

6923 SECURITY SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

6923 Radio Squadron, Mobile organized, 1 Jul 1962

Redesignated 6923 Security Squadron, 1 Jul 1963

Discontinued, 15 Aug 1963

STATIONS

Tan Son Nhut Afd, South Vietnam, 1 Jul 1962-15 Aug 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

6922 Radio Group, Mobile, (6922 Security Wing) 1 Jul 1962

6925 Radio Group, Mobile (later, 6925 Security Group), 1 Oct 1962-15 Aug 1963

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Vietnam Advisory

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Oct 1962-15 Aug 1963

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In July 1962, the 6922nd Radio Group Mobile, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, activated the 6923rd Radio Squadron Mobile at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam. As Security Service's first squadron-level unit on the Indochinese peninsula, the 6923rd RSM had an intercept mission in addition to managing subordinate detachments at Da Nang AB, RVN, and Bangkok, Thailand.

On 15 August 1963, the 6925th Security Group inactivated 6923rd Security Squadron at Tan Son Nhut and relocated its resources to Da Nang Air Base.

Vietnamese linguist Fred L. Harmor Jr. and Chinese linguist William David "Dave" Puntney were among the airmen who transferred to Da Nang when 6923rd Security Squadron deactivated at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. Harmor learned Vietnamese in the first Vietnamese class taught at the National Security Agency, July '62-March '63.²⁸⁴ Having served on Okinawa and Taiwan prior to Tan Son Nhut, SSgt. Puntney participated in the shipment of squadron equipment to Da Nang on the LST. Both Harmor and Puntney transferred to a newly activated site on Monkey Mountain soon after arriving at Da Nang. Operations began on Monkey Mountain as a site survey

In early 1963, Air Force Security Service selected one of the tallest peaks on Son Tra Peninsula—2,275 feet above sea level—as a potential location for a line-of-sight intercept station on the Vietnamese coast overlooking the Gulf of Tonkin. Dubbed "Monkey Mountain" by the G.I.'s in Vietnam, the Son Tra summit is located a few miles northeast of Da Nang and some 150 miles southwest of Hainan Island, China; see earlier map for points of interest in Indochina.

The USAFSS involvement in Vietnam began when HQs Pacific Air Forces asked the service on 20 December 1961 to set up an Air Force Special Security Office and related intelligence functions at Tan Son Nhut Airport near Saigon. In early 1962, the Air Staff then made plans to provide intelligence by tasking USAFSS resources and personnel to support Pacific Air Forces in Southeast Asia. By late 1962, USAFSS' 6923 RSM and three subordinate detachments, located in Vietnam and Thailand, were serving national intelligence customers and providing tactical support for an increasing number of military units operating in the Southeast Asian theater.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 16 Sep 2022
Updated:

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