

41 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

41 Radio Squadron, Mobile constituted and activated, 1 Jun 1951
Inactivated, 8 May 1955
Disbanded, 15 Jun 1983
Reconstituted and redesignated 41 Intelligence Squadron, 3 Sep 2014
Activated, 26 Sep 2014

STATIONS

Brooks AFB, TX, 1 Jun-13 Nov 1951
Bremen Enclave, Germany, 11 Dec 1951-8 May 1955
Fort Meade, MD, 26 Sep 2014

ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Force Security Service, 1 Jun 1951
6960 Headquarters Support Group, 1 Sep 1951
United States Air Force Security Service, 23 Jan 1952
6910 Security Group, 25 Apr 1952-8 May 1955
659 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 26 Sep 2014

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[26 Sep]-31 Dec 2014

1 Jun 2015-31 May 2016

EMBLEM



Approved, 1 Sep 2015

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

In line with its intercept site expansion plans for Europe, Air Force Security Service activated the 41st Radio Squadron Mobile at Brooks AFB, Texas, on 1 June 1951. Maj. Gen. Lynn, USAFSS Commander, selected Maj. Glen E. Pennywitt to command the 41st RSM. He and his staff built up the 41st RSM in an old hangar at Brooks, where they cobbled together intercept equipment to outfit the new unit. The nucleus of the squadron was formed at Brooks, but the 2nd RSM at Darmstadt and the 12th RSM at Landsberg provided most of the operations personnel for the 41st.

In September 1951, Maj. Pennywitt conducted a site survey of the Bremerhaven Staging Area that was to be home to the 41st RSM. The 41st RSM was replacing Detachment 23, 2nd RSM in Bremerhaven, and he coordinated the squadron's future move with Lt. Benson, commander of Detachment 23, 2nd RSM.

While in Europe, Maj. Pennywitt also visited the 12th Radio Squadron Mobile in Landsberg in the German Alps, as well as the recently relocated 6910th Security Group Headquarters in

Wiesbaden. In November 1951, the 41st RSM relocated from Brooks AFB aboard a Liberty ship from New York to Bremerhaven. Engineers specified a requirement for 100-foot tall antenna masts for stringing Rhombic antennas that could monitor targets of interest, and the low sea level and high water table in Bremerhaven made it almost impossible to erect such tall antennas.

With the 41st RSM fully operational, in 1952 USAFSS reassigned Maj. Pennywitt as the Executive Officer of the 6910th Security Group in Wiesbaden, replacing him as 41st RSM Commander with Lt. Col. Heald, who had been the 12th RSM's first commander.

The 41st RSM moved from its temporary operations area in a hangar to its new operations compound in 1954.

In May 1955, the 41st Radio Squadron Mobile inactivated and the 6913th Radio Squadron Mobile was activated as part of a major USAFSS reorganization. The 41st RSM personnel officer issued special orders reassigning all assigned personnel to the new organization with no change in duty station.

FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, Md. Lt. Col. James Hilburn was presented the 41st Intelligence Squadron guidon by Col. Parker Wright, 659th ISR Group commander, officially taking command of the 25th Air Force's first Cyber Mission Force dedicated squadron during an activation ceremony Oct. 3 at National Vigilance Park. The 41st IS was activated as part of U.S. Cyber Command's Cyber Mission Force, an initiative to grow the Department of Defense's cyber domain by an additional 6000 trained individuals by 2016.

The 659th ISR Group will stand up three additional squadrons, the 37th, 5th and 75th IS, scheduled within the next year in support of the Air Force's commitment of more than 1000 dedicated Airmen to the Cyber Mission Force. "The stand-up of the 41st Intelligence Squadron today, and the 37th Intelligence Squadron and the 5th Intelligence Squadron later this month, reflect 25th Air Force's firm commitment to the Cyber Mission Force," said Maj. Gen. John Shanahan, 25th Air Force commander. "The 41st Intelligence Squadron will be a critical element of U.S. Cyber Command's efforts to defend our nation from cyber attacks." The 41st IS will conduct a Cyber ISR mission as well as a full spectrum of cyberspace operations aiding in the nation's defense.

"As you've heard, the 41st Intelligence Squadron, like its predecessor the 41st Radio Squadron, Mobile, has been tasked with a unique mission," said Hilburn. "A mission vital to the security of the United States and its allies. The Airmen of the 41st IS provide leadership and support for one of the nation's priority mission sets - Cyber ISR, a mission focused on the nation's ability to operate in cyber space." Significant efforts have been made by the DOD to strengthen cyber capabilities to include the stand-up of U.S. Cyber Command in 2009, the re-designation of the 24th Air Force to Air Force Cyber in 2010, and the implementation of U.S. Cyber Command's Cyber Mission Forces in 2013.

This interest in cyber comes from current threat assessments and growing capabilities in the cyber landscape, said Wright. The 41st, and future organizational changes within the 659th, are a reflection of these capabilities as well as a defense against potential threats and vulnerabilities.

"Why [activate the 41st] you ask?" said Hilburn. "Simply because the world has grown smaller. We as a people are more connected now than ever before. Email, internet and social media--the list goes on. Globalization has successfully created a world intimately connected to the electromagnetic spectrum, introducing a unique realm for international interaction and of course for potential conflict.

We have been charged with achieving cyberspace superiority allowing the United States to operate freely while limiting our adversaries' ability to function in this realm." The 41st IS will gain more than half of its current number of assigned Airmen within a year, and by 2016, the 659th ISR Group will have more than doubled, expanding its capabilities to conduct cyber operations across 5 geographic locations. "Our cyber ISR Airmen are crew members in our nation's newest fighting force," said Lt. Gen. Robert Otto, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. "The Air Force cyber ISR mission continues to grow as we seek to outpace cyber threats to our nation." "At a time when the rest of the Air Force is getting smaller, the Cyber ISR mission is growing by leaps and bounds," said Wright. "That's recognition of the expanding threat.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

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