

786 RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



MISSION

LINEAGE

786 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron constituted 30 Mar 1951

Activated 20 May 1951

Redesignated 786 Radar Squadron (SAGE)

STATIONS

Velva, ND

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a medium blue shield edged black, a black silhouetted map of the US, bordered white, surmounted in the chief area of the shield by a black silhouetted radome edged white; an arrow piercing the radome a radar scope on lower part of radome and two silhouetted aircraft in NW and SE corners respectively of the map all white details black. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is

symbolic of the Aircraft Control and Warning mission in that electronic detection is indicated by the lightning bolt through the radome; surveillance and control is represented by the radar scope and aircraft and the map of the US represents the squadron's constant vigilance in safeguarding the nation. (Approved 16 Nov 1956)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

786th Radar Sq (SAGE): activated 20 May 51 at Velva, ND, assigned to 543rd AWN Gp; transferred to 31st AD 6 Feb 52; transferred to 29th AD 16 Feb 53; site redesignated to Minot AFS, ND 1 Dec 53; transferred to Minot ADS 1 Jan 61; redesignated from ACW Sq to 786th Radar Sq (SAGE), 15 Jul 61; transferred to Great Falls ADS 25 Jun 63; transferred to 28th AD 1 Apr 66; reassigned to 24th AD 19 Nov 69; inactivated 29 Sep 79.

The 786th AC&W Squadron began operations using AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-5 radars in April

1952. During 1957 an AN/GPS-3 saw brief use. In 1958 the original radars were replaced by AN/FPS-20 search and AN/FPS-6 height-finder sets. A second height-finder set (AN/FPS-6B) was installed during the following year. SAGE operations began in 1961. By the end of 1961 the search set had been upgraded and redesignated as an AN/FPS-66. By 1966 the site was operating an AN/FPS-27. The 786th was deactivated in September 1979.

786th Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron

Minot, North Dakota

Started Operations: April 1959

Deactivated: September 1979

Equipment: GPS-3, TPS-10D (1957)

Maj Robert Friend -26 Dec 51 The 1st Cmdr at the 786th

Maj James Larson 26 Dec 51

Maj Leroy Holen (just a few weeks) - 14 Mar 52

Maj Edward Stauffer 14 Mar 52 - 16 Apr 55

Maj Halvden W. Thompson 16 Apr 55 - 8 Jun 55

Maj Leonard J Schaitel 8 Jun 55 - 26 July 57

Maj George A Middleton 26 July 57 - 1960

Maj I. D. (Israel) Siegel 1960 Called the "Snake"

Maj A.J. Rantal 1960

Maj Jacob F. Stevens 1963

Maj Fred E. Small 1964-1966

Maj Neal C. Brigham 1966

Maj Raymond L. Graham 1967-1971

Maj Gordon S Bounds 1971-1972

Cpt H.L. Dent 1972-1974

Maj Joseph R. Cox 1974
Maj Bruce Smith 1978
Cpt Ronald K. Trihart 1979

Located approximately 18 miles south of Minot, North Dakota on U.S. Highway 83, the 786th AC&W Squadron began operations using AN/FPS-3 and AN/FPS-5 radars in April, 1952. During 1957, an AN/GPS-3 saw brief use. In 1958 the original radars were replaced by AN/FPS-20 search and AN/FPS-6 height-finder sets. A second height-finder set (AN/FPS-6B) was installed during the following year. SAGE operations began in 1961. By the end of 1961 the search set had been upgraded and redesignated as an AN/FPS-66. An AN/FPS-26A height finder was installed in 1964, and in 1965 the site was operating an AN/FPS-27. The original FPS-6 was removed in 1964, and the AN/FPS-6B was modified to an AN/FPS-90. The AN/FPS-66 was removed in 1965, after the AN/FPS-27 was operational.

The 786th ceased radar operations on 1 July 1979 and was deactivated in September 1979.

The 786th was part of the last twenty-three stations constructed as part of the "permanent network". When completely operational in 1952, the permanent network had seventy-five sites.

Air Force Lineage and Honors
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.