

## 6913 ELECTRONIC SECURITY SQUADRON



### MISSION

The 6913 ESS provides rapid radio relay, secure communications and command, control and communications countermeasures support to the United States and allied forces. Unit members develop and apply techniques and materials designed to ensure that friendly command and control communications are secure and protected from enemy countermeasures. The unit also advises U.S. and allied commanders concerning procedures and techniques which could be used to counter enemy command and control communications.

### LINEAGE

6913 Security Squadron designated and activated, 1 Jul 1974  
Redesignated 6913 Electronic Security Squadron, 1 Aug 1979  
Inactivated, 31 Mar 1991

### STATIONS

Eckstein, Germany, 1 Jul 1974  
Augsburg, Germany, 1 Aug 1979-31 Mar 1991

### ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force Security Service (later, Electronic Security Command), 1 Jul 1974  
6911 Electronic Security Group, 2 Aug 1980  
6910 Electronic Security Wing, 1 Jul 1981  
691 Electronic Security Wing, 15 Jul 1988-31 Mar 1991

### COMMANDERS

Maj Harold J. Businger, 1 Jul 1974

Maj John J. Reid, 15 Apr 1975  
Maj Anthon F. Jenson, 7 Jul 1978  
Maj Neil R. Walters, 27 May 1981  
Lt Col Carlos D. Washburn, 3 May 1983  
Lt Col Roger D. Robinson, 21 Jun 9185  
Lt Col Lynn W. Wakefield, 12 Oct 1988

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990

## **EMBLEM**

On a yellow disc within a blue band an orange horizontal lightning bolt supporting a black cat detailed yellow. Attached above the disc a blank red scroll edged black. Attached below the disc a red scroll edged black and inscribed "READY TO FIGHT" in white letters. (Approved, 4 Dec 1980)

## **MOTTO**

Ready to Fight

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 6913th Electronic Security Squadron is located in Augsburg, Germany, about 35 miles west of Munich. It is subordinate to the 691st Electronic Security Wing, Lindsey Air Station, Germany; HQ European Electronic Security Division, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and HQ Electronic Security Command, Kelly AFB, Texas.

The unit has more than 140 officers and airmen assigned.

Key elements of the "Black Cat" squadron's mission are readiness and flexibility. The 6913th is a tenant unit of the United States Army Europe. Unit members at the fixed site on Gablingen Kaserne work alongside Army personnel. The unit plays an important role in meeting national and theater requirements in developing the Air Force's command, control and communications countermeasures potential in Europe.

Unit dormitory facilities and command section offices are located on Flak Kaserne. Although the Augsburg military community has 2,100 family housing units for members in grades E-4 and

above with more than two years service. A short wait for government and economy housing may be experienced. Government furniture and appliances are available to help those living on the economy or in government quarters. Economy housing prices range from \$200 to \$600 per month.

The unit offers many opportunities in intramural sports. Both men and women can participate in volleyball, basketball, soft ball, bowling and golf. The unit also fields men's teams in soccer and flag football. In addition, there are two gymnasiums with weight facilities, racquetball courts and saunas.

In 1984 General Marks, the ESC Commander, directed a concerted effort to investigate various strategies to reposition and / or realign the command's tactical assets to better support exercise and wartime taskings. As a result of this effort, a proposal to consolidate two mobile ESC assets, the 6913 ESS, at Flak Kaserne, Augsburg, Germany, and the 6918 ESS at the Mehlingen annex of Sembach AB, Germany. On 15 April 1985, General Marks formally proposed this initiative to USAFE, and on 19 July the proposal was accepted and approved. The new combined unit was to be called the 6914 ESS. The 6918 ESS vacated its Sembach AB location on 1 October 1986, set up at Mehlingen Annex and was renamed the 6914 ESS. The move of the 6913 ESS from Augsburg, Germany to the Mehlingen annex occurred in April 1987. 1986

On 13 March, the command ended more than 17 years of operations at Augsburg, Germany, by inactivating the 6913 ESS. The unit provided rapid radio relay, secure communications and command, control and communications countermeasures support to U.S. and allied forces during its years of operations. 1991

