

## 548 INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE GROUP



### **MISSION**

The 548 ISRG operates \$1-billion Distributed Ground Station-2 and Deployable Shelterized System-Film components of the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System. This includes exploitation and dissemination of near-real-time U-2, Global Hawk and Predator imagery and signals data to provide actionable, fused all-source intelligence to theater, joint/combined force and component commanders. The unit supports six unified command operations plans. The 548th ISRG is comprised of the 9th Intelligence Squadron, the 13th Intelligence Squadron, and the 48th Intelligence Squadron, all at Beale Air Force Base, in addition to the 152nd Intelligence Squadron, Nevada Air National Guard, Reno, Nevada.

### **LINEAGE**

6 Photo Technical Squadron constituted, 20 Nov 1943  
Activated, 1 Dec 1943  
Redesignated 548 Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, 7 Jan 1950  
Discontinued, 8 Mar 1960  
Organized, 8 Oct 1965  
Redesignated 548 Reconnaissance Technical Group, 1 Oct 1967  
Inactivated, 3 Jul 1991  
Redesignated 548 Air Intelligence Group, 1 Aug 1992  
Activated, 27 Aug 1992  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994  
Redesignated 548 Intelligence Group, 23 Oct 2003  
Activated, 1 Dec 2003  
Redesignated 548 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 1 Jan 2009

### **STATIONS**

Will Rogers Field, OK, 1 Dec 1943-11 Apr 1944

Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, 13 May 1944-28 Nov 1944  
Morotai Island, 12 Dec 1944-Sep 1945  
Camp Dulag, Leyte, 30 Sep 1945  
Fort William McKinley, Luzon, 22 Nov 1945  
Tokyo, Japan, 17 May 1946  
Yokota Army Air Base (later, Air Base), Japan, Sep 1946  
Showa Air Station, Japan, 30 Jun 1958  
Yokota Air Base, Japan, 6-8 Mar 1960  
Hickam AFB, HI, 8 Oct 1965-3 Jul 1991  
Langley AFB, VA, 27 Aug 1992-1 Oct 1994  
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Dec 2003

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

III Reconnaissance Command, 1 Dec 1943  
Thirteenth Air Force, 13 May 1944  
91 Reconnaissance Wing, 10 Nov 1945  
Pacific Air Command, US Army (later, Far East Air Forces), 27 Jan 1946  
Fifth Air Force, 5 Jan 1950  
Far East Air Forces, 18 Feb 1950  
Japanese Air Defense Force, 1 May 1952  
6007 Composite Reconnaissance (later, 6007<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance) Group, 11 Aug 1954  
Far East Air Forces, 2 Apr 1955  
6007 Reconnaissance Group, 1 Jul 1955  
Fifth Air Force, 1 Jul 1957  
67 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 1 Oct 1957-8 Mar 1960  
Pacific Air Forces, 30 Jun 1965-3 Jul 1991  
Air Combat Command, 27 Aug 1992  
Second Air Force, 1 Oct 1992  
Twelfth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993-1 Oct 1994  
480 Intelligence (later, 480 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) Wing, 1 Dec 2003

### **COMMANDERS**

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Alvin A. Munn 1 Dec 1943  
Maj Cook Bausman, Jr. 5 Dec 1943–Unknown  
Capt Clark R. Purcell Unknown–10 Feb 1944  
Maj James G. Kalec 10 Feb 1944–1945  
Unknown 1945–1950  
Maj George H. Fisher, 9 Feb 1950  
Maj Francis J. Beck 8 Mar 1950  
Maj George H. Fisher 1950  
Maj Marvin R. William Feb 1952  
Maj Charles H. Duke May 1952  
Maj Ross J. Foster 1 Jul 1953  
Lt Col James G. Ernest 19 Mar 1956

Lt Col Robert H. Spencer 15 Jul 1957  
Lt Col Philip P. Fisher 4 Nov 1957  
Maj Richard K. Anderson 24 May 1958–1958  
Lt Col Samuel A. Caster 1958–1960  
Col Storm C. Rhode c. 1965–1 Oct 1967  
Col Storm C. Rhode 1 Oct 1967  
Col Byron L. Schatzley 15 Jan 1969  
Col Clark E. Davidson 15 Jun 1970–31 Dec 1970  
Unknown, 31 Dec 1970  
Col Paul A. Fitzgerald 1 Feb 1972  
Col Walter C. Stevens, Jr. ca. 1 Jul 1973  
Col Duane E. Vandenberg 10 Jun 1974  
Col Dan T. Waddle 1 Jun 1975  
Col Kenneth B. Orr 1 Jul 1976  
Col Barre E. Smuck 22 Aug 1978  
Col Ronald H. Markarian 19 Jul 1979  
Col John R. McIntyre, Jr. 6 Aug 1980  
Lt Col James F. Grant 22 Jul 1983  
Col Larry L. Benson 13 Sep 1985  
Lt Col Herbert J. Boasso, Jr.  
Col Jerry A Wright 27 Aug 1992  
Col Richard Annas 21 Dec 1993 – 1 Oct 1994  
Col YuLin G. Bingle 1 Dec 2003  
Col Teresa L. Fitzpatrick 7 Jun 2005  
Col Kevin B. Wooton 11 Jul 2007  
Col Kevin B. Wooton 1 Jan 2009  
Col Jenny A. McGee 5 Aug 2009  
Col Patrick M. Flood 24 Jun 2011

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

Korean Service

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

New Guinea 1943-1944

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

27 Jun 1950-10 Apr 1951

11 Apr 1951-26 Nov 1954

14 Oct 1954-[1 Apr 1955 and 1 Jul 1955]-30 Jun 1956

23 Jan-25 Mar 1968  
30 Mar-15 Aug 1972  
1 Feb 1974-31 May 1975  
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980  
1 Jun 1986-31 May 1988  
1 Apr 1989-31 Mar 1991  
1 Jan 1993-30 Sep 1994  
1 Jun 2007-31 May 2009

## **EMBLEM**

Azure, above a demi-sphere issuing from base with axis bendwise checky Sable and Argent, a stylized aircraft fesswise of the last emitting a vapor trail fesswise to sinister Gules, and a beam to the demi-sphere Or, between a pattern of seven mullets forming the Dipper to dexter and four mullets one, two, and one in sinister all White; above the aircraft a larger mullet also White, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "548TH INTELLIGENCE GROUP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The globe and stars denote PACAF's global responsibilities. The check pattern on the globe is symbolic of the photographic, cartographic and photogrammetric mission of the Group. The black and white check pattern also alludes to day-night reconnaissance and the 24-hour operations of the unit. The aircraft represents all Air Force aerospace reconnaissance platforms. The triangle is symbolic of broad coverage obtained by multi-sensor reconnaissance vehicles, i.e., photo, infrared and radar. (Approved, 11 Dec 1968; newest rendition approved, 29 Dec 2003)

## **MOTTO**

NON POTESTIS LATERE--You can't hide

DUTY OUR PRIVILEGE-SERVICE OUR OBJECTIVE

## **OPERATIONS**

The unit was originally constituted on 20 November 1943, as the 6th Photographic Technical Squadron (PTS) and was activated on 1 December of that year at Will Rogers Field, Oklahoma, under the auspices of III Reconnaissance Command, United States Army Air Corp. In early 1945, the unit deployed to the Pacific Theater. The 6th PTS moved forward with the Allied Campaign against Japan, and provided support from sites on Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Morotai Island, and Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. After World War II, the unit remained in Japan, at Yokota Army Air Base and Showa Air Station.

The unit was re-designated the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (RTS) on 7 January 1950. At the out break of the Korean War in June 1950, the 548th was stationed at Yokota Air Base, Japan, with detachments at Clark and Kadena. The squadron provided reconnaissance support to the United Nations Command during the entire war.

To complete the Asiatic-Pacific portion of the Service's post-hostilities mapping program, the Air Force re-assigned the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron to the Far East Air Force on 18 February 1950. During this period, the Director of Reconnaissance exercised operational control over the 548 RTS. The unit furnished quantitative photographic processing, lithographic reproduction, photographic interpretation, and served as the theater depository for photographic film. Most of the reconnaissance units under this command were badly under strength and possessed obsolete equipment, so the 548 RTS produced the images provided by other units during flying operations. Overall, the reconnaissance units assigned to the FEAF were a "series of dangling and disconnected minorities," and required a parent organization.

Due to this organizational dilemma, the Far East Air Force found itself performing functions normally assigned to a wing to include policy formation, establishment of requirements and specifications, and controlling the supply of specialized equipment. Overnight, the Air Force reconnaissance establishment in the Far East had to adapt to an extremely high operations tempo needed to fight in the Korean War. Despite organizational and procedural handicaps, the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron produced over two hundred thousand photographic prints.

