

MISSION

This unit's mission is to provide the 23rd NORAD Regional Operations Control Center (ROCC) with automated height and search data via the Coordinate Data Transmitting System (AN/FYQ-47), and radar measured altitudes of selected aircraft by manual methods. The unit also provides manual backup surveillance as required by the ROCC Senior Director and radio capability to the 23rd NORAD Regional Operations Control Center (ROCC).

HISTORY OF LAKE CHARLES AIR FORCE STATION, LOUISIANA

The history of Lake Charles Air Force Station involves two periods. The first period began with the activation of the 812th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&W) at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, which was relocated to Lake Charles Air Force Station on 30 April 1957, and fell under the operational control of the 33rd Air Division, Oklahoma City Air Force Station, Oklahoma. Due to a change in organizational structure within Aerospace Defense Command (ADC), the 812th AC&W Squadron was reorganized under the Oklahoma City Air Defense Sector and the 32nd Air Division at Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia, on 1 January 1960.

In August 1961, the unit was redesignated as a Gap Filler Site (M125D) for the 653rd Radar Squadron at England Air Force Base, Louisiana, which was under the 32nd Air Division that was relocated to Oklahoma City Air Force Station. The 653rd Radar Squadron was closed on 23 April 1963, as was the 32nd Air Division at Oklahoma City Air Force Station. The disposal of Lake Charles Air Force Station through the General Services Administration began on 1 January 1963. Subsequently, the disposal of the Gap Filler annex at Lake Charles Air Force Station was completed on 15 March 1966. During the period 15 March 1966 to 1 January 1973, the land for this site at Lake Charles was privately owned.

The second period began with the issuance of Special Order G-309 by Aerospace Defense Command on 24 November 1972, thus officially reactivating the 634th Radar Squadron at Lake Charles Air Force Station, Louisiana. The site is presently located on 4.43 acres of the previous Lake Charles Air Force Station that was disposed of in 1966. The 634th Radar Squadron was formerly located at Burns Air Force Station, Oregon, and was deactivated on 30 September 1970. The 634th Radar Squadron was organized under the 20th Air Division at Fort Lee Air Force Station, Virginia.

On 6 June 1973, the 634th Radar Squadron assumed the Norad Manual Ground Control Intercept (NMGCI) responsibility. A Coordinate Data Transmitting System (AN/FYQ-49) was installed on 20 December 1973. Under the Joint Surveillance System (JSS), a contract for maintenance was awarded to International Telephone and Telegraph/Federal Electric Corporation (ITT/FEC) on June 1974. On this date, the 634th Radar Squadron was renamed the 630th Radar Squadron/Operating Location AF (630 RADS/OLAF). On 11 March 1975, two additional radio channels (GHRR 22 and GRT22) were added, for a total of four channels.

Contract responsibility was awarded to Kentron Hawaii, Limited, on 1 July 1977. Also, during this month, the AN/FYQ-49 was removed and a new Coordinate Data Transmitting System (AN/FYQ-47) was installed for its height capability, and a Coder-Decoder Group (AN/GPA124) was installed. On 1 October 1977, the 630th Radar Squadron/Operating Location AF was deactivated and the site was designated Operating Location AD under the 678th Air Defense Group at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. In November 1977 Kentron Hawaii, Limited, changed its company name to Kentron International, Incorporated. This unit was redesignated as a Tactical Air Command (TAC) facility following the Air Defense Command (ADCOM) realignment which became Air Defense Tactical Air Command (ADTAC) in October 1979. The Search Radar (AN/FPS-93A) was modified and redesignated the (AN/FPS091A) on 12 March 1980 and the Height Finder Radar (AN/FPS-6) was modified and redesignated (AN/FPS-116) on the same day.

On 29 September 1980, two additional radio channels were installed and a multi-channel radio (GRC171) was added. Between 19 - 21 May 1981, the Prime BEEF Team rebuilt the administration, administration building awning, removed an old water treatment plant system, and reopened a door between administration and operations which had previously been welded shut. They repaired the search tower floor under the doorway, secured the search tower door hinges for security purposes and installed toe kickboards around the search tower and height tower catwalks. The Prime BEEF Team also fabricated and installed a unit sign and constructed a wall to divide the large room in the administration building so a recreation room could be created. The roofs of the administration building and guard houses were repaired on 25 November 1981. An emergency generator was installed on 21 - 22 December 1981, but was not tied into the electrical system until 4 March 1982. On 5 March 1982, an electrical cable running the length of the compound to the height tower was replaced. In April 1982, the rear door to the administration building was replaced for security reasons, landscaping in front of the administration building was completed, and acoustical tile was installed in the operations room to cut down on the noise. A new air conditioning system was installed in the administration building and the search tower on 21 July 1982.

Between 8 - 20 October 1982, a new security fence was installed around the perimeter of the site. On 19 October 1982, a new canopy was installed over the search tower door. The search tower and administration building were prepared for sandblasting and repainting on 28 November 1981. That same day, a team of contractors started removing the sidewalk behind the administration building. Both projects were completed on 20 January 1983. Construction of a petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) storage building was started on 6 December 1982, and completed on 14 January 1983. Due to a realignment of the NORAD regions, Operating Location AD 678th Air Defense Squadron (OLAD 678th AD Gp) was renamed Operating Location BD under the 23rd Air Defense Squadron (OLBD 23ADS) on 1 March 1983.

SITE HISTORY

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