

5004th AIR INTELLIGENCE SERVICE SQUADRON

LINEAGE

5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron activated, 16 Apr 1951
Discontinued, 1 Apr 1959

STATIONS

Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Percy K. Mead

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron is to conduct such intelligence collection operations as may be directed by Alaskan Air Command or higher headquarters. The mission envisages for the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron, not only preparations of plans for the collection of Air Technical Intelligence and Air Prisoner of War Interrogation Intelligence in event of hostilities, but in view of Alaska's geographical position with respect to Russia, and the Alaskan Air Commands' interest in Siberia, preparation and execution of plans for current collection of positive air intelligence. Other than the training, administrative and logistical missions implied in the basic mission, the squadron has therefore, for planning and control purposes, broken the mission down into three parts. They are:

1. Preparation for the collection of air intelligence, particularly ATI and APWI intelligence, immediately upon the advent of hostilities.
2. Exploitation by overt means the existing positive intelligence collection potential in Alaska and the adjacent seas.
3. Carry out such other intelligence assignments or operations as may be directed.

Letter, headquarters, Alaskan Command, ALINT-2, dated 1 Dec 52, classified TOP SECRET, subject: CINCAL Intelligence Collection Program, and 1st Indorsement thereto Hq, AAC, dated 1 Dec 52, directs the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron to place a Special operations detachment in the western coastal area of Alaska for overt intelligence collection purposes for an indefinite period. Intelligence Operations: During the period 3 October to 10 December 1952 a Special operations team of the 5004th AISS, consisting of three officers and three airman, made a survey of the Seward Peninsula, St. Lawrence Island area. The survey was directed by the Director of Intelligence, Alaskan Air Command for the purpose of determining the intelligence potential of the area, operational methods best suited to the people and terrain, equipment required to operate in the area, and to determine from experience how best to train personnel for arctic operations. The team, as a result of its survey, came to the following general conclusions which serve as a guide for the establishment of a Special operations Detachment in the area: a. Intelligence of value to the Air Force is available in the area both from human sources and debris washing ashore from Siberia. b. To provide minimum intelligence coverage of the west coastal area adjacent to Siberia, air intelligence personnel should be placed in twelve key towns and villages ranging from Unalakleet to Point Hope, Alaska, including villages on King Island, St. Lawrence Island and Little Diomed Island. The headquarters of the detachment should be at Nome Field, Nome Alaska. c. In order to effectively exploit the human sources, represented primarily by native Eskimos, intelligence personnel will remain in communities consisting of a village or a group of villages for a period of sufficient duration to become fully acquainted with native persons, their customs and way of life. It is estimated that a minimum of six months be spent in a village before the intelligence personnel will be accepted by the native population to the extent that all intelligence desired will be freely given. During this period every effort must be directed towards gaining the confidence of the natives. To accomplish this, personnel must be thoroughly oriented in Eskimo customs, be in excellent physical condition and otherwise trained to live a strenuous outdoor life, and they must be properly equipped to participate in all aspects of native community activities. They must not be a burden on a community for subsistence and must be prepared to participate in hunting, fishing and other activities which contribute to the general welfare and economic life of the community to which they are assigned. d. The detachment will engage only in overt intelligence collection activities, intelligence personnel should wear civilian clothing and native type outer clothing. The wearing of the uniform in isolated villages, besides being difficult to maintain, tends to set them apart by emphasizing their official position rather than that of community member. Also, the revealing of rank lessens the effectiveness of lower rank airmen. The majority of the detachment are below the rank of Airman First Class. Since they will be required to deal regularly with representatives of other government agencies of higher position and since the natives have a high regard for rank, as evidenced in the local National Guard Units, the wearing of civilian clothing with no indication of rank is considered to be most practicable.

1 JULY 1953 TO 31 DEC 1953; During this period, the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron underwent a complete reorganization. With the publication of the 1 August 1953 Table of Distribution, the squadron became a line staff organization. Three staff sections, the Personnel section, the Operations section and the Services section were organized. In addition, three line-type field units were assigned directly under the control of the Commander.

