

GROUND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING INSTALLATIONS AGENCY



MISSION

Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency (GEEIA) was the Air Force component that was responsible for the engineering and installation of fixed, ground-based, electronics systems throughout the USAF during the 1960s. This included many Aircraft Control & Warning AC&W sites.

GEEIA's purpose was to provide centralized management of worldwide EI resources. As a subordinate agency the Air Materiel Command, GEEIA was headquartered at Griffiss AFB, NY, where the Rome Air Materiel Area already handled such functions as scheme (now project) review, establishing engineering standards, and warehousing scheme materiel. GEEIA was divided into five geographic regions, three in the United States, one in Europe, and the other in the Pacific. Each region had its own headquarters and several subordinate installation squadrons.

GEEIA was composed of AF electronics, cable and construction troops, and support functions such as management, engineering, drafting, and supply. GEEIA was equipped with the manpower and equipment for worldwide tasking.

When a radar site was constructed and new radar equipment was to be installed, the equipment manufacturer was usually tasked as part of their original sales contract to install it. GEEIA was responsible for the coordination and oversight of the overall project and GEEIA personnel usually installed the smaller systems associated with such a project; i.e. communication radios and antennas, telephones, some ops darkroom equipment, and related systems. If used or overhauled equipment was provided by the AF equipment depot for installation at the new site and this was often the case when a dismantled site was reinstalled

somewhere else, GEEIA was usually the installing workforce. GEEIA also performed heavy repairs, modifications, replacements and removals.

LINEAGE

Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency

STATIONS

Griffiss AFB, NY

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col R. N. Cordall, #1967 (acting)

Col John W. Hope, 15 Jun 1958

Col Charles U. Brombach, 10 Aug 1958

Brig Gen Haskell E. Neal, 10 Mar 1959

Col George G. Getz (interim), 1-6 Jun 1964

Brig Gen Stephen D. McElroy, 10 Jun 1964

Maj Gen Franklin A. Nichols, 20 Nov 1967

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Original GEEIA Emblem - Not Approved by HQ



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Army Signal Corps furnished communications and limited electronics support during World War II, but most of it was tactically oriented. The Army's Plant Engineering Agency did the limited amount of installation engineering needed since there were no massive or complex permanent installations involved. Often The Air Force found it necessary to perform its own installation, using its own personnel for the purpose. The Air Force gave communications and electronics responsibility, along with its limited resources, to the Major Commands. During 1950, AACS was given full responsibility for worldwide installation and maintenance of communications facilities. Service improved under this system, but management control continued to suffer. There was little interchange on communications between commands other than that occasionally directed by Air Staff. As a result, there was little effort to assure standardization and eliminate duplication of systems. There were 24 Air Force organizations, each with its own communications systems. When later attempts were made to join these systems together, extensive engineering was required because there were fundamental differences which prevented interface. Each organization was beset with the problems of correlating the problems of each facility: construction, power, installation tools and machinery, personnel, funds, operational support, monitoring, as well as actually doing the installation. This decentralized method proved both uneconomical and unsuccessful.

It was obvious that a single agency was needed to manage all Air Force engineering and installation. General Lemay, Vice Chief of Staff, picked the Air Materiel Command over AACS to command the new agency. The Ground Electronic Engineering Installation Agency was the result. Established in June 1958, this military construction organization began full-scale operations in July 1959.

GEEIA supported 300 major air bases and 3,000 off-base sites around the world. Organized into Regions and Squadrons based at strategic location, it ensured maximum support in planning, programming, engineering, and installing fixed ground communications facilities at a minimum cost. GEEIA consolidated all the Air Force's technical skills and set priorities. Most importantly, it ensured that the installed systems were technically compatible with related systems and capable of interfacing with them. GEEIA provided centralized management of its decentralized units. Mainly a field organization, about 1,400 of its 5,700 personnel were engineers who traveled from site to site in the accomplishment of their tasks.

Actions taken by the Air Force to reduce cost and manpower resulted in, among other projects, the consolidation of the Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency with Air Force Communications Service in April 1970. Air Force Communications Service would furnish, manage, operate and maintain communications-electronics, meteorological, and air traffic control equipment, and also engineer and install the equipment and facilities.

With the consolidation of GEEIA into Air Force Communications Service was the need for a

different base to accommodate the expanded headquarters. Facilities at Scott AFB, IL, where Headquarters AFCS then resided, were saturated, leaving no room for expansion. Consequently, the headquarters moved to Richards-Gebaur AFB, MO. The short move from Scott AFB to Richards-Gebaur AFB took place in the summer of 1970, with the official assumption of command taking place on 15 Jul 1970.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 16 Nov 2022
Updated:

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