

## AIR FORCE OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS



### MISSION

Deliver special investigations and services to protect Air Force and DOD people, operations, and interests  
Identify and resolve crime that threatens Air Force readiness or good order and discipline  
Detect and provide early warning of worldwide threats to the Air Force  
Combat threats to Air Force information systems and technologies  
Detect and defeat fraud impacting Air Force acquisitions and base level capabilities  
Serve as DOD's executive agent for Defense Cyber Crime Center

To Identify, exploit and neutralize criminal, terrorist and intelligence threats to the Air Force, Department of Defense and U.S. Government.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations has been the Air Force's major investigative service since Aug.1, 1948. The agency reports to the Inspector General, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

OSI provides professional investigative service to commanders of all Air Force activities. Its primary responsibilities are criminal investigations and counterintelligence services.

Develop and retain a force capable of meeting Air Force needs;  
Detect and provide early warning of worldwide threats to the Air Force;  
Identify and resolve crime impacting Air Force readiness or good order and discipline;  
Combat threats to Air Force information systems and technologies; and  
Defeat and deter fraud in the acquisition of Air Force prioritized weapons systems.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations provides professional investigative service to

commanders of all Air Force activities. AFOSI identifies, investigates and neutralizes criminal, terrorist, and espionage threats to Air Force and Department of Defense personnel and resources.

The Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), headquartered in Washington, D. C., has more than 1,800 special agents and support people assigned to thirty districts and 125 detachments and operating locations throughout the world. On request, they assist any USAF commander in dealing with fraudulent, counterintelligence, or criminal activities. The commander then takes the action he deems necessary.

**Threat detection.** AFOSI manages offensive and defensive activities to detect, counter and destroy the effectiveness of hostile intelligence services and terrorist groups that target the Air Force. These efforts include investigating the crimes of espionage, terrorism, technology transfer and computer infiltration. This mission aspect also includes providing personal protection to senior Air Force leaders and other officials, as well as supervising an extensive antiterrorism program in geographic areas of heightened terrorist activity.

**Criminal Investigations.** The vast majority of AFOSI's investigative activities pertain to felony crimes including murder, robbery, rape, assault, major burglaries, drug use and trafficking, sex offenses, arson, compromise of Air Force test materials, black market activities, and other criminal activities.

**Economic crime investigations.** A significant amount of AFOSI investigative resources are assigned to fraud (or economic crime) investigations. These include violations of the public trust involving Air Force contracting matters, appropriated and nonappropriated funds activities, computer systems, pay and allowance matters, environmental matters, acquiring and disposing of Air Force property, and major administrative irregularities. AFOSI uses fraud surveys to determine the existence, location and extent of fraud in Air Force operations or programs. It also provides briefings to base and command-level resource managers to help identify and prevent fraud involving Air Force or DOD resources.

**Information Operations.** The Air Force is now countering a global security threat to our information systems. Our role in support of Information Operations recognizes future threats to the Air Force, and our response to these threats, will occur in cyberspace. AFOSI's support to Information Operations comes in many facets. AFOSI's computer crime investigators provide rapid worldwide response to intrusions into Air Force systems.

**Technology Protection.** The desires of potential adversaries to acquire or mimic the technological advances of the U.S. Air Force have heightened the need to protect critical Air Force technologies and collateral data. The AFOSI Research and Technology Protection Program provides focused, comprehensive counterintelligence and core mission investigative services to safeguard Air Force technologies, programs, critical program information, personnel and facilities.

**Specialized Services.** AFOSI has numerous specialists who are invaluable in the successful

resolution of investigations. They include technical specialists, polygraphers, behavioral scientists, computer experts and forensic advisers.

Defense Cyber Crime Center. AFOSI is the DOD executive agent for both the Defense Computer Forensics Laboratory and the Defense Computer Investigations Training Program, which together comprise the Defense Cyber Crime Center. The forensics laboratory provides counterintelligence, criminal, and fraud computer-evidence processing, analysis, and diagnosis to DOD investigations. The investigations training program provides training in computer investigations and computer forensics to DOD investigators and examiners.

