

PORTLAND AIR DEFENSE SECTOR



MISSION

Adair Air Force Station is the Headquarters of the Portland Air Defense Sector. The Portland ADS Command directs the electronic Air Defense of an area bordered by Seattle, Washington on the north; Reno, Nevada on the east; San Francisco, California on the South; and the Pacific Ocean on the west.

One of the three defense sectors of the 25th Air Division, the Portland or "POADS" Command joins with the Seattle Air Defense Sector located at McChord AFB, Tacoma, Washington and the Spokane Air Defense Sector at Larson AFB, Moses Lake, Washington to direct the Air Defense of the Northwestern United States.

POADS is comprised of the Direction Center, Command Headquarters, and support units located on the Adair Station. Its subordinate units include the 377th Fighter Group based at Portland International Airport, Portland, Oregon and the 408th Fighter Group based at Kingsley Field, Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Other subordinate units are five assigned radar squadrons located at Mount Hebo Air Force Station, Keno AFS, and North Bend AFS in Oregon; and Klamath AFS and Red Bluff AFS in Northern California. The Command is also responsible for the operation and maintenance of 11 unmanned "Gap-Filler" radar facilities situated in the assigned area.

Activities of all assigned units are operationally controlled by personnel in the three-story concrete "blockhouse" Direction Center at Adair. This windowless edifice houses centralized surveillance equipment and two gigantic high-speed digital computers.

Adair's Direction Center is one of 22 such installations now in operation to provide the electronic air defense of the entire North American Continent. It was the second such facility in the Western United States to become fully operational.

During simulated combat exercises or actual alerts, all air defense divisions and their subordinate sectors automatically become under the operational control of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The NORAD Command comprises both the Air Defense and Continental Air Commands, U.S. Army and Navy air defense organizations; and Canadian land, sea and air defense forces.

The mission of Air Defense can be summed up simply with the four letters D.I.I.D.—Detect, Identify, Intercept, and Destroy.

LINEAGE

Portland Air Defense Sector activated, 1 Sep 1958

Discontinued, 1 Apr 1966

STATIONS

Adair AFS, OR

ASSIGNMENTS

25 Air Division

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *25th NORAD Region*. 1963.