Between 1 July and 30 December 1953 several different types of reports were produced by the operations section, and of these, the following might be cited as examples. Twenty-five Air Intelligence Information reports were prepared for submission to Higher Headquarters. These reports covered a variety of subjects. Several were originally prepared and submitted for revision from units operating in the field. Also prepared were 16 target information and illustration sheets, submitted to fill requirements laid on Alaskan Air Command. The preparation of various area studies also continued, with Studies of Yakutsk, Ototsk, Magadan and Kataoka USSR being forwarded to higher headquarters. These studies included detailed information on the history, economy, communications, transportation facilities, and military installations in each of the areas reported on.

Flight A, Flight B, and Field Operations Flight A, 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron is a direct outgrowth of what formerly was designated as Detachment #1 of the squadron, and during the reporting period the Flight was made up largely of the personnel originally assigned to the detachment.

Flight B of the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron was established by general order 75, published by Alaskan Command. The first personnel assigned to the unit arrived at Ladd Air Force Base, flight headquarters, (Fairbanks) near the middle of August 1953.

This Flight is attached for operational control to Eleventh Air Division, and at the close of the reporting period the flight had performed several investigations of unusual incidents for this headquarters. The mission of this flight is to support the 11th Air Division in its requirements for investigations of crashed enemy aircraft, interrogation of POW's and collection of other intelligence information. During peacetime their principal duties consist of training toward a maximum capability to perform the mission.

Field Operations is a unit comparable in many respects to flight B. While operational control of the Field Operations unit is retained by the squadron, the duties and organization of the two units are similar. Also established by General order 75, this unit was manned near the end of September 1953 by two officers and eight airmen. With its headquarters at Elmendorf AFB, present activities of the unit are similar to those of Flight B. A number of investigations of unidentified flying objects and unusual incidents have been performed, and a liaison program within the Anchorage area had been approved at the close of this period. Training hikes and bivouacs under all conditions were frequent in both units, and personnel became familiar with all types of equipment used in the field. the requirement for official investigation of unidentified flying objects, and a special request for the investigation and recover of a Naval research Rocket in the Ladd AFB area more than proved the capability of field teams to perform at maximum efficiency.

ANNEX "B" TO OPERATIONS ORDER 9-53 INTELLIGENCE [Project "Beachcomber"]

1. Personnel will be assigned to three teams of four men each at Nome. Two teams will be airlifted to Kotzebue on or about 29 June 1953. One team will search the beach northward to Pt. Hope, while the other will begin at cape Espenberg and search southward to Cape Wales. These teams will return to Kotzebue. The third team will search northward from Nome to Cape Wales and will return to Nome. The teams will employ skin boats manned by native owners of the boats. The skin boats will be utilized to carry personnel, supplies, equipment and any recovered items of intelligence interest which are retained for shipment to Hq, 5004th AISS. All items not retained will be disposed of in such a manner that they will not confuse future searches. Personnel will bivouac on suitable shore areas each night.

2. Personnel will be reassigned to four teams of three men each at Nome. Personnel will be airlifted to Gambell and N.E. Cape, St. Lawrence Island, with one officer and five airmen going to each point indicated, on or about 15 July 1953. Personnel at Gambell will begin search immediately one team moving along the north shore and one moving along the south shore working eastward to meet similar teams departing from N. E. cape. Procedures on St. Lawrence Island will be similar to those for the Seward Peninsula. The Officer-in-charge will make his headquarters at N. E. Cape and will make contact with the team by skin boat and radio.

1 JAN 1954 TO 30 JUN 1954 The 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron has as its mission the support of Alaskan Air Command through the overt field collection, limited field analysis, and rapid reporting of intelligence information. Its secondary mission is the maintenance of a constant state of readiness to perform its primary mission through an intensified program of training, both in intelligence procedures and in field and survival techniques.

Operations Section-Of major importance of projects undertaken within this section was the planning, scheduling and programming for the second annual 'beachcomber' project. The planning stages for this project began in February, with the actual project to be conducted during July and August of 1954. Operation 'Beachcomber' conducted for the first time during the summer of 1953, proved to be of such value than an annual project of a similar nature is planned. Conducted entirely by the members of the squadron, the project is designed to sweep the beaches of Northwestern Alaska, picking up or photographing anything of intelligence significance which is found. Items collected are brought in to Squadron Headquarters, where Air Intelligence Information reports Are written and forwarded to higher headquarters. During the first operation, some 125 items were collected and reported on.

During June and July 1953, personnel of the 5004th AISS searched the beaches of St. Lawrence Island and the Seward Peninsula, Alaska, for flotsam probably originating along the shores of Far eastern Siberia and brought to Alaskan shores by wind and ocean currents. The search, known as Operation "Beachcomber," yielded 115 such items. These were described, analyzed and made the subject of Intelligence Reports (see IR 5004-22-53, IR 5004-23-53 and IR 5004-24-53).

2. Five officers and sixteen airmen from Elmendorf and Ladd Air Force Bases, personnel of the 5004th AISS, will be airlifted to Nome Field, Alaska on or about 2 July 1954. Teams 1 and 2, composed of one officer and four airmen each, with a third officer acting as coordinator, will be

airlifted to Gambell, ST. Lawrence Island, on or about 3 July to begin search of the beaches which have been determined to hold flotsam (from air reconnaissance accomplished on or about 15 June). The search will be completed on or about 16 July and personnel returned by air to Nome.

3. Teams 3 and 4 will begin search of Seward Peninsula beaches on or about 3 July and return to Nome on 16 July. One team will search northward from cape Wales and the other north and east from Nome.

4. One team will be airlifted to Kotzebue and another team to Cape Lisburne on or about 19 July; both teams will search the beaches northward, the first team completing its search at Cape Lisburne and the other at approximately Ice Cape. Teams will return to Kotzebue for airlift to Nome on or about 30 July.

5. Search of beaches will be conducted on foot. Movements from point to point other than airlift, and the carrying of equipment, items recovered and supplies will be by Eskimo skinboats manned by Eskimo crew members. Team members will bivouac on suitable beach areas. All personnel will return by air from Nome field to their respective bases on or about 2 August 1954. Items of flotsam having intelligence value will accompany Headquarters 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron personnel, upon return to Elmendorf Air Force Base for final disposition.

A second project which received considerable attention during this period required the training and assignment of selected personnel to operate specialized photographic equipment, to be used in a classified mission for higher headquarters. These personnel and their equipment are to be located at strategic points within the theater to provide additional capability in the collection of intelligence information.

Also processed and reviewed by the Operations Section were all reports of observed unusual incidents reported within the theater. Preliminary investigation and preparation of initial reports was done by field units of the squadron.

Operations - Flight A, Flight B and Field Operations

Flight A of the squadron continued to operate with headquarters at Nome Field. Since this flight was originally organized as Detachment 1 of the squadron in February of 1953, routine operational procedures were well established, and personnel assigned to the unit had become more or less accustomed to operating under the difficult conditions found in the area.

Sites were maintained at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island, Little Diomedede Island, Kotzebue, and Point Hope throughout the period.

New operating sites were set up at Kivilina, Unalakleet, Elim and King Island. Resupply and personal contacts were maintained with these locations through the use of contracted bush plane, a facility almost indispensable to operations within the area.

Incidents of intelligence significance reported on by personnel of this flight continued to increase both in number and in importance as is evidenced by the greatly increased number of Air Intelligence information reports processed by the Operations Section.

Flight B of this organization, activated during the previous reporting period, maintained its headquarters at Ladd Air Force Base. This flight continued to operate with only two officers and three airmen assigned throughout the majority of this reporting period. The flight is attached for operational control to Eleventh Air Division, and it continued to aid this headquarters in its intelligence collection activities, and its investigation of unusual incidents or sightings.

