

39 INFORMATION OPERATIONS SQUADRON



MISSION

The 39 Information Operations Squadron is the U.S. Air Force's premier Information Operations schoolhouse. The schoolhouse teaches the Information Operations Integration Course, which is required training for Airmen assigned to Information Operations flight billets; the Signature Management Course, which teaches military deception and operational security to wing level SMC officers and NCOs; and a military deception course aimed at operational level planners. The unit also offered the Air Force's first Undergraduate Network Warfare Training course in October 2007.

The 39 IOS also provides initial and mission qualification training for network warfare operators serving in Air Force, joint service, and interagency cyber units/activities. The Network Warfare Bridge Course replaces the former Undergraduate Network Warfare Training course, provides foundational network warfare skills to the full range of cyber-related Air Force specialties and prepares non-accession Airmen for initial qualification training. Intermediate Network Warfare Training is the Air Force's single initial qualification training to prepare Airmen to serve in a wide range of Air Force cyber operations crew positions. The squadron also provides mission qualification training to a growing list of network warfare units to prepare Airmen to serve as combat mission ready cyber operators and analysts.

The schoolhouse is a state of the art facility housing several classrooms, multiple small group mission planning rooms and a 60-person auditorium. All classrooms are equipped with cutting edge communication and computer systems, to include secure video teleconferencing and fiber optic infrastructures. This allows real-time war gaming and improved instruction at multiple security levels.

Eighty-six professionals, representing 17 Air Force Specialty Codes, perform the 39 IOS mission. The instructor corps at the 39 IOS consists of 48 experienced, active duty, civilians and

contractors with expertise ranging in cyber warfare, electronic warfare and influence operations.

LINEAGE

136 Signal Radio Intelligence Company constituted, 7 Feb 1942

Activated, 15 Feb 1942

Redesignated 136 Signal Radio Intelligence Company, Aviation, 4 Oct 1943

Redesignated 136 Radio Security Detachment, 24 Jan 1945

Redesignated 136 Radio Security Squadron, 15 Mar 1949

Redesignated 136 Communications Security Squadron, 20 Jan 1951

Redesignated 36 Communications Security Squadron, 8 Dec 1953

Inactivated, 8 May 1955

6919 Electronic Security Squadron designated and activated, 1 Oct 1986

Inactivated, 31 May 1991

36 Communications Security Squadron and 6919 Electronic Security Squadron consolidated and redesignated 39 Intelligence Squadron, 1 Nov 1994

Activated, 15 Nov 1994

Redesignated 39 Information Operations Squadron, 1 Sep 1999

STATIONS

Bolling Fld, DC, 15 Feb 1942

Fort George G. Meade, MD, 1 Jun 1943

Reading AAFld, PA, 15 Nov 1944

Mitchel Fld, NY, 12 Nov 1945

Fort Slocum, NY, 21 Nov 1947

Brooks AFB, TX, 3 Apr 1949

Kelly AFB, TX, 1 Aug 1953-8 May 1955

Sembach AB, Germany, 1 Oct 1986-31 May 1991

Nellis AFB, NV, 15 Nov 1994

Hurlburt Fld, FL, 1 Oct 1998

ASSIGNMENTS

Headquarters Army Air Forces, 15 Feb 1942

USAF Security Service, 1 Feb 1949

6960 Headquarters Support Group, 1 Sep 1951

USAF Security Service, 12 May 1952

Air Force Communications Security Center, 17 Feb 1954-8 May 1955

6910 Electronic Security Wing, 1 Oct 1986

691 Electronic Security Wing, 15 Jul 1988-31 May 1991

67 Intelligence Group, 15 Nov 1994

Air Force Information Warfare Center, 1 Oct 1998

318 Information Operations Group, 1 Aug 2000

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Brian R. Denman

Lt Col Steven A. Ranalli

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990

[15 Nov] 1994-30 Sep 1995

1 Oct 1997-30 Sep 1998

1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 1999

1 Jun 2008-31 May 2009

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award

1 Jun 2003-31 May 2004

EMBLEM





On a disc Sable, in dexter chief a shield Or charged with a chess knight of the first within a border Tenné, debriused by a demi-globe issuing from dexter base Azure, gridlined Argent, overall a burst of lightning on the horizon emitting four flashes arcing to dexter base Gules. Attached above the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "39 INFORMATION OPERATIONS SQ" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Black scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "FUNDAMENTUM FUTURI" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 shield rising in the east represents a new era in warfare. The burst of lightning symbolizes the arrival of information as a weapons system in modern warfare. The four lightning flashes represent gain, exploit, defend, and attack, disciplines critical to the unit's mission. (Approved, 10 May 1988)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Army Air Forces activated the 136th Signal Radio Intelligence Company at Boiling Field, District of Columbia, in February 1942. Redesignated the 136th Radio Security Detachment, the

136th RSD and a series of detached sections monitored friendly air force communications performed COMSEC for the AAF during World War II.

The sections were quite mobile and moved as necessary to monitor the communications of supported tactical commanders.

The radio intelligence company was designed as a service unit for a field army or higher organization. By means of radio interception and direction finding, the company would furnish to the signals intelligence service the raw material for learning the enemy's deepest secrets. With the steady expansion of the Army Air Force, it was also determined that radio intelligence could be used as a valuable means of gathering air intelligence on the enemy.

The radio intelligence company as it was adopted by the air force did not differ organizationally from the ground force company. But with the test of time, it was deemed essential to alter the establishment and reconstitute the company along different lines. The signal radio intelligence company (aviation) was a step in this direction, but the final improvement was made when the radio squadron mobile was devised. This latter organization possessed the mobility and versatility that the Army Air Force required.

