

48 INTELLIGENCE SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 48th Intelligence Squadron provides real-time strike information and combat intelligence to warfighting forces. The Squadron is tasked with an all in-garrison and deployed logistics sustainment, planning and programming for the Distributed Ground Station-2 (DGS-2) exploitation arm for U-2, Global Hawk, and Predator UAV vehicles and national assets.

LINEAGE

6948 Security Squadron (Mobile) designated and activated, 1 Jul 1963
Redesignated 6948 Electronic Security Squadron, 1 Aug 1979
Redesignated 48 Intelligence Squadron, 1 Oct 1993
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1994
Activated, 30 Nov 1994
Redesignated 48 Intelligence Support Squadron, 1 Jul 2022

STATIONS

Goodfellow AFB, TX, 1 Jul 1963
Kelly AFB, TX, 1 Aug 1973–30 Sep 1994
Beale AFB, CA, 30 Nov 1994

ASSIGNMENTS

6940 Security Wing, 1 Jul 1963
6955 Security Group, 1 Jul 1974
United States Air Force Security Service (later, Electronic Security Command), 15 May 1975
6960 Electronic Security Wing (later, Continental Electronic Security Division), 1 Jul 1980
695 Electronic Security Wing, 3 Oct 1988

Continental Electronic Security Division, 1 Jan 1991
693 Intelligence Wing, 1 Oct 1991
67 Intelligence Group, 1 Oct 1993–30 Sep 1994
67 Intelligence Group, 30 Nov 1994
480 Intelligence Group, 31 Jan 2000
548 Intelligence Group (later, 548 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group), 1
Dec 2003

COMMANDERS

Cpt Stanley K. Moe, 14 Aug 1964
Maj Henry D. Stringer, 29 Apr 1966
Lt Col Wayne B. Fau, Jul 1991
Maj Kaylor
Lt Col Jim Whidden, 1994-1997
Lt Col Marty Neubauer, 1997-1998
Lt Col Gregory N. Brodman, 2000
Lt Col Bradley K. Jones, 21 Jun 2002
Lt Col John B. Taylor, 30 Jun 2004
Lt Col Alan Paolucci, 30 Jun 2006
Lt Col Jeff A. Hamm, 8 Jul 2008
Lt Col James L. Lawrence, 25 Mar 2010
Lt Col Walter D. Wood

HONORS

Service Streamers

Global War on Terrorism - Service (GWOT-S).

Campaign Streamers

Kosovo: Kosovo Air

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award
1 Jun 2004–31 May 2006
1 Jun 2006–31 May 2007
1 Jun 2014–31 May 2015
1 Jun 2015–31 May 2016
1 Jun 2016–31 May 2017
1 Jun 2019–31 May 2020
1 Jun 2020–31 May 2021

AF Outstanding Unit Award with Combat “V” device

1 Jun 2002–31 May 2003

AF Outstanding Unit Award

1 Oct 1965–30 Sep 1967

3 Feb–13 Oct 1968

1 Jul 1974–30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1976–30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1983–30 Jun 1985

1 Sep 1986–31 Aug 1987

1 Jul 1989–31 Jun 1991

1 Jul–31 Dec 1991

1 Oct 1993–30 Sep 1994

1 Oct 1994–30 Sep 1995

1 Jun 1996–31 May 1998

1 Jun 1998–31 May 2000

24 Mar–10 Jun 1999

1 Oct 1999–30 Sep 2000

1 Jun 2001–31 May 2002

1 June 2009–31 May 2011

1 Jun 2011–31 May 2013

[1 Jun]–31 Dec 2013

1 Jun 2017–31 May 2018

EMBLEM



6948 Security Squadron (Mobile) emblem



48 Intelligence Squadron emblem: On a disc divided per bend gold and blue spattered with gold stars, a medium blue globe grid lined and rimmed brown, the globe enveloped by three red orbits and electrons fesswise in the horizontal center. Overall in bend a red lightning flash in perspective shaded gold. Around the disc a brown border within a medium blue band bordered brown. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The globe alludes to the world-wide capabilities of the unit. The electrons and orbits depict the speed with which activation is possible. The background of gold and blue with the spattering of stars symbolizes the "around-the-clock" watchfulness. The lightning flash represents the mission in communications. The emblem bears the Air Force colors, golden yellow and ultramarine blue. (Approved, 4 Oct 2018)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

6948 Security Squadron (Mobile), an emergency reaction unit (ERU) raised the visibility of the command's contingency mission. In staffing the ERU's, USAFSS assigned a few operators, analysts, maintenance technicians and a few linguists (primarily in low-demand, aka "exotic," languages), so that a team could be deployed anywhere in the world on short notice. During deployments, USAFSS brought in additional staffing on temporary duty from other units.

