous driving conditions notwithstanding, no serious accidents are known to have occurred on the Bingen-to-Dromersheim grand prix circuit.

The 6912th Radio Squadron Mobile continued signals intelligence operations at Bingen-Dromersheim through 30 June 1959, when the 6900th Security Wing deactivated its unit in Bingen. The shutdown of 6912th RSM operations in Bingen was part of a reorganization of Air Force Security Service activities in Europe. To reduce overhead operating costs while giving up little if any mission effectiveness, Air Force Security Service spread the resources and SIGINT mission from its Bingen squadron among other USAFSS units in Germany.

Former 6912th traffic analyst and presently retired National Security Agency SIGINT professional James Kimmett transferred to the 691011 Radio Group Mobile at Sembach in the weeks leading up to the squadron shutdown in Bingen. He remembers that many of the squadron's linguists relocated to Berlin, while most of the Morse intercept operators joined USAFSS units at Sembach and Darmstadt. He also recalls that some of the H-I intercept vans moved to Sembach, with others probably ending up at Darmstadt.

On 1 July 1959, 6912th Radio Squadron Mobile was activated at Berlin Tempelhof Central Airport. This was not a direct transfer of the 6912th RSM from Bingen to Berlin. Rather, the new 6912th assumed responsibility for the existing resources and mission of Tempelhof-based Detachment 1, 6910th Radio Squadron Mobile, and Det 1, 6910th RGM was deactivated.

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