Fixed operations for USAFSS improved significantly when the first AN/ FLR-9 "Elephant Cage" antennas reached operational status in 1964 with the 6950 SS at RAF Chicksands, England, and the 6917 SS, San Vito Air Station (AS), Italy. Other "Elephant Cages" entered service throughout the 1960s, including the operational antennas with the 6922 SS at Clark AB, the Philippines, the 6981 SS at Elmendorf AMC Alaska, the 6920 SS, Misawa AB, Japan, the 6933 SS, Karamursel AS, Turkey, and the 6913 SS at Augsburg, Germany. Other important USAFSS (and later ESC) field sites included Iraklion AS, Crete, Wakkanai AS, Japan and Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan. The introduction of several high technology systems like CATS, STRAWHAT and TEBO at USAFSS ground sites during this time further automated many time and labor intensive unit field operations.

In 1971, the joint Eckstein operations compound consisted of one large Quonset hut and a few H-I vans. The following year, the vans were grouped around the Quonset hut, and a roof and hallway structure enclosed the work area. Operations personnel could move from one office to another without going outside.

Ops at Rimbach was in the Quonset hut. A very small place with five racks along one wall, the search rack at a right angle on the back wall of the hut, a door, then the analysts' desk, then two MOD 28"s for OPSCOMMUSE, then the Czech analyst desk. The Russian analyst desk was right in the middle of the floor between the walls. The ASA also had some non-Morse (printer) intercept

positions and analyst desks in vans outside the Quonset hut. Although in close quarters, the ASA and USAFSS teams operated independently against their separate targets.

Lacking running water on the mountain, "The Hill," as the Ops site was called, was indeed a primitive facility. Water for coffee and hand washing had to be hauled to the site, and the "comfort facilities" were not very comfortable. There was a single, two-hole outhouse and a standup "piss tube" in a three-sided phone booth-like structure. Ironically, ASA built a small 8-10 person barracks and added a 10,000 gallon water storage tank, septic system and flush toilets at Eckstein towards the end when intercept operations on the mountain was being transferred to Augsburg.

Modernization came to Eckstein in 1974 when ASA transformed the SIGINT site into a La Faire Vite remotely operated facility. Using a new microwave tower for remote control of antennas, operators located 265 km away at Field Station Augsburg performed the intercept mission previously conducted at Eckstein. During a switchover in 1976 while debugging the La Faire Vite system, both old and new operations occurred at the site. Ultimately, Eckstein became an antenna site maintained by maintenance technicians who doubled as security guards.

Even before Det 4, 6911th ESG arrived in Augsburg, Electronic Security Command managers began investigating the consolidation of Det 4 and the 6913th ESS into a single squadron to reduce overhead costs. Flak Kaserne had adequate facilities to accommodate both ESC units. In June 1981, Maj. Jensen relocated the 6913th headquarters and billeting from Sheridan to Flak Kaserne—colocating the 6913th with Det 4 of the 6911th.

Concurrent with the move of the 6913th to Flak Kaserne, Det 4, 6911th was inactivated. The 6913th absorbed the detachment's resources, creating two separate missions for the squadron. It continued fixed operations at Field Station Augsburg (Gablingen Kaserne), while the unit's newly acquired mobile section staged its operations from Flak Kaserne. According to Roger Smith (Chief of Stan/Eval), mobile operations was housed in two buildings within a fenced compound that also provided space for its S-141 shelters. Mobile ops had an antenna field in a parking lot across from the barracks that became the command section for the 6913th and billets for its troops.

Mobilizers for the S-141 huts, deuce-and-a-half trucks, wreckers and other deployment equipment were parked elsewhere on Flak and generally used only during deployments. The mobile ops huts included an S&W Central/Comfy Shield system, a TSC-57 comms hut and two-three intercept shelters, plus a couple of huts for field analysis/office space. The airmen assigned to mobile operations deployed often, training for contingency operations in the field and participating in exercises.

On 13 March 1991, the command ended over 17 years of operations at Augsburg, Germany, with the inactivation of the 6913th ESS. During its history, the unit provided rapid radio relay, secure communications and command, control and communications countermeasures support to U.S. and allied forces.

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