

AEROSPACE CARTOGRAPHIC AND GEODETIC SERVICE



MISSION

Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service is assigned the task of gathering geodetic data for the cartographic needs of the Air Force and Army. In addition, ACGS conducts ground surveys and gravity-measuring activities at missile sites, radar installations, and satellite tracking stations.

LINEAGE

1370th Photomapping Group Designated, 5 Apr 1954

Activated, Jul 1954

Redesignated 1370th Photomapping Wing, 1 Jan 1960

Redesignated Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service, 8 Oct 1968

Inactivated, 30 June 1972

STATIONS

Palm Beach AFB, FL, Jul 1954

Turner AFB, GA Feb 1959

Forbes AFB, KS 1966

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

RC-45

RB-50

RC-130

COMMANDERS

Col George W. Humbrecht
Col Kendall S. Young, 1 Jul 1964
Col Thomas K. Potter, 19 Jun 1965
Col John G. Napier, 6 Aug 1965
Col Frederick H. Schmitz, 8 Jun 1967
Col Theodore P. Tatum, 30 Jun 1967
Col Leon Tannenbaum, 1 Oct 1970

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

Jun 1953-Aug 1956

1 Sep 1956-1 Jul 1959

1 Jul 1964-30 Jun 1966

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 1370th Photo Mapping Wing had sole responsibility for the Air Force's aerial mapping photography and electronic surveying. The three-fold mission included worldwide precision photo-mapping, electronic controlled photo-mapping, and aerial electronic geodetic surveys. In the age of high speed and largely automatic flight and increasing importance of missiles, the

size and shape of the earth and the exact location of points on its surface are of great national significance.

Mission (air force regulation 23-21, 25 apr 66): produce aerospace charts and related products, (astronautical, extra-terrestrial and aeronautical charts, air target materials, flight information publications, evaluated information on air facilities, flight control aids and provide related cartographic/geodetic service), operate and maintain united states air force central still photographic library, and perform normal base support function at saint louis mo.

Supported army mapping service in producing large scale maps of Cambodia. Completed printing requirements for department of defense evasion charts for southeast Asia. Directed to prepare gnomonic tracking chart for portion of southeast Asia for national security agency. Completed high priority project to produce graphics for briefing books in support of joint chiefs of staff, office of special assistant for counterinsurgency and special activities. Special small aeronautic video charts were completed for 1867 communications squadron radar air traffic control facility at Tan Son Nhut airfield, Saigon, Vietnam.

Published aeronautical chart and information center technical report 99, inflight effect of anomalous gravity on minuteman trajectories. Supported Gemini 8 and Gemini 9 and prepared to support Gemini 10 spaceflight missions. Produced Apollo mission chart for Apollo missions. Prepared and submitted plans for implementing USAF portion of DoD concept of operations for reduction of lunar orbiter photography for national aeronautics and space administration.

The 1370th got the airborne data, which is the raw material for the fantastically accurate map, that these requirements demanded. Primary mission flying was accomplished by either the 1371st, with their RB-50s (later replaced by RC-135), or the 1375th, with their RC-130s. The 1371st also furnished flying personnel for the C-54s, C-118, C-47, CH-21s, CH-3s, and HH-43s used as cargo carriers.

The Wing was organized into seven squadrons, one operation location, and several aerial survey teams. The more than 1,500 assigned personnel based in Albany, Georgia spent approximately half of each year deployed to project locations all over the world.



Col George W. Humbrecht

The 1370th Photo Mapping Wing moved from Turner AFB, GA to Forbes AFB, KS in May 1966. It's commander, Col. Ted Tatum, had previously headed the USAF's Air Rescue and Recovery Service. Equipped with big four-jet Boeing RC-135s, the 1370th had a global mission: Triangulating on ground transmitters manned by small parties of airmen, the planes took high-resolution strip photos from nearly five miles up and used them to produce history's most accurate maps. In October 1968 the wing was redesignated the Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service. It remained at Forbes until 1973 and was the last major unit to leave the base.

Aerial Survey Teams were the "Work Horses" of the 1370th Photo-Mapping Wing. They were composite units of personnel and equipment that went into the field in areas throughout the world and functioned as a complete team accomplishing aerial photo-mapping and surveying. This is where the helicopters performed their main duty, that of installing, removing, then reinstalling at another location, the personnel and equipment for the ground HIRAN radar stations in remote locations.

Communication and electronics support and personnel for the HIRAN ground stations were furnished by the 1374th, while the 1373rd furnished the photographic processing, evaluation, geodetic computations and technical planning for aerial surveying.

All this equipment and aircraft used must be maintained and this was done by the personnel of the 1376th CAMRON (After 1963 as 1370th OMS & FMS) under the supervision of the chief of maintenance.

In 1973 the mapping operations was turned over to the Defense Mapping Agency.

The helicopters were used mainly in a support capacity, however in most cases the remote ground stations could not have been installed or maintained without them.

Blue ribbon defense panel, chaired by Mr. Gilbert W. Fitzhugh, recommended Department of Defense (DoD) consolidate all agencies engaged in mapping, charting, and geodesy, into single DoD agency. On 1 Jan 72, President Richard M. Nixon ordered establishment of Defense Mapping Agency (DMA). On 30 Jun 72, ACGS was inactivated and its manpower and resources redistributed except for 1 Geodetic Survey Squadron which consolidated under DMA and 1 Aerial Cartographic and Geodetic Squadron which was reassigned under MAC's 9 Weather Reconnaissance Wing.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *1370 Photo-Mapping Wing, Turner AFB, 1961*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. 1961.