Field Operations, the third field unit of the squadron is located at Elmendorf Air Force Base (Anchorage). This unit, like Flight B, is a compact, highly specialized unit, capable of moving at any time into the field to perform investigations under any conditions which may be encountered. This unit similar in several respects to Flight B, is under the operations control of squadron headquarters. It is, however, frequently called upon to perform investigations of incidents with possible intelligence significance by Tenth Air Division. These investigations are made only with the approval of squadron headquarters, and all reports are submitted through normal squadron channels to Tenth Air Division. Both Field Operations and Flight B have personnel assigned who are capable of performing technical investigations of crashed aircraft, or of interrogating prisoners of war.

1 JUL 1954 TO 31 DEC 1954-The basic organizational structure of the squadron remained virtually unchanged during this historical reporting period. Under a system devised by headquarters, USAF, the Table of Distribution under which this unit was formerly organized was done away with, and its place taken by a UMD, or Unit Manning Document. This system left unchanged the number of personnel assigned to the unit, and the AFSC's authorized, but reorganized the unit by function, placing each man within a functional grouping determined by the duties he actually performs.

An administrative visit was made by the squadron commander during September 1954 to headquarters USAF, Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and to the 4602d Air Intelligence Service Squadron, Ent Air Force Base. This TDY trip was designed to coordinate certain administrative matters with personnel at these locations, to discuss personnel and equipment requirements, and to discuss administrative and operational problems with another similarly organized Air Intelligence Service Organization.

One special activity in which the detachment was engaged received considerable publicity, both in Alaska and the Zone of the Interior. This involved the recovery and examination of a World War II Japanese balloon carrying an incendiary bomb from the rugged area north of Fairbanks Alaska. The recovery was made with the aid of an H-5 helicopter, which carried one man from detachment II to the upper Sheenjek River area where an unidentified object had been sighted by a bush pilot for Wein Alaska Airlines. Recovery of the balloon and the bomb was effected, and they were transported back to detachment headquarters for examination and study.

The balloon itself was made of rice paper, still extremely durable even after its long exposure to the elements. The bomb was found to be still highly explosive in spite of the time it had lain in the tundra. A full report of the operation was made through official channels. The section engaged in a number of activities designed to increase its own proficiency and at the same time perform a valuable service for this and other headquarters.

A number of investigations of unidentified flying objects were made for 10th Air Division and for Alaskan Air Command. These investigations were made at the request of these organizations, after the request was approved by squadron headquarters. Reports were made in all cases to the requesting unit. After investigation, objects were satisfactorily identified as such familiar objects as planes, stars or planets, tow targets or weather balloons.

Team number one and two on St. Lawrence Island had finished their missions in 14 and 15 July respectively, collecting 39 items of flotsam with Russian inscriptions. In the process, Team number one barely escaped disaster. For two days, the team had observed schools of whale in the waters around the eastern tip of St. Lawrence Island. On 10 July, enroute to Southeast Cape, the team was running about a mile offshore to avoid shore swell. Suddenly the native boatman yelled for everyone to hold on and simultaneously threw the tiller full over to the right. As the boat tipped and darted off at a sharp angle to its former course, a whale surfaced in the spot where the boat had been. Even then the wake almost capsized the small boat.

The Eskimos all agreed that it's a cold day in the Arctic when the barren tundra yields a Japanese balloon. But only recently the U. S. Air Force recovered just such an object, still intact, after exposure for more than a decade to the rugged Yukon climate.

Flying low between barter Island and Fort Yukon, Don Hulshizer, Chief Bush pilot for Wein Alaska Airlines, Fairbanks, Alaska, spotted a dull white object on the ground near the Scheenjok River. He decreased altitude in an attempt at identification, but because of the rough terrain he was unable to distinguish the object clearly.