In August 1950 alone, the squadron's printing plant processed two and a half million photographic impressions. Squadron personnel worked "round the clock" to provide strike photographs and target materials for Far East Air Forces units and United Nations forces in Korea. Additionally, the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron met numerous intelligence processing requirements for units assigned to the Allied Occupation Forces in Japan as well as the Air Force back in the United States.

On 1 May 1952, the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron was reassigned to support Air Force units responsible for the air defense of the Japanese home islands. Despite the many challenges during the Korean War, the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron produced great volumes of essential, high quality reconnaissance technical products and information required by United Nations forces. After Korea, the Air Force re-assigned the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron to the 6007th Composite Reconnaissance Group, and by 1 July 1955, the 6607th Reconnaissance Group assumed responsibility for the squadron. The 548 RTS later transferred to the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, and in March 1960, moved to Yokota AB, Japan where it was deactivated two days after the move.

The 548th RTS was inactivated in March of 1960.

The unit was activated as the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (RTS) on 8 October 1965. It was organized at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, in support of the Pacific Air Forces (PACAF). The 548th RTS was housed in building 206 (The same building number as the 548th RTS, and later the 67th RTS, at Yokota and the AFSC PI's), a 2-story corrugated aluminum structure the length of a football field at the far side of Honolulu International Airport on Keehi Lagoon, with a great view of Honolulu, Waikiki, Punchbowl and Diamond Head The unit was reorganized as the 548th

Reconnaissance Technical Group on 1 October 1967 and on 4 May 1968 officially moved to Hangar Three, across from the PACAF headquarters.

In the spring of 1971, the 67th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, was inactivated due to a reduction in forces in Japan. The mission of the 67th RTS, which at this time was largely the processing and exploitation of Giant Scale SR-71 missions flown from Okinawa, Japan, Church Door U-2 missions flown by the Republic of China, and target material production, was transferred to the 548th, along with many of the 67th RTS personnel.

The inside of hangar 3 held a two-story facility, with much of the space later certified for TOP SECRET Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). On the first floor was the Photo Lab, Precision Photo Maintenance, Library, Logistics/Supply, Cartographics (In the early days) and other work spaces. The second floor housed the Command Section, Chem Mix, Work Order Control, and the Briefing Room, outside the secure facility, and within the "Green Door" was located Imagery Exploitation, Data Management, Research and Analysis, Target Materials, and the SCI Library and office.

The primary imagery missions processed and exploited by the 548th were Giant Scale (SR-71) missions flown in Southeast Asia (SEA) and along the Korean DMZ, Olympic Meet/Game (U-2) missions flown in SEA, Buffalo Hunter (Firebee Drone) flown in SEA, Bench Box (RF-4C) flown along the Korean DMZ, and National Strategic Reconnaissance Systems over the Pacific Command Area. The members of the organization also deployed to Osan AB, Korea to support the Senior Gaze (U-2) program, which flew electro-optical missions along the Korean DMZ

After 25 years of supporting operations in the Pacific Theater, the Air Force inactivated the 548th Reconnaissance Technical Group on 3 July 1991. Re-designated on 1 August 1992, the 548th Air Intelligence Group activated on 17 August 1992 at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. The group reported directly to Air Combat Command. Three months later, the 548th Air Intelligence Group was reassigned to Second Air Force, and within a year, it was transferred to Twelfth Air Force. The Air Force de-activated the 548th Air Intelligence Group on 1 October 1994. The Air Force re-designated the 548th Air Intelligence Group on 23 October 2003, and on 1 December 2003 activated the 548th Intelligence Group.

The unit moved to Beale Air Force Base, California, and reported to the 480 Intelligence Wing. It currently reports to the 480 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing. The 548 Intelligence Group was re-designated as the 548 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group on 1 January 2009. The unit operates and maintains the Distributed Ground System-2 of the Air Force's Distributed Common Ground System and performs analysis and processing of wet film used in the U-2 Optical Bar Camera. The 548 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group's subordinate units include the 9, 13, and 48 Intelligence Squadrons. The 548 Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group works closely, in a mutually supporting relationship, with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. These organizations include the 222 Operations Support Squadron (California Air National Guard), the 50 Intelligence Squadron (Air Force Reserve Command), 123 Intelligence Squadron (Arkansas Air National Guard), the 152 Intelligence

Squadron (Nevada Air National Guard), the 222 Intelligence Squadron (California Air National Guard), and the 234 Intelligence Squadron (California Air National Guard).

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 19 Nov 2010

Updated: 20 Apr 2023

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.