

792 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

792 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 792 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

Tinker AFB, OK, 19 Mar 1951-4 Jun 1951
Dobbins AFB, GA, 24 Dec 1953-24 Jan 1955
North Charleston AFS, SC

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS



Maj E. R. Armagost (USAF photo)

Maj E. R. Armagost, #1957

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

This site became operational in 1955 when the 792nd AC&W Squadron activated an AN/MPS-7 radar. In 1956 operational radars included the AN/MPS-7, AN/GPS-3, AN/MPS-14, and AN/MPS-8 sets. In late 1959 this site was also performing air traffic control duties for the FM with a newly installed AN/FPS-20A search radar and AN/MPS-14 set. In 1961 the search radar was upgraded and redesignated as an AN/FPS-66 and an AN/FPS-26 height-finder radar was installed. In 1962 North Charleston joined the SAGE system. By 1966 the site was operating an AN/FPS-27. The facility came under TAC jurisdiction in 1979. In 1980 the Air Force built a height-finder tower at Jedburg, an FAA site located twenty-two miles northwest of Charleston and closed Z-113.

792 North Charleston AFS, SC MPS-7; GPS-3; MPS-11; FPS-20A / -66; MPS-14; FPS-26
FPS-27; MPS-14; FPS-26 1955 01-Jun-80 Site adjacent to Charleston AFB,
beside I-26. Site was once a joint-use site with the FAA (who operated the AN/FPS-66) from
roughly 1959 to 1966; then, FAA relocated the AN/FPS-66 to Jedburg. Later, replaced by Jedburg
JSS site, now with an ARSR-4.

History of North Charleston AFS, SC

This site became operational in 1955 when the 792nd AC&W Squadron activated an AN/MPS-7 search radar. In 1956 operational radars included the AN/MPS-7, AN/GPS-3, AN/MPS-14, and AN/MPS-8 sets. In late 1959 this site was also performing air-traffic-control duties for the FAA with a newly installed AN/FPS-20A search radar. In 1961 the search radar was upgraded and redesignated as an AN/FPS-66. In 1962 North Charleston joined the SAGE system. An AN/FPS-26 height-finder radar was installed circa 1963. In 1964 the site received an AN/FPS-27 search radar. In 1966, the FAA departed along with the AN/FPS-66 search radar. The AN/MPS-14 was modified to an AN/FPS-116 circa 1977. The AN/FPS-26 was retired circa 1979. The facility came under TAC jurisdiction in 1979. In 1980 the Air Force built an AN/FPS-116 height-finder tower at Jedburg, an FAA site located twenty-two miles northwest of Charleston, and closed Z-113. The 792nd Radar Squadron (SAGE) was deactivated on 1 June 1980. The GATR facility was retained until the JSS switchover, circa 1984.

792nd Radar Sq (SAGE): activated 16 Mar 51 at Tinker AFB, OK, assigned to 546th AWN Gp; discontinued 4 Jun 51; reactivated 1 Nov 53 at Ethan Allen AFB, VT, assigned to 32nd AD; transferred to 35th AD (CADF) and moved to Dobbins AFB, GA 24 Dec 53; moved to Charleston AFB, SC in fall of 54; moved to NC AFS, SC in summer of 55; transferred to 32nd AD 15 Nov 58; transferred to Washington ADS 1 Jul 61; redesignated from AC&W Sq to 792nd Radar Sq (SAGE) 25 Mar 62; transferred to 33rd AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 20th AD 19 Nov 69; discontinued 4 Jun 51.

The 792nd RS located at North Charleston AFS, SC got its start an ACWS with the 4711th Defense Wing at Ethan Allen AFB, VT in Oct 1953

The squadron later moved to Dobbins AFB, GA and assigned to the 35th AD, Central Air Defense

Force. It remained there until December 1954 when it was relocated to its present station. Four months the unit was reassigned to the Eastern Air Defense Force.

In 1961 the squadron was reconfigured and placed under the 26th AD. The unit's mission changed in 1962 from that of an ACWS to SAGE radar squadron.

During the ensuing period the 792nd was tasked with scanning the southernmost tip of the 26th AD and reported directly to the Washington Air Defense Sector. Operating as a Net Control Center and Manual Direction Center, the 792nd Radar Squadron had operational control over all direction centers in North and South Carolina.