Surmising that the find was either a parachute or part of a downed aircraft, Hulshizer contacted Air Intelligence officers at Ladd Air Force Base near Fairbanks, Alaska. Attempts by L-20 and SA-16 search craft to relocate the strange object at first proved unavailing due to the thick carpet of tundra-brush and undergrowth. The best chance for its recovery lay in a helicopter operation. The 7th Air Rescue Squadron at Ladd supplied an H-5 helicopter as well as an SA-16 aircraft to fly protective cover on the 230 mile trip. Alaska's rugged terrain requires that a helicopter be accompanied by a guiding or mother aircraft whenever it is forced to venture more than 25 miles from its home base.

Since the maximum range of the H-5 is approximately 150 miles, under Arctic conditions, the searchers made a refueling stop at Fort Yukon and then proceed north to the site. Aboard the helicopter assigned to recover the object was Lieutenant Harold L. Hale, an Intelligence Technician with the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron at Ladd AFB. Once at the site, the H-5 found landing impossible. Hovering a few feet above the target, Lieutenant Hale managed to jump safely to the ground. The dense underbrush and marshy tundra made walking extremely difficult and Hale only had 30 minutes in which to investigate and recover the strange looking object. Night was falling fast in the Far Arctic reaches. The 30 minutes gave the helicopter pilot time to set down a safe distance away, conserve fuel and then return to the site to pick up Hale.

"After coming upon the wreckage, I didn't actually know what I saw", Hale reported. "At first I thought it was a parachute. But after discovering that the 'chute' was made of a kind of rice paper

and the gondola contained some bamboo parts, I knew that whatever the object might be, we could be reasonably sure that it was of Japanese origin." He bundled up the rice paper balloon and stuffed it under a tree so that it would not be reported again as an unidentified object. "Gathering up about 120 pounds of the remains of the strange product in my arms, I stumbled across the slimy tundra to reach the helicopter which was hovering just inches off the deck." The odd find was loaded aboard and transported back to Ladd Air Force Base where personnel of the 5004th Air Intelligence detachment made a thorough study and investigation of the Japanese balloon-carried bomb.

It was determined that the airborne device was similar to Japanese balloons found floating over the western regions of the U.S. during the latter part of World War II. It had apparently blown across the Territory and finally came to rest at this spot, north of Ft. Yukon, where it had remained undetected for the past nine or 10 years.

Lauding the cooperation and flying proficiency of the 74th Air Rescue Squadron, Hale said, without the use of the 'copter, the only other way of recovering the balloon would have been by river boat, a slow and long drawn out process. Instead of one man and one day's operation, it would have taken five men and five weeks to execute a ground search and recovery. It would have required a month to go up the river and back, and a week to stumble through the three miles of brush from river bank to the site and return." He also held high praise for the skill and proficiency of the 'copter pilot, lieutenant Louis H. Wells of Quitman, Georgia.

The 300 pound weapon consisted of two principal parts, a metal gondola suspended by shroud lines, and a gas-filled balloon. The balloon itself measured approximately 32 feet in diameter and was constructed of rice paper, so durable that it could not be torn apart by two men pulling it ten years after it had been launched. The gondola consisted of chandelier-type frame from which were suspended more than 30 paper sandbags used as ballast. The gondola also contained a bomb hook supporting a Jap 5KG Thermite Incendiary bomb, measuring 16 inches in length. It was found that the bomb was still highly explosive and dangerous even after exposure to the rugged Arctic weather for nearly a decade.

Once balloons were launched from Japanese bases, the prevailing winds carried them for great distances. When the floating weapon reached a certain pressure altitude, gas would commence escaping from an outlet valve causing the device to descend until one of the five-pound sandbags was automatically kicked off by an electrical charge. The release of the ballast decreased the weight of the device and the balloon would once again begin ascent and its forward movement. It would continue to rise until it reached a pre-established altitude, whereupon it would descend, kick off more ballast, and repeat the process until finally all ballast had been spent and the bomb released. Then the balloon would again rise and after a predetermined time it would completely and ingeniously destroy itself by means of a self-contained detonator.

