

6985th ELECTRONIC SECURITY SQUADRON

6985th ESS Eielson AFB, AK 1 Aug '79-8 Jun '92

LINEAGE

6985th Radio Squadron Mobile
Redesignated 6985th Security Squadron
Redesignated 6985th Electronic Security Squadron

STATIONS

Eielson AFB, AK, 1 Jul 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 6985th Electronic Security Squadron, "Airborne's Finest", is a tenant unit on Eielson AFB, Alaska. Squadron people perform duties on board Strategic Air Command aircraft in support of tasked objectives.

The 6985th was activated Feb. 29, 1960, as Operating Location One. In July 1964, the 6985th began manning positions on aircraft operating out of Shemya AFB, near the top of the Aleutian Islands.

Eielson is approximately 26 miles from the heart of the 1890s gold rush town of Fairbanks. This expanding city of 55,000 is a commercial and recreational center boasting a wide choice of seasonal and annual events. The Tanana Valley Fair and the Golden Days Celebration, recognizing the discovery of gold in Fairbanks, are major annual events.

Hiking, camping, hunting, boating, fishing and gold panning are exceptional activities during the summer months. Ice fishing and trapping are excellent activities for the winter months as are skiing, both downhill and cross-country. The base has many cross-country ski trails and its own ski slope. Ski equipment, camping and boating gear, are available for checkout from recreational supply.

The need for indoor activities is met by the recreational center, bowling alley, arts and crafts center, auto hobby shop and wood hobby shop. The base library is well stocked. A well-staffed youth center offers karate, gymnastics, ballet and other activities.

Eielson has a new base clinic with many expanded services, but is limited to outpatient care only. Those requiring services not available on Eielson may be cared for at the nearby Basset Army Community Hospital on Fort Wainwright.

There is a one-to-five month wait for on-base housing depending on rank, number of dependents and time of year.

A recently completed 300-unit enlisted housing project features duplex and four-plex units with heated garages, double car driveways, patios, drapes and wall-to-wall carpeting. The three-bedroom units have a family room and all units have at least two bathrooms. The completion of the "Cool Home" project brought the number of enlisted housing units to 1,275.

Off-base quarters are becoming more abundant, due to energetic housing construction. However, rental costs are high. Additional allowances, like the variable housing allowance, helps in meeting housing costs.

Although Fairbanks is 26 miles away, there is a smaller town closer to Eielson, known as the North Pole. This is a little more convenient than driving to Fairbanks for shopping, dining or entertainment. Many 6985th members not living in base housing live in North Pole.

Educational opportunities abound at Eielson. Kindergarten through high school students are served by four on-base schools conveniently located within one block of each other. Facilities and programs are available for children with special learning requirements. Several colleges offer degree programs either in-residence or through correspondence. The University of Alaska at Fairbanks is an excellent institution of higher learning, but only conducts in-residence courses on

campus.

6985TH SCTYS	AFOUA	1 JAN 63 - 31 DEC 64
	AFOUA	1 JUL 68 - 30 JUN 70
	AFOUA	1 JUL 70 - 30 APR 72
	AFOUA	1 JUL 72 - 30 JUN 74
	AFOUA	1 JUL 74 - 30 JUN 76
6985TH SCTYS (DET. 1)	AFOUA	1 JUL 68 - 30 JUN 70

In Japan, a DoD Program Budget decision completely realigned the cryptologic structure, forcing the closure of the 6986 SG at Wakkanai AS, and the inactivation of the 6918 SS at Hakata AS and the 6988 SS at Yokota AB, Japan. Concurrently, projects associated with the 6988 SS, such as Bench Royal and Rivet Gym manning for College Eye, were discontinued, and the remaining Combat Dawn mission transferred to the 6903 SS at Osan AB, Korea. 1972

Host base activities at Misawa AB, Japan (6921 SW) were transferred from PACAF to USAFSS on 1 July 1972.

The 6910 SG moved from Darmstadt to Augsburg in Germany. 1972

On 9 January, the operational deployment of the first modernized RJ aircraft to the 6988 ESS at RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom, took place. Modernization of the second aircraft and its subsequent deployment to the 6985 ESS at Eielson AFB, Alaska, occurred in February 1981. Successful Block III operations at these two units, and mixed fleet operations at Offutt AFB, Nebr., continued throughout the year despite frequent surge taskings and an increase in sortie rates. Introduction of the third, fourth, and fifth modernized aircraft into the fleet followed in March, August, and December. 1981

On 8 June, AFIC inactivated the 6985 ESS after more than 30 years of providing critical intelligence support to tactical and national customers. The unit stood on the leading edge of intelligence support throughout the Burning Wind, Cobra Ball, and Cobra Eye missions. They left a legacy of advancing technology as a means to accomplish the AFIC mission. According to General O'Shaughnessy, "The end of the cold war is a victory in which every military member can take pride, but the men and women of the 6985 ESS should take a special pride in the key role they played in achieving this victory." 1992

For three decades commencing in 1961, an Air Force airborne reconnaissance contingent tasked with monitoring Soviet ICBM missile test activities in the Pacific staged from an alert hangar on

Shemya. That airborne recon activity, which was supported by the 6985th Security Squadron at Eielson AFB, Alaska.





This patch was worn on the hats of wirebenders during the late 60's

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources