

AEROSPACE CARTOGRAPHIC AND GEODETIC SERVICE



LINEAGE

1370th Photomapping Group Designated, 5 Apr 1954
Redesignated 1370th Photomapping Wing, 1 Jan 1960
Redesignated Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service, 8 Oct 1968
Inactivated, 30 June 1972

STATIONS

Forbes AFB, KS

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Col Kendall S. Young 1 Jul 64
Col Thomas K. Potter 19 Jun 65
Col John G. Napier 6 Aug 65
Col Frederick H. Schmitz 8 Jun 67
Col Theodore P. Tatum 30 Jun 67
Col Leon Tannenbaum 1 Oct 70

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

CONTAINS DATA ON AEROSPACE CARTOGRAPHIC AND GEODETIC SERVICE (ACGS). COL LEON M. TANNENBAUM REPLACED COL THEODORE P. TATUM AS COMMANDER, 1 OCT 70. TERMINATED PROJECT SENTINEL GAL, A TRI-SERVICE HELICOPTER GRAVITY MEASURING SYSTEM TEST. CAMERA TEAMS FROM 1 GEODETIC SURVEY SQUADRON BEGAN PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL AERONAUTICAL AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) INVESTIGATION OF CAMERA OBSERVABLE SATELLITE EXPERIMENT. FOUR SQUADRONS WERE INACTIVATED 30 JUN 71: 1 AVIONICS MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, 1 GEODETIC COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS SQUADRON, 1 ORGANIZATIONAL MAINTENANCE SQUADRON, AND 2 AERIAL CARTOGRAPHIC AND GEODETIC SQUADRON.

CONTAINS DATA ON AEROSPACE CARTOGRAPHIC AND GEODETIC SERVICE (ACGS). INSPECTED BY MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND (MAC) INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG) TEAM, 12-18 SEP 71. BLUE RIBBON DEFENSE PANEL, CHAIRED BY MR. GILBERT W. FITZHUGH, RECOMMENDED DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) CONSOLIDATE ALL AGENCIES ENGAGED IN MAPPING, CHARTING, AND GEODESY, INTO SINGLE DOD AGENCY. ON 1 JAN 72, PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON ORDERED ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY (DMA). ON 30 JUN 72 ACGS WAS INACTIVATED AND ITS MANPOWER AND RESOURCES REDISTRIBUTED EXCEPT FOR 1 GEODETIC SURVEY SQUADRON WHICH CONSOLIDATED UNDER DMA AND 1 AERIAL CARTOGRAPHIC AND GEODETIC SQUADRON WHICH WAS REASSIGNED UNDER MAC'S 9 WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE WING.

MISSION (AIR FORCE REGULATION 23-21, 25 APR 66): PRODUCE AEROSPACE CHARTS AND RELATED PRODUCTS, (ASTRONAUTICAL, EXTRA TERRESTIAL AND AERONAUTICAL CHARTS, AIR TARGET MATERIALS, FLIGHT INFORMATION PUBLICATIONS, EVALUATED INFORMATION ON AIR FACILITIES, FLIGHT CONTROL AIDS AND PROVIDE RELATED CARTOGRAPHIC/GEODETIC SERVICE), OPERATE AND MAINTAIN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE CENTRAL STILL PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY, AND PERFORM NORMAL BASE SUPPORT FUNCTION AT SAINT LOUIS MO. SUPPORTED ARMY MAPPING SERVICE IN PRODUCING LARGE SCALE MAPS OF CAMBODIA. COMPLETED PRINTING REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EVASION CHARTS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA. DIRECTED TO PREPARE GNOMIC TRACKING CHART FOR PORTION OF SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY. COMPLETED HIGH PRIORITY PROJECT TO PRODUCE GRAPHICS FOR BRIEFING BOOKS IN SUPPORT OF JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, OFFICE OF SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR COUNTERINSURGENCY AND SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.

SPECIAL SMALL AERONAUTIC VIDEO CHARTS WERE COMPLETED FOR 1867 COMMUNICATIONS SQUADRON RADAR AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL FACILITY AT TAN SON NHUT AIRFIELD, SAIGON, VIETNAM. PUBLISHED AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION CENTER TECHNICAL REPORT 99, INFLIGHT EFFECT OF ANOMALOUS GRAVITY ON MINUTEMAN TRAJECTORIES. SUPPORTED GEMINI 8 AND GEMINI 9 AND PREPARED TO SUPPORT GEMINI 10 SPACEFLIGHT MISSIONS. PRODUCED APOLLO MISSION CHART FOR APOLLO MISSION 203. PREPARED AND SUBMITTED PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING USAF PORTION OF DOD CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR REDUCTION OF LUNAR ORBITER PHOTOGRAPHY FOR NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION. NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS SUPPORT: AGM-28B (HOUNDDOG) TERCOM (TERRAIN CONTOUR MATCHING), COCKPIT DISPLAY GRAPHICS (MARK II NAVIGATION SYSTEM FOR F-111A AND FB-111, AIR FORCE A-7A AND F-4 AIRCRAFT, MANNED PORTABLE INERTIAL SYSTEM, CHART OF HENDERSON ISLAND, FLIGHT INFORMATION PUBLICATION PROGRAM (FLIP), STANDARD INSTRUMENT DEPARTURE CONTRACT, UNITED STATES ARMY ALTERNATE AIRPORT WEATHER MINIMUMS, AERONAUTICAL VIDEO SLIDE (GPA-70) PROGRAM, AIR INTELLIGENCE FACILITIES INTELLIGENCE FILE (AAFIF), AND FLIP ENROUTE TERRAIN EVALUATION. INCLUDES NARRATIVE SECTIONS FOR DETACHMENT 1, ARLINGTON VA; DETACHMENT 4, CANAL ZONE; DETACHMENT 6, ALASKA; 7650 AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION SQUADRON, KASTEL STORAGE STATION, GERMANY; AND 7651 AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION SQUADRON, HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE HI.

1370th PHOTO-MAPPING GROUP

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Palm Beach AFB, FL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
Jun 1953-Aug 1956

1370th PHOTO MAPPING WING

1370th Photographic Mapping Wing

Turner AFB, then Forbes AFB

MATS

February 1959 October 1968 Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service

LINEAGE**STATIONS**

Turner AFB, GA

ASSIGNMENTS**COMMANDERS**

Col John G. Napier, #1966

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Sep 1956-1 Jul 1959

1 Jul 1964-30 Jun 1966

EMBLEM**EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE****MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

The Geodetic Survey Squadron (GSS) was a highly specialized, highly technical military organization with its heritage dating back only to 1959. The following brief organizational history, compiled from the GSS "Commander's Briefing Guide," and other sources will give an understanding of the organizational complexities involved.

The Geodetic Survey Squadron was formed on 1 July 1959 at Orlando AFB, Florida, as part of the Air Photographic and Charting Service and was designated the 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron (Missile). The formation of this dedicated Air Force survey unit was in direct response to survey requirements for the rapidly developing Intercontinental Ballistic Missile systems. With a complement of 13 officers, 40 enlisted, and 7 civilians, the unit was augmented by field survey and data reduction elements of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, United States Army Corps of Engineers, and the Army Map Service.

The 1381st Geodetic Survey Squadron moved to Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming in 1965 under the Military Airlift Command's 1370th Photomapping Wing. The squadron reached its peak in manpower, with 69 officers, 361 enlisted, and 32 civilians, manning the squadron and its detachments at Vandenberg, Ellsworth, Malmstrom, Grand Forks, and Whiteman Air Force Bases.

The organization was redesignated the 1st Geodetic Survey Squadron, under the Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service, in the Fall of 1968.