World War II Air Corps pilots on the Aleutian Chain reported shooting down as many as eight or ten of these balloons a day. Although these floating incendiaries were found as far east as Iowa and as far south as Mexico, this bomb is the first to be reported found this far north. It has been disarmed and sent to the Air Force Technical Museum at Dayton, Ohio, for display.

Summing up the balloon incident, lieutenant Hale emphasized the significant role which the Alaskan bush pilot is playing in the defense of America's northern ramparts and first line of defense. "The eyes of the bush pilot are invaluable to Air Force Intelligence in Alaska. Their alertness and foresight has consistently proved to be invaluable to the defense operations of the Alaskan Air Command."

1 JAN 1955 TO 30 JUN 1955

During this reporting period, the number of operational projects and training programs begun within the squadron increased considerably. The increase was largely due to the number of new personnel assigned to the squadron, who required training in the modus operandi of the organization. Then too, with the increased work force, new projects could be initiated, projects which have long been pushed aside for projects of a more urgent nature. Of major importance during this period was the planning and training for Beachcomber III.

Operations - Field Units

The three (3) field units of the squadron, detachment 1 and 2 and the Field Operations Section, continued to operate at Nome Field, Nome, Alaska; Ladd Air Force Base, Fairbanks, Alaska; and Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska, as their respective operating locations. Structurally, the three units remained stable during this reporting period.

1 JUL 1955 TO 30 DEC 1955

The number of Operational projects and training programs in this squadron increased considerably during this reporting period. This increase was largely due to the number of new personnel who required increased training in the methods of operation of this squadron, and who also provided an increased work force for the squadron. Of major importance was the conduct of Operation Beachcomber III during the reporting period.

The Operations section was the chief beneficiary of the squadron reorganization which was accomplished on 1 September 1955 subsequent to the deactivation of Detachment 1, 5004th AISS, Nome, Alaska, and the withdrawal of personnel from all remote outposts.

During the summer of 1954, the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron was directed by Alaskan Command J-2 to conduct a classified project for the photographic coverage of shipping and other targets of opportunity from a fixed installation on Mt. Sevuokuk, St. Lawrence Island, Alaska. An 80-inch focal length Zoomar Leica Camera was used but was found unsatisfactory for long range surveillance. This project was repeated during the summer of 1955, with 5004th AISS again in charge of the project under the direction of Alaskan Command.

In order to obtain more satisfactory photographic results, Alaskan Command requested the services of a US Army Signal Corps photographic team equipped with the newly developed 100-inch focal length 5"X7" camera and accessories. In response to this request, Headquarters United States Army, sent a Signal Corps team to Alaska for a period of 30 days to carry out the project.

1 JAN 57 - 30 JUN 57

The overall mission of the squadron remained unchanged: the overall exploitation of any and all sources of intelligence value within the Alaskan Air Command area of responsibility by means of limited field examination of captured enemy aircraft, on the spot interrogation of enemy aircrews, and rapid reporting of this information into the higher channels of command. The establishment and maintenance of an active intelligence collection capability remained the guidepost for all squadron activities within the field of training and proficiency.

The secondary mission remained as announced in April 1956 by the commander in Chief, Alaskan Command: the maintenance of target Intelligence centers, to support SAC aircraft operating from or through Alaskan Bases by providing aircrews with necessary target information and materials.

OPERATION BEACHCOMBER V All necessary planning and coordination incident to Beachcomber V was well underway by the first week of May, 1957. the appointed Project Officer, captain Howard L. Jensen, began a series of visits along the Arctic Coast during the early part of may for the purpose of arranging native skin-boat transportation along the designated beach areas.

The [Field Operations] Section carried out the training and supervision of the basic Field Collection Units by offering an aggressive program of continuous training in the out-of-doors fields including skiing, survival snowshoeing, hiking, mountain climbing and parachuting.

5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron

Operation of the Alaskan ELINT center to include:

- (1). Processing and analyses of all data derived from intercept sources in the Alaskan Air Command area of interest
- (2). Production of finished intelligence, both operational and technical, relative to electronic capabilities of probable enemies.
- (3). Recommendations relative to the establishment of or operation of special ELINT collection programs.
- (4). Technical guidance and assistance to ELINT collection activities in Alaska.
- (5). Liaison with other Services and Agencies.