Unlike most other ESC units, the 6948th's operational mission is conducted in the field rather than at a fixed site. In fact, the 6948th is the only unit in the Air Force tasked to provide specialized cryptologic support to tactical Air Force commanders at any location around the globe.

Typical overseas exercise locations have included such areas as the Middle East and Central America. Stateside exercises are conducted at major Air Force bases all over the U.S., including California, Florida, Nevada and North Carolina.

Living accommodations while deployed range from semi-private hotel rooms to "camping trips"

complete with tents, sleeping bags and dehydrated meals.

Depending on the exercise location, off-duty time while deployed can offer squadron members a chance to visit some of the most popular tourist attractions in the world.

The 6948th is scheduled to replace its deployable Comfy Shield system with a Senior Troupe system later this year. The multi-million dollar Senior Troupe system will greatly enhance the unit's operational capabilities. Additionally, Senior Troupe can be airlifted with just two C-141 s, while the Comfy Shield system needs as many as 11 C-141 s to deploy.

Since the unit must be prepared to move large numbers of people and equipment long distances on short notice, the squadron's mobility and readiness branch places a great deal of emphasis on training squadron members in every aspect of mobility operations. Newly assigned personnel spend approximately two months training in such diverse areas as erecting camouflage, weapons qualifications, driving specialized vehicles, fire protection, chemical warfare, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and preparing equipment for airlift.

The squadron's operations branch provides specialized support. Enlisted people assigned to operations are made-up of analysts and Morse operators who interact with tactical commanders on cryptologic matters and man secure communications links.

The logistics branch has the task of keeping the entire unit's equipment in a constant state of readiness. Along with maintaining the largest vehicle fleet in the command, logistics technicians care for equipment ranging from mobile generators and air-conditioners to electronic components in computers and radios.

The unit also has one of only two dedicated communications-computer systems branches in ESC. They man mobile communications centers, while deployed and manage the squadron's COMSEC account and office automation systems while in garrison.

The programs and resources branch is the commander's innovative staff agency. In spite of their paper-pushing expertise in such areas as war plans and budget, branch members continue to maintain their mobility skills and operational qualifications so they can deploy with the rest of the unit.

On 11 August 1990, the 6948th ESS arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where it supported Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations during the first Persian Gulf War. On 17 January 1991, when DESERT SHIELD gave way to DESERT STORM, ESC personnel were providing key intelligence to support both air and ground operations. The 6948 ESS, which operated from three different locations in Saudi Arabia and Turkey during the conflict, provided valuable intelligence and communications support to the air commanders. The unparalleled success of U.S. and coalition forces in DESERT STORM ushered in the age of information warfare. Airpower successfully killed Iraq's command and control systems long before the ground war began, and

that air assault became the prime example of how to use information dominance in warfare. In the emerging information warfare doctrine, it became clear that ESC forces helped the U.S. achieve operational supremacy over Iraqi forces in the Persian Gulf war.

On 23 August 1991, Senior Troupe, a new mobile/airborne collection and exploitation system, became an operational asset 'when the Electronic Security Command assigned it to the 6948 ESS for operation and support. The 6948th ESS was deactivated on 30 September 1993, its mission absorbed by elements of the newly activated Air Intelligence Agency. A year later (November 1994), the AIA activated the 48th Intelligence Squadron at Beale AFB, California, carrying on the traditions and contingency of the former 6948th ESS.

6948th Security Squadron (Mobile)

OL-AA, 6948th SS (M) Offutt AFB, NE, 1970-73

OL-EA, 6948th SS (M) Offutt AFB, NE, 1973-78

OL-BB, 6948th SS (M) Fort Meade, MD, 1971-73

OL-EB, 6948th SS (M) Fort Meade, MD, 1973-77

OL-EE, 6948th SS (M) Brooks AFB, TX, 1975-77

Det 1, 6948th SS (M) Fort Meade, MD, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 25 Jan 2025

Updated:

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.