

485th INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The 485th Intelligence Squadron is a joint-service organization; responsible for processing, analyzing and reporting intelligence on a wide range of national security concerns. Supports military contingency planning, joint exercises and deployed forces.

LINEAGE

85th Radio Squadron, Mobile constituted, 4 Aug 1953

Activated, 8 Dec 1953

Inactivated, 8 May 1955

Disbanded, 15 Jun 1983

6985th Radio Squadron, Mobile designated and activated, 1 Jul 1962

Redesignated 6985th Security Squadron, 1 Jul 1963

Redesignated 6985th Electronic Security Squadron, 1 Aug 1979

Inactivated, 30 Jun 1992

85th Radio Squadron, Mobile reconstituted and consolidated (10 May 1995) with the 6985th Radio Squadron, Mobile, which was designated and activated, 1 Jul 1962

Redesignated 485th Intelligence Squadron, 10 May 1995

Activated, 1 Jul 1995

STATIONS

Kelly AFB, TX, 8 Dec 1953-17 Apr 1954

Sembach AB, Germany, 2 May 1954-8 May 1955

Eielson AFB, AK, 1 Jul 1962-30 Jun 1992
Mainz-Kastel, Germany, 1 Jul 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force Security Service, 8 Dec 1953
6910th Security Group, 19 May 1954-8 May 1955
6981st Radio Group, Mobile (later, 6981st Security Group), 1 Jul 1962
6944th Security Wing, 1 Jul 1974
United States Air Force Security Service (later, Electronic Security Command), 1 Mar 1979
6949th Electronic Security Group, 1 Jan 1980
Electronic Security, Strategic, 1 Aug 1981
Electronic Security, Alaska, 1 Oct 1983
Pacific Electronic Security Division (later, 692nd Intelligence Wing), 1 Jun 1989-30 Jun 1992
26th Intelligence Group, 1 Jul 1995

COMMANDERS

William P. Thompson 8 Dec 1953–Unknown
LTC Paul L. Laugesen Jul 2002
LTC Lewis J. Jolly Jun 2004
LTC James B. Berry 22 May 2006
LTC Arnold W. Nash, III 15 Aug 2008
LTC Michael A. Charecky 14 Jul 2010

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" device
1 Jun 2003–31 May 2005
1 June 2007-31 May 2009

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1963-31 Dec 1964
1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1970
1 Jul 1970-30 Apr 1972
1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1974
1 Jul 1974-30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1991-30 Jun 1992
1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995
1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1997
1 Oct 1999-30 Sep 2000
1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

EMBLEM



6985th Electronic Security Squadron emblems

485th Intelligence Squadron emblem: Per bend sinister Azure and Or, a lightning flash bendwise sinister throughout point to base Argent, between in base a vol bendwise sinister Silver Gray detailed Sable and in chief a bendwise sinister arc of three mullets White; all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the disc a Blue scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "485TH INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The three stars reflect the unit's lineage under two previous designations and also its current designation. The lightning flash represents the rapid response capabilities of the squadron and the electronic media it uses to garner the truth. The wings symbolize the unit's commitment to support the Air Force mission. (Approved, 10 Nov 1980)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 8 December 1953, Air Force Security Service activated the 85th Radio Squadron Mobile "Light," commanded by Capt. William P. Thompson at Kelly AFB.

The 85th RSM left Kelly AFB on 17 April 1954 and, upon arrival at Sembach on 1 May, absorbed the men, equipment and functions of Flight A. The 85th RSM Headquarters and billeting were located at Sembach while its Ops compound was situated at Griinstadt. Our operations site was near Landstuhl AB in the woods just off the Autobahn and on the approaches to the runway at Landstuhl. Who can forget the noise from landings and takeoffs. Specially noisy were Vampire jets of the RAF that apparently used Landstuhl from time to time. You could not mistake a Vampire silhouette.

The 85th reported to the 6910th Security Group at Landsberg. The 85th RSM was inactivated on 8 May 1955, replaced by the 6914th Radio Squadron Mobile.

6985 Radio Squadron Mobile RSM was activated at Eielson AFB Alaska was activated on 1 July 1962 assigned to 6981 Radio Group and redesignated as 6985 Security Squadron on 1 July 1963 with 6981 Security Group. The Squadron was tasked the collection analysis and reporting of photo reconnaissance and electronic signals intelligence SIGINT about Soviet missile test launches and reentry command and control communications countermeasures weapons systems and target acquisition with specialist intelligence personnel known as backenders ravens and crows to operate a variety of sensor equipment aboard RC 135 reconnaissance aircraft flown by pilots and crew from Strategic Reconnaissance Squadrons including the Wanda Belle Rivet Ball and Rivet Amber aircraft missions operating from Eielson AFB and Shemya AFB.

With the activation of 24 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron at Eielson AFB on 25 March 1967 the 6985 SS provided the on board sensor and intelligence personnel for their RC 135 optical and electronic strategic reconnaissance aircraft to provide near real time on scene intelligence collection analysis and dissemination capabilities to support theatre and national commanders. The Wanda Belle Rivet Ball crash landed at Shemya AFB on 13 January 1969 with the crew unharmed but the aircraft was a write off although most of the electronic equipment was salvageable. The Rivet Amber aircraft disappeared with all nineteen crew and passengers on 5 June 1969 while returning to Eielson from Shemya for routine maintenance. With the loss of the two aircraft the first replacement RC 135S Cobra Ball equipped to monitor missile associated signals track missiles during boost and reentry phases to provide reconnaissance for intelligence theatre ballistic missile proliferation and treaty verification was delivered in October 1969 and the second was delivered in March 1972.

The Squadron was redesignated 6985 Electronic Security Squadron on 1 August 1979 and was reassigned to 6949 Electronic Security Group in January 1980. On 15 March 1981 the Cobra Ball II aircraft crashed into a snowbank attempting to land at Shemya AFB and three members of the 6985 ESS were killed in the crash. The Squadron was reassigned to Electronic Security Strategic on 1 August 1981 Electronic Security Alaska on 1 October 1983 and Pacific Electronic Security Division later 692 Intelligence Wing on 1 June 1989.

On 8 June, AFIC inactivated the 6985 ESS after more than 30 years of providing critical

intelligence support to tactical and national customers. The unit stood on the leading edge of intelligence support throughout the Burning Wind, Cobra Ball, and Cobra Eye missions. They left a legacy of advancing technology as a means to accomplish the AFIC mission. According to General O'Shaughnessy, "The end of the cold war is a victory in which every military member can take pride, but the men and women of the 6985 ESS should take a special pride in the key role they played in achieving this victory." 1992

485 IS SUPPORT TO KOSOVO AIR WAR: Colocated and teaming with the European Technical Center at Mainz-Kastel, Germany, the 485th Intelligence Squadron quietly established itself as a vital player in the air war.

On any given day, 485th IS technicians were deployed to Cryptologic Service Groups throughout the theater installing, maintaining or upgrading secure communications equipment. They worked hard to ensure vital data was getting through the vast network of communications systems, with the heart of it all centered at the European Technical Center.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.