

37th RADIO SQUADRON, MOBILE

USAFSS Unit	Dates at Brooks AFB, TX	Permanent Deployment
37 th RSM	1951-1952	Kirknewton, Scot

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Brooks AFB, TX, 3 Aug 1951-5 Jun 1952

Kirknewton, Scot

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

37th RSM—ACTIVATED

USAFSS activated the 37th Radio Squadron Mobile at Brooks AFB, Texas, in August 1951, intent on outfitting the unit as soon as possible for duty in Scotland. Few details are available regarding the 37th during its stay in Texas; war was raging in Korea and USAFSS struggled to deploy new intercept units concurrently in Asia, Europe and North Africa. The activation and

development of five other RSM's and the 6910th Security Group at Brooks in 1951, plus inadequate infrastructure at Kirknewton, delayed the shipment of the 37th RSM to Scotland until mid-1952.

Retired Major Joseph Tortorete began his USAFSS career at Brooks Field and was a member of the original 37th RSM cadre. Enlisting in the Air Force in late 1948, Tortorete received cryptologic training at the Navy Cryptologic School in Washington before his introduction to USAFSS as a cryptologist/traffic analyst in the 8th RSM in 1949. Promoted to flight sergeant, Tortorete transferred into the 37th RSM when the unit was activated. He married the 8th RSM commander's secretary in April 1952 and relocated with the 37th RSM cadre from Brooks AFB two months later.

37th RSM—Moved to Scotland

Joe Tortorete provided the author a copy of the Movement Order promulgating transfer of the 37th RSM to RAF Station Kirknewton. Naming squadron members—six officers and 37 airmen—the order specified 10 June 1952 the readiness date at Brooks for overseas shipment. All squadron equipment, including "general and special purpose vehicles," was included in the shipment. Squadron commander Major Russell L. French led his unit's move, traveling by train to the New York Port of embarkation, Brooklyn, New York, "for further movement by water transportation." Joe Tortorete confirms the relocation date as June 1952. His new bride joined him in Scotland a few months later. Details provided by others clarify many of the issues involved in establishing USAFSS operations in Scotland.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Nov 2011

Updated:

Sources