

AIR COMBAT CAMERA SERVICE



MISSION

LINEAGE

Air Pictorial Service established, 1 Apr 1951
Redesignated Air Photographic and Charting Service, 16 Apr 1952
Redesignated Aerospace Audio-Visual Service, 8 Jan 1966
Redesignated Aerospace Audiovisual Service, 1 May 1981
Redesignated Air Combat Camera Service, 1992
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1994

STATIONS

Orlando AFB, FL
Norton AFB, CA
March AFB, CA

ASSIGNMENTS

Military Air Transport Service (later, Military Airlift Command), 16 Apr 1952

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen Brooke E. Allen, 1 Apr 1951
Brig Gen Edwin M. Day, 24 Sep 1952
Col William S. Barksdale, Jr., 1 Mar 1958
Maj Gen Clifford H. Rees, 20 Mar 1958
Brig Gen Robert W. Hall, 1 Aug 1962
Brig Gen John B. Wallace, 1 Jul 1964
Col John J. LaRoche, 5 Apr 1965

Col William S. Barksdale, Jr., 19 Apr 1965
Col William E. Nix, 1 Jun 1968
Col Alterio Gallerani, 16 Jan 1970
Col James P. Warndorf, 1 Apr 1972
Col Theodore N. Mace, 28 Feb 1975
Col John B. Kerr, Jr., 30 Mar 1979
Col James D. Elmer, 3 Apr 1980
Col Louis V. Pelini, Oct 1986
Col Thomas E. Diamond, 29 Mar 1989
Col Richard O. Fanjoy, 1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Established as Air Pictorial Service on 1 April 1951. Organized as a separate operating agency and given procedural functions of a major command. Redesignated Air Photographic and Charting Service, and concurrently reassigned to Military Air Transport Service, on 16 April 1952, losing SOA status.

APCS, a sub-command of the Military Air Transport Service, has the plural mission of accomplishing Air Force directed photographic, cartographic, aerial photographic mapping aerial electronic and missile site surveying requirements.

Redesignated Aerospace Audio-Visual Service on 1 January 1966 and Aerospace Audiovisual Service on 1 May 1981.

The AAVS provides audiovisual productions and visual information services to meet the requirements of the secretary of the Air Force, Headquarters USAF, major commands, and separate operating agencies. This organization provides technical advice and assistance on the management and operation of Air Force audiovisual activities or services in support of major commands. The mission encompasses seven functional areas: documentation, optical instrumentation, armament recording program processing support, television production, base visual information services, laboratories, and libraries.

The AAVS acquires, through still photography, motion pictures, television, and sound recordings and audiovisual record of significant Air Force events and activities worldwide. Operating through its 6 squadrons and 53 subordinate units around the world, it provides the DOD, Congress, and the US public a visual record of the growth, process, and employment of Air Force resources during peacetime and emergencies.

The AAVS provides optical instrumentation and other technical documentation in support of Air Force research, development, and operational test and evaluation programs. The 1369th Audiovisual Squadron, Vandenberg AFB, California, supports the Space and Missile Test Center, the Strategic Air Command, and other agencies using the Western Test Range facilities.

The AAVS provides audiovisual support and other services to the armament recording programs (gun pod, radar scope, and other weapons delivery imaging systems) of the Pacific Air Forces, Alaskan Air Command, and US Air Force in Europe. Major theaters of operation during contingencies and wartime have a theater support facility for follow-on reproduction and distribution of airborne and ground combat still and motion picture photography and video imagery acquired over the target for weapons and tactics evaluations.

The AAVS provides local television productions to major commands for organizational use. Its television production activities are in CONUS, Alaska, the Pacific area, and Europe. New mobile television systems, with portable, backpack camera-recorder systems, support readiness and range-training activities.

Base audiovisual services include graphic arts, still-photographic laboratory, film library, and presentation functions.

Motion picture and still-photographic processing laboratories support MAJCOM requirements.

An overseas regional library system distributes AAVS products to Air Force users, other military services and federal agencies, and the general public.

The Air Combat Camera Service was inactivated 30 September 1994. Audiovisual support to document operations continued to be offered by the 1st and 2d Combat Camera Squadrons, which on 22 July 1994 had been released from the camera service and assigned to the 621st and 615th Air Mobility Operations Groups, respectively. The realignment of combat camera was the response to the desires of General Merrill A. McPeak, the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, to simplify reporting lines and place combat camera under operational commanders."



Brig Gen Clifford H. Rees

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