

## 756 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

756 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron  
Redesignated 756 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

### STATIONS

Finland AFS, MN

### ASSIGNMENTS

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

### EMBLEM

### MOTTO

### NICKNAME

### OPERATIONS

In July 1952 the 756th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-5 radars from this site. By 1959 these radars had been replaced with AN/FPS-20 and AN/FPS-6 sets and a second

height-finder radar (AN/FPS-6A) was being installed. In November 1959 Finland joined the SAGE system. In 1961 the search radar was upgraded and redesignated as an AN/FPS-64. In 1963 the height-finder radars were replaced by AN/FPS-26A and AN/FPS-90 sets. By 1966 there was an AN/FPS-27 operating at this site. The site came under TAC jurisdiction in 1979.

756 Finland AFS, MN FPS-3/-20/-64; FPS-5; FPS-6; FPS-6A/-90; FPS-26A  
FPS-27; FPS-26A Jul-52 15-Aug-80 BUIC-II. GATR retained until JSS switchover. Radar site replaced by Nashwauk, MN, JSS radar site.

Finland began as a Lashup-Permanent radar site operating an AN/CPS-5 radar 30 Nov 1951. In July 1952 the 756th AC&W Squadron joined the Permanent network operating AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-5 radars from this site. By 1959 these radars had been replaced with AN/FPS-20 and AN/FPS-6 sets, and a second height-finder radar (AN/FPS-6A) was being installed. In November 1959 Finland AFS joined the SAGE system. In 1961 the search radar was upgraded and redesignated as an AN/FPS-64. In 1963 the height-finder radars were replaced by AN/FPS-26A and AN/FPS-90 sets. In 1964 the AN/FPS-64 was replaced by an AN/FPS-27. The AN/FPS-90 height-finder radar was decommissioned in 1970. The site came under TAC jurisdiction in 1979. The 756th Radar Squadron (SAGE) was deactivated 15 Aug 1980. The GATR site was retained until the JSS switchover in 1984.

Findings of Fact, Site Location, and Information on Finland AFS, based on information provided by US Army Corps of Engineers Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) document E05WI0219 of August 31, 1990 4 miles N of Finland, Lake County, MN Site History and Findings of Fact. The former Finland Air Force station is located in the northeastern Minnesota. The site contained 101.26 fee acres, 63.00 acres of easements, 33.83 leased acres and 1.33 acres under license. Portions of the property were leased from individual owners between 1951 and 1956 when the U.S. filed a declaration of Taking for 158.64 acres on May 31, 1956. 95.64 acres were obtained in fee and 63 acres by easement. Records indicate that a recreational area and helicopter landing field consisting of 10.33 acres was leased from the State of Minnesota between June 1 1957 and November 1962, with an additional 18.00 acres leased from Lake County in 1959.

The 1.33 acre lease was to construct an access road and water main replacement, with an additional 5.62 fee acres obtained from a private party for construction of the GATR site. The facility housed 100 military personnel and employed 27 civilian employees. There were 96 buildings constructed by the Air Force, including 44 military family housing units and 3 airmen dormitories, and other buildings typical of this type of facility. On-site power and heat generation facilities originally used coal before being changing to oil fired boilers. Fall out shelters, power and steam generating buildings, radar platforms, GATR and personnel support structures typical to other decommissioned Air Force Stations in the region remained at the site when this report was issued in 1990. At that time the site had no security.

The base was declared excess on January 23 1981 and disposed on December 2 1982 by quitclaim deed when its mission was transferred to JSS and FAA. The Air Force maintained GATR operation on the 5.33 acre GATR site until September 30 1984. All leased areas were disposed prior to declaration of excess in 1981.

756th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned.1 Jan 51 at Finland AFS, MN, assigned to 543rd AC&W Gp; transferred to 31st AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to 37th AD 1 Jan 59; transferred to 30th AD 1 Apr 59; transferred to Duluth ADS 1 Jul 59; redesignated from 756th ACP' Sq to 756th Radar Sq (SAGE) 15 Dec 59; transferred to 29th AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 34th AD 15 Sep 69; reassigned to 29th AD 14 Nov 69; reassigned to 23rd AD 19 Nov 69; redesignated 756 Radar Sq 1 Feb 74.

The 756th Radar Squadron, Finland Air Force Station, Minnesota, part of NORAD, was located about seventy-five air miles from Duluth in Superior National Forest. Aerial and most exterior photos courtesy of Radomes, Inc.

The 756<sup>th</sup> ACWS was activated on 27 Nov 1950 and attached to the 30 AD, Eastern Air Defense Force. In 1951 the squadron was transferred to the Central Air Defense Force.

After installation of a digital data processor, along with an improved radar system, the unit was redesignated as the 756<sup>th</sup> Radar Squadron and incorporated into the SAGE system on 15 Dec 1959. On 8 Apr 1963, the unit was officially accepted as a combat ready operational NORAD Control Center under the BUIC I program. BUIC II became operational during December 1966 after installation of extensive electronic equipment and numerous thorough inspections and evaluations. This year also saw a transfer of command from the 30 AD to the 29 AD.

The end of an era came to Finland AFS in Jun 1969, when the squadron mission changed from BUIC to that of Long Range Radar. Providing radar surveillance data and ground radio support for the 23 NORAD Region. Authorized strength of nearly 150 officers, airman and civilian employees.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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