

661 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

661 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 661 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

Selfridge AFB, MI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj John W. Calhoun, 1972

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

661 Selfridge AFB, MI CPS-5; CPS-6(2); FPS-20; FPS-35; FPS-6, -6A; FPS-26A FPS-35; FPS-26A 1952 July 1974 USAF site shared with Army for Nike missile-defense system (D-15DC).

Manned by the 661st AC&W Squadron, this Lashup site used an AN/CPS-5 radar. During a 1949 exercise this site performed well, tracking aircraft at ranges up to 210 miles. Selfridge AFB became part of the permanent network in 1952. The site used a pair of AN/CPS-6 sets. An AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar arrived in 1957. Selfridge joined the SAGE system in 1959. By 1960 the AN/CPS-6 radar had been retired, and was replaced by AN/FPS-20 search and AN/FPS-6 and -6A height-finder radars. In 1961 the site received an AN/FPS-35 radar; however, problems prevented the radar from becoming operational in 1961. It became operational the following year. Meanwhile an AN/FPS-26A replaced the AN/FPS-6A height-finder radar circa 1963. The Selfridge long-range radar site was shared with the Army as a Nike missile command-and-control center; the Army also operated a pair of AN/FPS-6 or -90 height-finder radars alongside their Missile Master blockhouse. The 661st Radar Squadron (SAGE) was deactivated in July 1974 when the Army deactivated their Nike missile defense system around Detroit.

661st Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Selfridge AFB, MI, assigned to the 541st ACW Gp; transferred to 30th AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to the 4708th Def Wg 16 Feb 53; transferred to the 30th AD 8 Jul 56; transferred to Detroit ADS 1 Apr 59; redesignated from ACW Sq to 661st Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Sep 59; transferred to 34th AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 29th AD 14 Nov 69; reassigned to 23rd AD 19 Nov 69; redesignated 661 Radar Sq 1 Feb 74; inactivated 1 Jul 74.

The mission of the squadron is to provide long range search height and identification radar and ground to air radio communications to the 23rd NORAD Division Direction Center at Duluth Minnesota. The squadron is one of many radar squadrons that provide NORAD with continuous surveillance of the North American land mass located on Selfridge AFB. The squadron is one of a very few radar sites that are not located in isolated areas.

The squadron has been continuously assigned to Selfridge having been formed in 1948 as the 661st ACWS. In 1950 the squadron moved to its present location at the north end of the base and in 1959 was reorganized as the 661st Radar Squadron (SAGE)

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 16 Jun 2020

Updated:

Sources

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