

501st TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

501st Aircraft Control and Warning Group activated, 10 Jun 1949

501st Tactical Control Group

STATIONS

Landsberg, Germany

Landstuhl (Ramstein, Germany), 17 Nov 1954-18 Nov 1960

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Richard A. Palmer, 10 Mar 1949

LTC Fred J. Collin, Jul 1949

Col Lee B. Coats, 1951

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

501st Tactical Control Group, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron was activated May 18th, 1949 as the 501st Aircraft Control and Warning Group. The newly christened unit was assigned to USAFE 2nd Air Division.

501st Aircraft Control and Warning Group mission: To provide Surveillance and early warning service. Exercise command jurisdiction over all assigned and attached units in accordance with current and applicable USAF, EUCOM, and USAFE directives. Fulfill intelligence mission as outlined in USAFE regulations. Insure that all personnel assigned or attached meet the prescribed standards of training as set forth in existing regulations. Carry out all other directives or orders that may be issued by Headquarters, USAFE.

In Jan. 1951 the 501st Tactical Control Group was assigned to the Twelfth Air Force, under the command of Lt. Col. Fred J. Collin.

In August 1952 Col. Robert C. Sexton assumed command of the 501st Tactical Control Group.

As of November 1954, the 501st Tactical Control Grp command line up was Col. Robert C. Sexton heading the Group. Commander of the 601st AC&W Sqdn. was Lt. Col. Daniel C. Wolf. Lt. Col. Toy B. Husband commanded the 602nd AC&W Sqdn., and Major Donald H. Brown commended the 603rd AC&W Sqdn. Commander of the 807th Tactical Control Squadron was Lt. Col. Charles G. Whitley.

In January 1955, Col. Robert C. Sexton, Commander of the 501st Tactical Control Group, was assigned to the position of Chief, Special Activities Directorate, in Operations at Headquarters 12th Air Force. Col. Sexton had commanded the 501st since 22 Aug. 1952. Succeeding Col. Sexton as 501st Commander was Col. Thomas S. Bond Jr. who had moved from his position as Chief Of The Communications Systems Directorate, in the Office of Asst. Chief of Staff for Communications, Hdq. 12th Air Force.

The 501st Tactical Control Group operates seventeen direction finding (DF) stations in southern Germany, between Trier and Munich. Net stations for the DF network are Cornbeef (Birkenfeld), Race Card (Freising), Log Roll (Langerkopf) and Gun Post (Rothwesten). Each net station controls four or five DF stations in the field. Three of the four squadrons assigned to the 501st operate the DF stations, the fourth squadron operates a central control agency.

If pilots are lost during flight they switch over to VHF and call any DF net station for a fix and a steer. The ground station that picks up the call responds immediately. If it cannot fix the aircraft, it transmits all bearings to the central control agency. The center may get bearings from two or three of the DF sites in the enwtork and be able to fix the aircraft on a central plotting board. The center then directs the net station having the best contact with the aircraft to give the pilot his position and to steer the plane to safety.