The U.S. Army Air Forces radio squadron mobile was modeled after British Royal Air Force (RAF) mobile Y [COMINT] intercept units. The RSM's destined for duty in Europe were trained to intercept and analyze German air force communications and included German linguists; those destined for duty in the Pacific had Japanese linguists assigned and specialized in exploiting Japanese air traffic.

In 1942, the Signal Corps began training signal radio intelligence companies to support theater air force commanders, but German and Japanese air force-specific training delayed the arrival of those units in the combat zones for several months. The plan to field a radio squadron mobile in Europe began taking shape in July 1943.

The Signal Security Agency found that the plan was based on experience in the recent North African campaign and called for special Air Force intercept platoons complete with radio intelligence and cryptographic personnel much like RAF units. These platoons were to work as an integral part of each air force and would not be under the theater signals intelligence service. This plan was to be used in all theaters.

Signal radio intelligence companies (aviation) were already in radio intercept training at MacDill Field, Florida, and Camp Pinedale, California, but needed specialized training in German or Japanese communications procedures as applicable. This was Army Air Force's first attempt to acquire its own "Security Service" and the Army Signal Security Agency attempted to keep the AAF subservient to the Army for its air intelligence support. Siding with the Army Signal Security Agency, the European Theater of Operations Signal Intelligence Division (SID/ETO) strongly recommended to the War Department that all signals intelligence activities remain under one control.

On 31 January 1949, the 8th RSM, together with the 1st RSM, 2 RSM and 136th Radio Security Detachment, were relieved from assignment to the Army (ASA) and assigned to the Department of the Air Force (USAFSS). The units were barely capable of performing an operational mission when USAFSS inherited them.

On 21 March, Captain French, Commanding Officer, 136th RSS arrived and temporarily set up a headquarters with Major Jones and Captain Fayman until the buildings that were to be utilized by his organization could be prepared for use.

Major Russell L. French commanded the 136th Radio Squadron, and Major Clarence Barnhart served as squadron adjutant.

Over time, the 136th Radio Security Squadron activated detachments as additional Air Force commands requested COMSEC support from Air Force Security Service. By the fall of 1950 when Detachment J, 136th RSS was located at McClellan AFB, California, the squadron had added four new detachments. The squadron also had a Detachment M—a mobile team—at Brooks AFB that deployed to other bases and areas for training and exercises.

Formed and trained at Brooks AFB, the detachments relocated to their permanent sites in late 1950 or early 1951. The detachments acquired radio teletype terminals and began monitoring radio printer comms in addition to Morse and voice communications.

In January 1951, the 136th Radio Security Squadron was redesignated as the 136th Communications Security Squadron. The same month, USAFSS replaced the detachment identifiers for all squadrons with numerical designators—for example, Det A, 136th RSS became Det 1, 136th CSS. By this time, the 136th Comm Security Squadron had expanded to eleven operating detachments.

By October 1951, the squadron had received an increased manpower authorization to field 15 total operational detachments and some mobile teams.

The 39 IS supports the Weapons and Tactics Center, U.S. Air Force Weapons School, Foreign Materiel Exploitation, and other U.S. based Air Force units in the areas of intelligence, tactics analysis, Red Force and telecommunications security. Employs C2 PROTECT training for aircrew/weapons controllers training, tactics development and electronic combat systems evaluations. Trains aircrews/battle staff in tactical intelligence integration. Supports U.S. Air Force Weapons and Tactics Center in the assessment of adversary tactics/capabilities. Deploys communications security support according to OPLAN tasking and contingencies. The squadron was moved to Hurlburt Field in 1998. The initial cadre of permanent party members arrived on station between Oct. 1998 and May 1999. The first class of information operations warriors was trained in a temporary facility in December of 1998.

Air Force officials broke ground Sept. 1 at Hurlburt Field, Fla., on the building expansion project

for the 39 Information Operations Squadron, currently USAF's only cyber and IO formal training unit. The project will add 4,500 sq. ft. to the unit's existing 17,000 sq. ft. structure. The new facilities will accommodate four additional classrooms, an observation room, and a simulation room. "With the building addition, we are maximizing what we have as well as building for the future," said 39 IOS Commander, Lt. Col. Dean Clothier. The 39 IOS is a detached component of the 688th Information Operations Wing at Lackland AFB, Tex. The wing was recently integrated into the newly established 24th Air Force, the numbered air force under Air Force Space Command that will lead the service's cyber operations

Det A, Naknek, AK, 1949
Det B, Brooks AFB, TX 1949
Det C, MacDill AFB, FL 1949
Det D, Wiesbaden, Germany 1949
Det D, Camp Fieri, Wiesbaden, Germany 1950
Det E, Hickam AFB, HI 1949
Det F, Nagoya, Japan 1949
Det F Taegu, Korea, 1950-50
Det F Nagoya, Japan, 1950-51
Det G Montauk AFS, NY, 1950
Det H Langley AFB, VA, 1950-51
Det I Kinross AFB, MI 1950
Det J McClellan AFB CA, 1950-51
Det M (Mobile Team) Brooks AFB, TX, 1950
Det ? Pepperell AFS, St Johns, Newfoundland 1950

Det 1 Naknek AFB, AK
Det 1 Ladd AFB, AK
Det 2 Brooks AFB, TX
Det 3 MacDill AFB, FL
Det 4 Camp Fieri, Wiesbaden, Germany
Det 5 Hickam AFB, HI
Det 6 Nagoya AB, Japan
Det 7 Naha AB, Okinawa
Det 8 Langley AFB, VA
Det 9 McClellan AFB, CA
Det 10 Pepperell AFB, St. Johns, Newfoundland
Det 11 RAF Station Bushy Park, England
Det 12 Brooks AFB, TX
Det 13 Wheelus AB, Libya
Det 14 Brooks AFB, TX
Det 15 Brooks AFB, TX

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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.