

680 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

680 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Redesignated 680 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

Yaak, MT
Palermo AFS, NJ

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Clifford E. Hudgens, #1954

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

MONTANA Bonner's Ferry/Yaak

The 680th AC&W Squadron began operating AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-4 sets at this northern tier site in April 1952. An AN/FPS-6 was added in 1956 and the AN/FPS-4 was replaced by an AN/GPS-3 in 1957. This station at Yaak was converted into an unmanned gap-filler radar site in 1960 and redesignated SM-151E. The 680th AC&W Squadron was deactivated on July 1, 1960 but would be reborn the following year at site P-54 in New Jersey.

NEW JERSEY Palermo

In 1948 the Air Force activated an AN/TPS-1B long-range search radar at this southern New Jersey site that fed into a primitive control center established at Roslyn, New York. This radar site was incorporated into the Lashup system and the follow-on permanent network. In 1951 AN/CPS-5 and AN/TPS-10A height-finder radars were added to the site. By April 1952 the 770th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/CPS-4 and AN/FPS-3 sets. In the spring of 1957, this site was one of the first to deploy an AN/FPS-20 radar. The site also received two AN/FPS-6 height-finder radars at this time. The site became a SAGE feeder in June 1958. By late 1959 this station also was performing air traffic control duties. On October 1, 1961, the 770th and the site designation left for Fort Meade, Maryland (RP-54). The Palermo site was then operated by Detachment 1 of the New York Air Defense Sector. This unit was redesignated the 680th Radar Squadron in 1962 and the P-54 site designation returned to Palermo in 1963. In 1963, the AN/FPS-20 was upgraded into an AN/FPS-65. The 680th was deactivated in May 1970.

Yaak AFS (Bonners Ferry), MT

680 Yaak AFS (Bonners Ferry), MT FPS-3; FPS-4; FPS-6; GPS-3 Apr-52 01-Jul-60 Radar site was located on top of Hensley Hill; cantonment and housing were down below, at town of Yaak. Sq relocated to Palermo AFS, NJ (Z-54); Yaak AFS became gap-filler site SM-151E. History of Yaak AFS (Bonners Ferry), MT The 680th AC&W Squadron began operating AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-4 sets at this northern-tier site in April 1952. An AN/FPS-6 was added in 1956, and the AN/FPS-4 was replaced by an AN/GPS-3 in 1957. The 680th AC&W Squadron was deactivated on 1 July 1960, but would be reborn the following year as the 680th Radar Squadron (SAGE) at Palermo AFS (site Z-54) in New Jersey. This station at Yaak was converted into an unmanned gap-filler radar site in 1960, and redesignated SM-151E.

Palermo AFS', NJ

680 Palermo AFS', NJ FPS-20 / FPS-65; FPS-6 (2) 1962 30-Mar-70 BUIC-II. Sq transferred from Yaak AFS, MT (P-11). Site re-opened as Z-54 (LRR); closed again in 1970, and GATR site R-28 retained until 1976. The housing reportedly transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard after site closed.

In 1948 the Air Force activated an AN/TPS-1B Lashup search radar at this southern New Jersey site (L-13) that fed into a manual control center established at Roslyn, New York. This radar site was incorporated into the Lashup system and the follow-on permanent network. In 1951 AN/CPS-5 and

AN/TPS-10A height-finder radars were added to the site. By April 1952 the 770th AC&W Squadron was operating AN/CPS-4 and AN/FPS-3 sets. In the spring of 1957, this site was one of the first to deploy an AN/FPS-20 search radar. The site also received two AN/FPS-6 height-finder radars at this time. The site became a SAGE feeder in June 1958. By late 1959 this station also was performing air-traffic-control duties. On October 1, 1961, the 770th Radar Squadron (SAGE) and the site designation left for Fort Meade, Maryland (RP-54) (a joint-use Army / Air Force radar site). Plans to convert the Palermo site to a gap-filler annex were cancelled following the loss of Texas Tower No. 4 (TT-4) in Jan 1961. The AN/FPS-20 search radar was retained, operated by Detachment 1 of the New York Air Defense Sector. This unit was redesignated the 680th Radar Squadron (SAGE) (relocated from Yaak AFS, MT, P-11) in 1962, and the P-54 site designation returned to Palermo in 1963 as Z-54. [The Fort Meade radar site was redesignated as Z-227.] In 1963, the AN/FPS-20 was upgraded into an AN/FPS-65. In 1968 one AN/FPS-6 height-finder radar was retired. Radar operations ceased 30 March 1970, and the 680th Radar Squadron was deactivated in May 1970. The GATR site (R-28) remained in use until 1976.

680th Radar Sq (SAGE): activated 1 Mar 51 at Yaak AFS, MT, assigned to tie 545th ACW Gp; transferred to 29th AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to 4702nd Def Wg 16 Feb 53; transferred to 9th AD 8 Oct 54; transferred to 25th AD 15 Aug 58; transferred to 4700th AD Wg 1 Sep 58; transferred to 25th AD 15 May 60; discontinued 1 Jul 60; reactivated 1 Jun 62 as the 680th Radar Sq (SAGE) (from AC&W Sq) and assigned to NY ADS at Palermo AFS, NJ; transferred to 21st AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 35th AD 1 Dec 67; reassigned to 33rd AD 1 Apr 68; reassigned to 20th AD 19 Nov 69; inactivated 30 May 70.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *25 Air Division (Defense)*. 1953-1954.