

WASHINGTON AIR DEFENSE SECTOR



MISSION

The mission of Washington Air Defense Sector is to defend a geographical area which included the nation's capital, Baltimore, MD, and Norfolk, VA, from air attack. In the Conduct of this defense, Army and Navy units are under the operational control of the Washington Air Defense Sector commander.

LINEAGE

4625 Air Defense Wing (SAGE) activated, 8 Jan 1957
Redesignated Washington Air Defense Sector
Discontinued, 1 Apr 1966

STATIONS

Fort Lee, VA

ASSIGNMENTS

85 Air Division
26 Air Division, 1 Sep 1958

COMMANDERS

Col Harold A. Gunn, 1 Dec 1956
Brig Gen Ernest H. Beverly, 5 Sep 1958

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The first Air Force member of the Washington Air Defense Sector arrived at Fort Lee, Virginia, 29 Jul 1956. He was MSgt Norbert D. Janiszski, the only person at this time responsible for establishing the unit, greeting new arrivals, and generally "setting up shop".

While civilian contractors went about their work constructing the SAGE operations building, Sgt Janeszski spent the summer of 1956 as NCOIC of the advance members of a unit yet to be activated.

September saw the arrival of the unit's first officer, Maj Luther W. Feagin, who assumed the role of Project Officer. MSgt Joseph A. Levy arrived about the same time to become the NCOIC.

By the end of November the unit had increased to more than 50 members. On 1 Dec 1956, Col Harold A. Gun arrived as Commander, and the Washington Air Defense Sector was officially activated. Its immediate mission was to develop as fast as possible in preparation for assuming responsibility for the air defense mission in the Washington area.

By 1 Jul 1957, the fast-growing Washington Air Defense Sector Headquarters was manned by 9 officers and 97 airmen. Morale and welfare facilities for these personnel were furnished by the United States Army Quartermaster Training Command at Fort Lee. The Air Force first occupied the SAGE Direction Center 26 Feb 1957, while the computer and allied equipment were being installed, and in August, the Administration building, adjacent to the Direction Center was occupied.

In Jan 1958, the first data and telephone circuits were installed, and later in the year the first sub-systems test on search and gap-filler radars associated with the Direction Center were begun.

Upon inactivation of the 85th Air Division and incorporation of its area in the 26th Air Division on 1 Sep 1958 the following units were assigned to Headquarters, Washington Air Defense Sector: 48 FIS, Langley AFB, VA; 95 FIS, Andrews AFB, MD; 632 ACWS, Roanoke Rapids, NC; 647 ACWS, Manassas, VA; 649th ACWS, Bedford, VA; and the 771 ACWS, Cape Charles, VA. On 1 Feb 1959, the 98 FIS, Dover AFB, DE, was assigned to the Sector and the 22nd Air Defense Missile Squadron, (BOMARC) was assigned to the Sector during Sep 1959.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 27 Feb 2023
Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit History. 85th Air Division, Defense. 1957