1370th Photo Mapping Wing

Turner AFB, GA (1959-1966) and Forbes AFB, KS (1966-1973)

The 1370th Photo Mapping Wing had sole responsibility for the Air Force's aerial mapping photography and electronic surveying. The three-fold mission included worldwide precision photo-mapping, electronic controlled photo-mapping, and aerial electronic geodetic surveys. In the age of high speed and largely automatic flight and increasing importance of missiles, the size and shape of the earth and the exact location of points on its surface are of great national significance.

The 1370th got the airborne data, which is the raw material for the fantastically accurate map, that these requirements demanded. Primary mission flying was accomplished by either the 1371st, with their RB-50's (later replaced by RC-135), or the 1375th, with their RC-130's. The 1371st also furnished flying personnel for the C-54's, C-118, C-47, CH-21's, CH-3's, and HH-43's used as cargo carriers.

The Wing was organized into seven squadrons, one operation location, and several aerial survey teams. The more than 1,500 assigned personnel based in Albany, Georgia spent approximately half of each year deployed to project locations all over the world.

The 1370th Photo Mapping Wing moved from Turner AFB, GA to Forbes AFB, KS in May 1966. Its commander, Col. Ted Tatum, had previously headed the USAF's Air Rescue and Recovery Service. Equipped with big four-jet Boeing RC-135's, the 1370th had a global mission: Triangulating on ground transmitters manned by small parties of airmen, the planes took high-resolution strip photos from nearly five miles up and used them to produce history's most accurate maps. In October 1968 the wing

was redesignated the Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service. It remained at Forbes until 1973 and was the last major unit to leave the base.

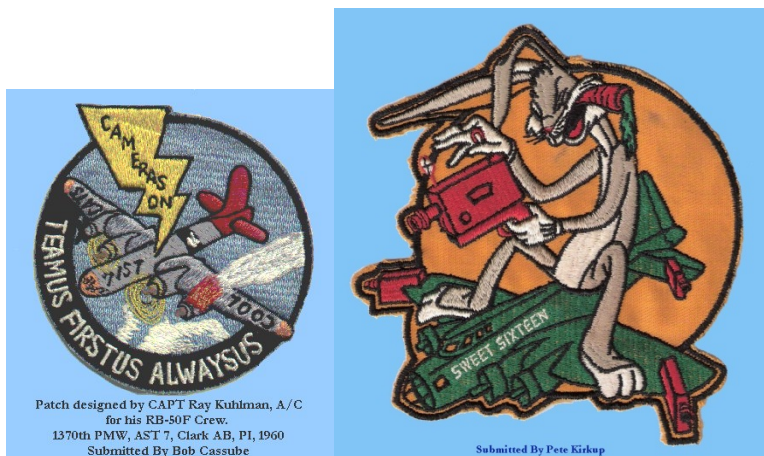
Aerial Survey Teams were the "Work Horses" of the 1370th Photo-Mapping Wing. They were composite units of personnel and equipment that went into the field in areas throughout the world and functioned as a complete team accomplishing aerial photo-mapping and surveying. This is where the helicopters performed their main duty, that of installing, removing, then reinstalling at another location, the personnel and equipment for the ground HIRAN radar stations in remote locations.

Communication and electronics support and personnel for the HIRAN ground stations were furnished by the 1374th, while the 1373rd furnished the photographic processing, evaluation, geodetic computations and technical planning for aerial surveying.

All this equipment and aircraft used must be maintained and this was done by the personnel of the 1376th CAMRON (After 1963 as 1370th OMS & FMS) under the supervision of the chief of maintenance.

In 1973 the mapping operations was turned over to the Defense Mapping Agency, not USAF, but still DOD.

The helicopters were either assigned to the wing or on loan from other USAF commands. The helicopters were used mainly in a support capacity, however in most cases the remote ground stations could not have been installed or maintained without them. Here are a few examples:





Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service (ACGS), Forbes AFB, Kan., is assigned the task of gathering geodetic data for the cartographic needs of the Air Force and Army. In addition, ACGS conducts ground surveys and gravity-measuring activities at missile sites, radar installations, and satellite-tracking stations.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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