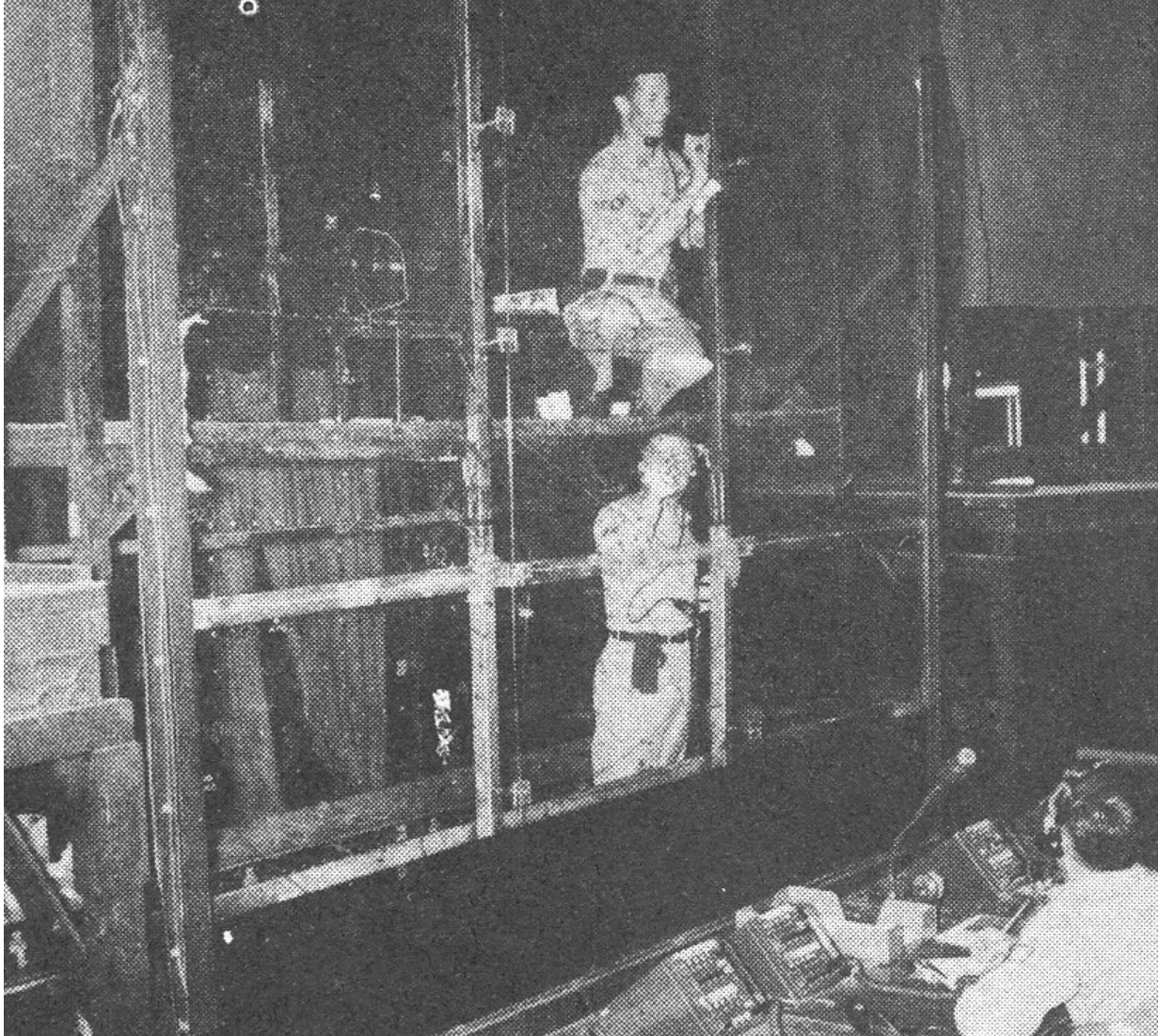
Equipment used to perform the mission in 1962 included the MPS-14 (FPS-14) and FPS-26 height finder radars, a FPS-66 search radar and GPA-37 control system. The electronic gear for SAGE was in various stages of completion and in Nov 1962 construction began on the FPS-27 search radar. This radar was the cornerstone of the new SAGE system. The FPS-27 tower was turned over to the Air Force for operational control in Dec 1963 and the FPS-66 was dismantled. Initially the FPS-27 was operated by the Federal Aviation Administration, but was used by military and civilian agencies. Information was routed to Fort Lee AFS for defense purposes and to Jacksonville FL for civilian air traffic control.

The FPS-27 search radar was later turned over to the Air Force and has since become strictly a SAGE asset for the defense mission.

Basically the job of the 792nd RS hasn't changed since 1963. Reduction in manning, increases in mission requirements and equipment sophistication have placed greater demands on the unit. But the people assigned to the squadron have been equal to the job. Among the squadron's most recent achievement was its selection for the Air Force Outstanding unit Award in Jan 1976



Main gate to the 792 area. (USAF photo)



Plotters track on the vertical board. (USAF photo)

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *1608 Air Transport Wing (M), Charleston AFB, SC. 1957.* Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1957.