

759 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

759 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 759 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

Naselle AFS, WA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj James W. Combs, #1954
LTC R. N. Dahly, #1963

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

759th Radar Sq (SAGE): assigned 1 Jan 51 at Naselle APS, WA, assigned to 505th AC&W Gp; transferred to 25th AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to 4704th Def Wg Jan 53; transferred to 25th AD 8 Oct 54; transferred to Seattle ADS 1 Mar 60; redesignated from AC&W Sq to 759th Radar Sq (SAGE) 1 Apr 60; transferred to 25th AD 1 Apr 66; discontinued 25 Jun 66.

WASHINGTON Naselle

In December 1951 the 759th AC&W Squadron began operating AN/FPS-3 search and AN/FPS-5 height-finder radars, which allowed for the closing of Lashup sites at Fort Stevens and Pacific Beach. In 1955 an AN/FPS-8 search radar was placed on the site and subsequently converted to and redesignated as an AN/GPS-3. In 1958 the 759th began operating an AN/FPS-20 radar, as well as AN/FPS-6 and 6A height-finder radars. SAGE operations began in February 1960. In 1962 the AN/FPS-20 was upgraded to become an AN/FPS-67. This site was closed on April 1, 1966.

759th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron

Activated: 27 November 1950, Fort Stevens, Hammond, Oregon

Subordinate to: 1950, 505th Aircraft Control and Warning Group

Personnel: 1950, 16 Officers and 179 Enlisted

Relocated: 1 January 1951, Naselle, Washington site P-57, 46°25'18"N 123°47'50"W

Note: 15 July 1951, radar set AN/TPS-1B moved from site L-36 to site P-44

Note: December 1951, conditionally operational

Subordinate to: 6 February 1952, 25th Air Division

Subordinate to: January 1953, 4704th Defense Wing

Subordinate to: 8 October 1954, 25th Air Division

Subordinate to: 1 March 1960, Seattle Air Defense Sector

Redesignated: 1 April 1960, from AC&W Squadron to Radar Squadron (SAGE)

Subordinate to: 1 April 1966, 25th Air Division

Commanders:

1950, Major John W. King

1952-1953, Major Lloyd W. Casselman

1953-1954, Major Harold E. Plain

1954-1955, Major James W. Combs

1956-1958, Major Floyd F. Sherry

1958-1960, Major Ben M. Hagen

1960-1961, Major Alfred J. Naigle

1961-1962, Major James D. Lessley

1963-1964, Lt. Colonel R. N. Dahly

1964-1966, Major H. Schott

Equipment:

July 1951, AN/TPS-1B Serial No. 412

August 1951, AN/CPS-5D

December 1951, AN/FPS-3

1950's, AN/FPS-5

1957, AN/FPS-20, AN/FPS-6, AN/FPS-8, AN/GPX-7, AN/GPX-18

1958 AN/FPS-20, AN/FPS-6, AN/FPS-6A, AN/FPS-8, AN/GPA-23, AN/GPA-37, AN/GPX-7 ,
AN/UPS-T5, AN/GPS-T2

1959, AN/FPS-20, AN/FPS-6, AN/FPS-6A, AN/FPS-8, AN/GPA-23, AN/GPA-37, AN/GPX-7 ,
AN/UPS-T5, AN/GPS-T2, AN/FTS-T2, AN/GRC-27, AN/GRT-3, BC-640

Discontinued: 25 June 1966

Detachment 1

Located: June 1951, Fort Stevens, Oregon

Note: 1951, Created as part of the relocation from Fort Stevens to Naselle

Detachment 2

Located: February 1951, Naselle, Washington

759 Naselle AFS, WA FPS-3; FPS-20/-67; FPS-5; FPS-8/GPS-3; FPS-6; FPS-6A FPS-67; FPS-6; FPS-26A Dec-51 01-Apr-66

In December 1951 the 759th AC&W Squadron began operating AN/FPS-3 long-range search and AN/FPS-5 height-finder radars, which allowed for the closing of Lashup sites at Fort Stevens, OR, and Pacific Beach, WA. In 1955 an AN/FPS-8 search radar was placed on the site, and subsequently converted to and redesignated as an AN/GPS-3. In 1958 the 759th began operating an AN/FPS-20 search radar, as well as AN/FPS-6 and AN/FPS-6A height-finder radars. SAGE operations began in February 1960. In 1962 the AN/FPS-20 was upgraded to become an AN/FPS-67. In 1965 an AN/FPS-26A height-finder was added to the site. The AN/FPS-6A was retired in early 1966. This site was closed on April 1, 1966, and the 759th Radar Squadron (SAGE) was deactivated.

Radar Ridge, located off State Highway 4, is Naselle's best-kept secret. On a clear day, the view from the top is breathtaking, and it has become a favorite spot of many residents for afternoon picnics or weekend campouts.

There is a history behind Radar Ridge that goes beyond a mere unique, panoramic view of the Naselle Valley, the Columbia River and the Pacific Coastline.

Many deserted old buildings on the summit are a reminder of a time when the mountain was a fully manned Aircraft Control Warning (AC&W) operation by the U.S. Air Force. It was known as Western Air Defense Command, and the call sign at Radar Ridge was "Ground Photo Timothy". Shortly after World War II, in the early 1950s, the U.S. government became increasingly concerned about a perceived Soviet military threat the United States. The new age of nuclear fear was the beginning of a "Cold War" era that was to last for several decades.

Radar's 759th AC&W command searched out to sea for aircraft and alerted, or "scrambled" fighter planes to check out any unidentified aircraft. The radar operation post also became the site for radar weapon testing of U.S. aircraft and as well as "war games" for practice in case of

enemy attack. It was one of three radar posts positioned along the Washington coast in a 360-degree search pattern.

"We had some thrilling moments up there," recalls one Naselle resident, Ervin Hauck. "There was one time our operation was running intercepts when we locked onto one of our tankers," he said. "All of a sudden people started bailing out of it. There was a lot of confusion as ground control watched the plane come in lower and lower. We discovered later that the plane had an internal fire aboard."

The barracks that housed the intrepid airmen is today the site of the Naselle Youth Camp, a state juvenile rehabilitation institution. The youth camp administration building is the same one used by the Air Force, although it since has been remodeled. The oldest lodge at the youth camp was the Air Force's Bachelor Officers Quarters.

The mission at Radar Ridge was maintained until about 1964, when the federal government turned the land over to the state. Satellite and radar equipment for area businesses still occupy a part of the summit.

Today, the area around Radar Ridge, maintained by the Department of Natural Resources and youth camp work crews, has become a recreational spot for many local residents who enjoy the trip to the Ridge for the view, but increasingly come into the area to camp as well.

On the way up to the ridge, travelers can now enjoy Western Lake and Snag Lake, both developed over the years by the DNR crews and stocked with fish. Primitive campsites are available and open to the public. The trails and bridges that go around the lakes and into the woods make perfect daytime trips for hikers.

The trip to Radar Ridge summit is about seven miles – straight up. The lake campsites are about halfway up. The gravel road leading to the summit, bumpy and steep at times with many turns, should be driven slowly – but the view, once there, is truly something to behold.

An AN/TPS-1B long-range search radar was operational by mid-1950 at this site. In 1951 this radar was augmented with an AN/CPS-5. Site P-57 at Naselle, Washington, assumed coverage of the area in February 1952.

759 Fort Stevens, OR TPS-1B, CPS-5 Sep-50 Feb-52 Replaced by P-57, Naselle AFS, WA.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *25 Air Division (Defense). 1953-1954.*

Unit yearbook. *25 NORAD Region. 1963.*