Antiterrorism teams. Created out of a need to meet the increasing challenges presented by worldwide terrorism, AFOSI antiterrorism teams are maintained around the globe. These highly trained and specialized AFOSI unit stands ready on a moment's notice to deploy globally to provide antiterrorism, counterintelligence information collections and investigative services to Air Force personnel and units.

AFOSI divides its investigative tasks among three major directorates: Fraud, Counterintelligence, and Criminal Investigations.

The Fraud Directorate supervises investigations of fraudulent activities, major administrative irregularities, and violations of public trust involving Air Force procurement, disposal, pay and allowance matters, and non-appropriated fund activities. The directorate also determines whether the opportunity for fraud or other irregularities exists at a given activity. Another of its responsibilities is to coordinate investigative support to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, AFOSI having been designated the Executive Agency for such support, and to coordinate AFOSI support to more than 180 Defense Logistics Agency field offices throughout the world under a 1974 agreement.

The Directorate of Counterintelligence employs offensive and defensive measures to detect, neutralize, and destroy the effectiveness of threats to Air Force security posed by hostile intelligence services. A significant and expanding AFOSI responsibility is detecting terrorist threats to Air Force facilities and personnel and warning the affected commanders. The directorate supervises various counterterrorism services for Air Force commanders in areas of heightened terrorist activity and provides protective services for threatened personnel.

The Criminal Directorate is responsible for investigating criminal offenses, ranging from housebreaking to homicide, against persons, their property, or the USAF. Generally, jurisdiction is limited to crimes committed on Air Force installations by persons subject to the UCMJ.

AFOSI directs the USAF polygraph/ Identi-kit programs, maintains the USAF terminal to the FBI National Crime Information Center, provides a highly trained forensic science cadre, and performs continuing patterns and trends analysis.

Since many investigative matters extend beyond Air Force personnel or the boundaries of Air Force bases, AFOSI maintains liaison with law enforcement and investigative organizations at the

international, federal, state, and local levels. Cooperation with such agencies ensures the preservation of jurisdictional responsibilities and assures the Air Force commander that he is getting the most thorough investigative service possible.

Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), headquartered at Boiling AFB, D. C., is the Air Force's professional investigative service. AFOSI supports USAF commanders through some 1,900 special agents and support people, including highly trained forensic science specialists, in twenty-eight district offices and 125 detachments and operating locations worldwide. AFOSI functions only as an investigative agency. Judicial or administrative actions are taken by appropriate commanders on advice of their Staff Judge Advocates.

AFOSI's investigative responsibility includes crimes against USAF personnel or property, crimes committed on Air Force installations, and crimes committed by people subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). Further, the Agency investigates fraudulent activities, violations of public trust, and administrative irregularities. Such investigations could involve Air Force contracting and acquisitions, disposal, pay and allowance matters, and nonappropriated fund activities. In addition, AFOSI serves as Executive Agency for coordinating investigative support to the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, and provides investigative assistance to Defense Logistics Agency field offices throughout the world.

Special Agents use offensive and defensive measures to detect, neutralize, and destroy the effectiveness of threats posed to Air Force security by hostile also detects terrorist threats to Air Force facilities and personnel, and warns the affected commanders. Coupled with this, AFOSI supervises various counterterrorism services for Air Force commanders during heightened terrorist activity and also provides protective services to selected senior personnel as required.

The USAF Technical Surveillance Countermeasures (TSCM) program is another important responsibility. At the national level, AFOSI helps develop TSCM policies and procedures, and research and design for TSCM equipment. At Air Force level, these technical services support counterintelligence, criminal, and fraud investigations.

AFOSI also directs the USAF polygraph and Identi-kit programs, maintains the USAF master terminal to the FBI National Crime Information Center, and performs continuing crime and counterintelligence patterns and trends analyses.

