

AIR FORCE CAMBRIDGE RESEARCH LABORATORY

MISSION

The Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories conduct and sponsor research in the physical sciences, primarily radio physics, gaseous and plasma physics, solid state electronics, and quantum electronics; all the environmental sciences; and the mathematical sciences, primarily applied mathematics and information studies. It also performs exploratory development programs in environment and the aerospace environment. Both programs, research and exploratory development, are vital contributors to the overall Office of Aerospace Research program.

Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory make up the leading Air Force center for research in the environmental and physical sciences. This large facility, employing about 1,100 people, of whom about 600 are scientific personnel, combines a large and varied in-house research program with a vigorous contractual program of research in the broad areas of electronics and geophysics.

The Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories conduct and sponsor a diversity of research and exploratory development programs throughout the free world. In addition, they maintain many field sites for work in communications, propagation, weather observation, and radar and radio astronomy. Among these field sites are the Sacramento Peak Observatory at Sunspot, N. Mex., and the Balloon Instrumentation Branch at Holloman Air Force Base, N. Mex.

LINEAGE

Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratory

STATIONS

Hanscom, MA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Harvey D. Davidson, 1 Jul 1951

Maj Gen James F. Phillips, 28 Aug 1951

Maj Gen Raymond C. Maude, 18 Mar 1953

Maj Gen William M. Morgan, 22 Jul 1956
Col Elmer W. Richardson, 1 Nov 1958

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Sept 20 1945 The Air Technical Services Command of the Army Air Forces created Field Station, a predecessor of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (AFCRL). Its headquarters was at 224-31 Albany St., Cambridge MA, next door to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

July 5 1949 The Cambridge Field Station was redesignated the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories (AFCRL).

AFCRL demonstrated its technology for transmitting radar data to a computer. Aircraft echoes picked up by the MEW radar at Hanscom Field were sent over phone lines back to the Barta Building at MIT where they were processed and displayed on the Whirlwind computer's cathode ray screen. 1950

June 28 The Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories became part of a new Air Force Cambridge Research Center (AFCRC.) The 6520th Air Base Group was organized and assigned to AFCRC. 1951

May 2 The Air Force Cambridge Research Center (AFCRC) was dissolved. Its Geophysics and Electronics Directorates were reassigned to the new Air Force Research Division (AFRD) (established on 15 January 1960) and designated Detachment 2, Headquarters AFRD. For administrative and logistic support, Detachment 2 AFRD, was attached to AFCCDD, in effect becoming a tenant at Hanscom Field. 1960

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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