Operation of Target Intelligence centers as directed by ACS/Intelligence, Alaskan Air Command. Operation of Photographic Facilities to include:

- (1). Maintenance of laboratory equipment, cameras, and use of sensitized materials and chemicals.
- (2). Processing of film necessary for completion of the overall squadron mission.

Operation of Activities to include:

- (1). Teams capable of:
 - (a). Operating in the field in all weather conditions.
 - (b). Accomplishing the investigations of downed enemy aircraft as required by the 5004th AISS Flash Report.
 - (c). Translating foreign documents, maps, and allied papers.
 - (d). Preliminary interrogations of PW's, Defectors, and Deserters
 - (e). Communicating intelligence information from the field.
- (2). Completing Air Intelligence reports (AF Form 112).

- (3). Completing Special Requests for Information (SRI).
- (4). Unidentified Flying Object investigations as required by AAC Reg. 200-5.
- (5). Field Collection Projects and training.

Operation of Communications facilities to include:

- (1). Equipment essential for transmission of intelligence information to and from the field.
- (2). Supplemental support for allied intelligence communications nets.
- (3). Maintenance of assigned equipment.

1 April 1957 TO 30 June 1958

MISSION(S): PRIMARY: The mission of the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron is to support the Alaskan Air command through operation of the Alaskan ELINT Center; maintain a limited collection capability including first phase field analysis and rapid reporting of air intelligence information from field sources within the area of AAC responsibility and operation of target intelligence centers as required. Performance of annual maintenance and inspection of USAF survival Caches throughout Alaska, and such other projects or missions as directed by the commander, Alaskan Air command.

OPERATIONS: During this reporting period a new concept of broadening the intelligence collection effort was incorporated "Project Caviar" (Coordinated Alaskan Village and Area Reporting) which will lay the groundwork for rapid village and area reporting from all coastal villages which are considered to possess an intelligence potential.

The Elmendorf Target Information Center ceased operations as of 30 June 1958, with the Eielson Target Information Center as the only remaining Target Center within the 5004th Air Intelligence Service Squadron.

1 October 58 TO 31 December

MISSION(S): PRIMARY: operation of the Alaskan ELINT Center, Elmendorf AFB and the Target Intelligence Center, Eielson AFB as provided for in AAC Regulation 23-4.

The Eielson Intelligence center continued to provide an efficient service to the various SAC units which it services in that area. The Alaskan ELINT Center continued to handle its work load efficiently and during the reporting period its capacity was substantially increased.

1 Jan 59 To 1 April 59

MISSION(S): PRIMARY: The primary mission was the operation of the Alaskan ELINT Center, and the Target Intelligence Center at Eielson.

The Alaskan ELINT Center continued to receive the major attention. Due to the changes taking place, UMD requirements were adjusted in accordance with desired skills believed needed. OJT training was initiated whenever possible to further use skills already in place. turn-in of excess equipment and reassignment of personnel who could not be used within the AFSC framework was accomplished. Rotation and influx of new people has progressed without undue loss of effectiveness of operation.

The beginning of the reporting period emphasized a change of mission concept due to the personnel austerity program, realignment of responsibilities, and the need for manpower in the growing ELINT activity. the reduction in mission resulted in elimination of Field operations and communications Sections of the Squadron. A consolidated organization to include several small activities into one, had been advocated. It was believed this would permit a saving in over-all administration overhead. The decision was made to deactivate the 5004th AISS, and join the new 5008th Support Squadron. This became effective on 1 April 1959, and at the same time the Target Intelligence Center, detachment 3, at Eielson was transferred to the 5010th Air Base Wing at that station. The Alaskan ELINT center will continue to operate at the same location under close supervision of the Office of Assistant chief of Staff, intelligence Alaskan Air command.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources