

1st SHORAN BEACON SQUADRON

LINEAGE

1st Shoran Beacon Unit
Redesignated 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron, Feb 1952
Inactivated, 1964

STATIONS

Barksdale AFB, LA, 19 Nov 1948-12 Oct 1949
Kimp'o AB, South Korea, 1 Oct 1950
Iwakuni AB, Japan, 19 Dec 1950
Taegu AB, South Korea, 20 Feb 1951
Seoul, South Korea, 16 Jun 1951
Pyongtaek, South Korea, 24 Apr 1953
Yokota AB, Japan

ASSIGNMENTS

502nd Tactical Control Group

COMMANDERS

Cpt Holland

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

UN Offensive
CCF Intervention
First UN Counteroffensive
CCF Spring Offensive
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea, Summer-Fall 1952
Third Korean Winter
Korea, Summer 1953

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
25 Jan-21 Apr 1951
1 May-30 Nov 1952

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
24 Jan-21 Apr 1951

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

1st Shoran Beacon Squadron (Short Range Aid to Navigation) mission was to maintain and operate separate Shoran Beacon units having the capability to provide accurate and precise computation of all distances, azimuths and Shoran data required for Shoran operations. Other functions of the squadron are to establish and maintain communications facilities for command and control of outlying Shoran Beacon facilities; maintain its facilities in constant of preparedness to redeploy personnel equipment as directed; integrate all sections into efficient teams and maintain continuous individual and team training to insure maximum professional qualification of personnel; and to perform such other tasks as may be directed by higher headquarters.

In August 1950 the 1st Shoran Beacon Unit moved to Japan from the United States, and by October 1 it had moved to South Korea. It broadcast short-range navigation (Shoran) signals from ground sites to guide 3d Bombardment Group B-26s and 162d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron RB-26s on night missions over targets in Korea. The first two sites in South Korea were too far away from the bomb line to be effective. In November the unit set up two new sites at Wonsan and Pyongyang in North Korea, but mountains around the Wonsan site interfered with its signals and a Communist Chinese offensive soon forced evacuation of both sites. Two new beacon sites set up in South Korea in December demonstrated the inadequacy of the unit's equipment. That and the continued advance of enemy troops forced the 1st Shoran Beacon Unit to move temporarily back to Japan at the end of the year, where it recalibrated and refurbished its equipment. In early 1951, it returned to South Korea and set up Shoran beacon sites at several locations, some of which it had to defend periodically against enemy guerrilla assaults. During the year, the unit established four sites, two on islands off the coast of Korea and two on mountain-tops just south of the 38th parallel. It also maintained other sites in Japan and Okinawa to train aircrews in Shoran operations. Redesignated the 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron in Feb 1952, the unit provided electronic signals that guided 3d Bombardment Group B-26 bombardment missions until the armistice in mid-1953.

In 1956, 1st Shoran Beacon Squadron transferred from Korea to Johnson Air Base, Japan, and assigned to 41 Air Division to support B-57 training program.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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

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