

# 6988 SECURITY SQUADRON

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

6988 Security Flight Organized and activated, 1 Oct 1958  
Redesignated 6988 Radio Squadron, Mobile, 1 Feb 1959  
Redesignated 6988 Security Squadron, 1 Jul 1963  
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1972

## STATIONS

Fuchu AS, Japan, 1 Oct 1958  
Yokota AB, Japan, 1 Feb 1963-30 Jun 1972

## ASSIGNMENTS

6920 Security Wing, 1 Oct 1958  
6921 Security Wing, 1 Sep 1962  
Pacific Security Region, 31 Mar 1970-30 Jun 1972

## COMMANDERS

Cpt Joseph H. Ayres, 1 Oct 1958-17 Nov 1959  
Lt Col Kenneth B. Packer, 18 Nov 1959-6 Sep 1962  
Lt Col Roy H. Sheehan, 7 Sep 1962-1 Jul 1963  
Lt Col Roy H. Sheehan, 1 Jul 1963-22 Aug 1965  
Lt Col Stacy E. Brown, 23 Aug 1965-13 Sep 1968  
Lt Col Thomas R. Richardson, Jr., 14 Sep 1968-1 Feb 1972  
Lt Col J. Dibaggio, 2 Feb 1972-30 Jun 1972

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

23 Jan 1968-30 Aug 1968

1 Sep 1969-30 Jun 1970

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Apr 1966-31 Oct 1968

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The second half of 1967 saw the 6988th Security Squadron handing off USAFSS airborne recon responsibilities in Southeast Asia to the 6990th Security Squadron. Two years earlier when the Air Force contracted for delivery of six new RC-135M aircraft, the plan had been for the -135's to replace the C-130B-II ACRP's at Yokota. Aboard the RC-135M's, the 6988th would continue as the sole Security Service airborne recon unit in the Far East.

A cadre of NCO's and airmen (primarily Vietnamese, Chinese and Russian linguists, Morse operators and airborne maintenance technicians), who transferred from the 6988th to the 6990th in August 1967, formed the nucleus of airborne Security Service operations at Kadena. Meanwhile, the 6988th Security Squadron had been supporting two C-130 ACRP missions daily from Da Nang since September 1964. The ACRP front-end crews operated from Bangkok (and later Ubon), Thailand, making intermediate stops at Da Nang to pick up and drop off USAFSS airborne intercept operators until late 1965 when C-130B-II Commando Lance missions began staging from Da Nang.

An enemy rocket attack that destroyed ten aircraft and damaged several others at Da Nang on 15 July 1967 did not harm the four Commando Lance C-130's on the ramp; however, the incident put an end to bedding them down at Da Nang. On 19 July, Seventh Air Force ordered the ACRP's relocated to Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. By 21 July, the four C-130 ACRP's were in place at Cam Ranh Bay, but Security Service aircrews and ground processing facilities remained at Da Nang.

The 6988th Security Squadron manned its last Commando Lance mission on 31 December 1967, and that crew returned home to Yokota on 2 January 1968. Commando Lance missions continued staging from Cam Ranh Bay, but except for maintenance technicians and a few linguists on loan to the 6990th Security Squadron for a brief period, the 6988th had no further involvement in the Vietnam War. Bowing to severe Department of Defense budget cuts in 1972, the 6988th ceased operations on 30 June 1972.

Concurrently, projects associated with the 6988 SS, such as Bench Royal and Rivet Gym manning for College Eye, were discontinued, and the remaining Combat Dawn mission transferred to the

6903 SS at Osan AB, Korea.

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