

4416 INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

4416 Intelligence Squadron

STATIONS

Al Kharj, Saudi Arabia

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Provides direct, near-real-time reconnaissance information and electronic support to the combat forces in the Joint Task Force-South West Asia area of responsibility under the cease-fire conditions and the United Nations-mandated restrictions of Operation Southern Watch.

Located on the Arabian Peninsula. Operational control resides with the 4409th Operations Group (Provisional) and administrative control with the 67th IG. The squadron consists of approximately 115 people serving in five branches.

Provides intelligence support to USCENTCOM, JTF-SWA, and national level agencies.

JTF-SWA performs the Operation Southern Watch mission of monitoring and controlling airspace south of the 32nd Parallel in Southern Iraq using Air Forces deployed to the Arabian Gulf region by the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Air Force, the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force and the French Air Force.

While Electronic Security Command was working out a plan for scaled-back post-Cold War operations, an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990 created an operational urgency for ESC SIGINT direct support in Southwest Asia. Having rushed resources from several subordinate units to Saudi Arabia, ESC sent Col. William C. Bender to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 11 August to serve as the command's first Task Force Director for Desert Shield. Later on 10 November, ESC activated the 6975th Electronic Security Squadron (Provisional) at Riyadh to support Desert Shield operations.

Rivet Joint RC-135 refueling over Saudi Arabia

At the end of the Persian Gulf War (Desert Storm), the 6975th ESS (P) remained in country, supporting RC-135 Rivet Joint operations from Prince Sultan Air Base.

Two decades later, Air Force cryptologists continue supporting Air Force Central Command operations in Southwest Asia, assigned on temporary duty to an Air Force CENTCOM squadron that has changed designators over time.

- 6975th ESS (P) (10 Nov '90)
- 4416th Intelligence Squadron (Air Intelligence Agency) (1 Oct 93)
- 12th Expeditionary Intelligence Squadron (AFCENTCOM) (26 Aug '03)
- 763rd Air Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron (AFCENTCOM) (Apr '02)

By 2004, AFCENTCOM had relocated air operations from Saudi Arabia to Qatar and other locations in Southwest Asia. On 11 January 2007, the 763rd AERS (Rivet Joint crews on TDY) celebrated 6,000 continuous days (16 years and five months) on deployment in the SWA "sandbox"—a record for any U.S. military unit's continuous duty in a combat zone. Other earlier milestones included:

January 1998—4416th Intelligence Squadron received communications support from Riyadh while RC-135 sorties staged from Al Kharj Air Base

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.