Since many investigations extend beyond Air Force "boundaries" (people or bases), AFOSI maintains liaison with law enforcement and investigative organizations at international through local level jurisdictions. This liaison function helps assure Air Force commanders the most thorough investigative services possible.

To get the job done, AFOSI selects and trains special agents from among the most highly qualified and capable officer, NCO, and civilian volunteers. All agents attend an intensive ten-week course at the Air Force Special Investigations Academy in Washington, D. C. They usually return for advanced or specialized training after gaining administrative and investigative field experience.

In response to presidential, congressional, and DoD emphasis—and in concert with a major USAF effort—AFOSI is expanding its white-collar and computer-crime detection efforts and its briefing programs to sensitize commanders and managers to fraud; increasing its participation in joint task forces and surveys of high potential crime areas; and working closely to ensure exchange of information with USAF managers and counterpart agencies.

## **STRUCTURE**

15 squadrons

95 detachments

83 operating locations

AFOSI has 3,002 active-duty, Reserve and civilian personnel. Of this number, 2,094 are federally credentialed special agents, who are drawn from all segments of the total force. There are 311 active-duty officers, 1,253 active-duty enlisted, 785 civilians and 419 reservists.

In addition to the command's headquarters AFOSI has eight field investigations regions. Seven of the Regions are aligned with Air Force major commands: Region 1 with Air Force Materiel Command, Region 2 with Air Combat Command, Region 3 with Air Mobility Command, Region 4 with Air Education and Training Command, Region 5 with U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Region 6 with Pacific Air Forces, and Region 8 with Air Force Space Command.

While the regions serve the investigative needs of those aligned major commands, all AFOSI units and personnel remain independent of those commands, and their chains of command flow directly to AFOSI headquarters. Such organizational independence ensures unbiased investigations.

The single region not aligned with a major command is Region 7, the mission of which is to provide counterintelligence and security-program management for special-access programs under the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force.

At the regional level are subordinate units called field investigations squadrons, detachments and operating locations. In sum, AFOSI owns more than 160 units worldwide.

## **LINEAGE**

Air Force Office of Special Investigations established and activated as a separate operating agency, 31 Dec 1971

## **STATIONS**

Bolling AFB, DC, 1 Oct 1979

Andrews AFB, MD

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Forest A. Singhoff, #1978

Col Richard S. Beyea, Jr., 1981

Brig Gen Robert A. Hoffman, #1995

Brig Gen Francis X. Taylor, #1997

Brig Gen Leonard E. Patterson, #2002

Brig Gen Dana A. Simmons, #2008

Brig Gen Kevin J. Jacobsen, #2010

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

The light blue shield, directly below a wreath, bears a winged Air Force blue sphere with wings and detail lines in silver (usually depicted as white) between two upright swords that are white with gray (steel) outline and shaded area and gold (yellow) hilts. On the shield above the sphere is a silver (white) lamp of knowledge with a red flame. The white scroll with Air Force yellow lettering located under the shield and the shield are edged in Air Force yellow. The wreath above the shield is made up of six alternate folds of silver (white) and light blue that repeat the metal and color used in the shield.

On 19 August 1955, AFOSI submitted Memo No. 5 to the Air Force Personnel Awards Branch requesting approval of the AFOSI emblem. On 15 December 1955, AFOSI was notified that the proposed organizational emblem had been approved. As is customary with Air Force heraldry, the emblem has not changed since its inception in 1955.

The light blue field of the shield symbolizes the sky, the primary theater dominating all air activities. The winged Air Force blue sphere indicates AFOSI's air mission is world-wide. The spreading wings, above the sphere, imply protection of all qualities of virtue underlying the rights of free people. The upright swords symbolize the power of law and order and military justice. The lamp symbolizes light and learning. As in the Air Force seal, the light blue of the wreath represents the sky and the white represents the heraldic metal silver.

## **MOTTO**

Eyes of the Eagle

## **OPERATIONS**

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USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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