

Founded in Peace



Forged in War

A Continuing Legacy
1948 - 2003

USAFSS - ESC - AFIC - AIA



HQ AIR INTELLIGENCE AGENCY



The United States Air Force Security Service (USAFSS) command emblem symbolizes the command mission. It consists of a shield divided equally into quarters by a vertical and horizontal line and identifying scroll. Significant of the command's worldwide influence, the first quarter is blue, thereon a green sphere with yellow land markings. Pertinent to transmission, the second quarter is red, thereon a yellow lightning streak. Significant of the United States Air Force, the third quarter is yellow, thereon a blue half wing. Symbolic of protection and security, the fourth quarter is blue, thereon over a sword with point to base (hilt and pommel yellow), a white shield, thereon a yellow flame shaded red. The emblem was approved by Headquarters USAF in August 1952.

On a field of blue, a silver shield bearing a chesspiece is displayed over a blade of lightning, and identifying scroll is unfurled underneath. The blue field, as the dominant color, represents the Electronic Security Command's (ESC) Air Force subordination; to preserve the link with the Air Force Security Service emblem, whose principal color was blue; and symbolizes the valor and loyalty of the men and women of the command. The lightning blade of the sword is drawn from the USAFSS emblem to preserve tradition and to represent the identification with electronics. Connecting the bolt to a sword hilt suggests its transformation into a weapon, much as the more passive mission of USAFSS evolved into the active role with which ESC is charged. Immediate readiness of response is also embodied in the lightning bolt sword. The silver shield has its origin in the USAFSS emblem, denoting now, as then, both defense and the security resulting from that defense. The chesspiece--a black knight--conveys several meanings. Classic deception as embodied in the Trojan horse is suggested. The color black takes meaning from the rule of chess that black moves second; black's tactics are therefore counter moves, representing ESC countermeasures missions. The knight is a powerful chessman; he strikes from unexpected quarter, and is the only piece able to strike while obstructed. He employs elegant rather than brute force. All these attributes combine to symbolize C3 Countermeasures and the move/countermove nature of electromagnetic warfare.



The emblem of the Air Force Intelligence Command (AFIC) is symbolic of its diverse missions. The knight chesspiece had its origin in the ESC emblem and conveys classic deception, as embodied in the Trojan horse. It is a powerful chessman; he strikes from unexpected quarter and is the only piece able to strike while obstructed. The shield had its origin in the USAFSS emblem, denoting now, as then, both defense and the security resulting from that defense. It is separated into four quadrants to symbolize the Command's worldwide mission of support. The double-edged sword refers to the military role of the Air Force. It signifies the readiness of AFIC to electronics in both defensive and offensive operations to ensure the security of the nation.

The Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) maintains the Air Force colors of blue and yellow in its command emblem. 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 globe signifies the intelligence the agency provides to the Air Force Global Reach - Global Power Mission. The key represents the Agency's efforts to unlock its protagonist's secrets. The teeth on the ward symbolize the disciplines of intelligence gathering - SIGINT, HUMINT, IMINT, and MASINT. The chess knight reflects counter-intelligence and the ability to use intelligence information in a variety of ways. The compass rose symbolizes intelligence operations reaching the four corners of the earth and the use of satellite information gathering.



A CONTINUING LEGACY:

USAFSS to AIA

1948-2003

*A Brief History of the
Air Intelligence Agency
and its Predecessor Organizations*

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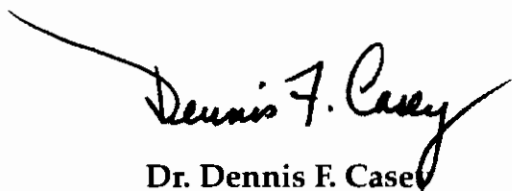
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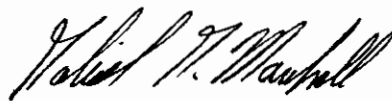
Preface and Acknowledgements

The AIA's rich and colorful heritage began over 55 years ago and encompasses much of the Cold War. Indeed, the activities and many accomplishments of the USAFSS, later the ESC, and for a brief time the AFIC, contributed significantly to the history of the United States during this period which was replete with the threat of nuclear confrontation with our primary opponent, the Soviet Union. As scholars look back on this period and try to explain its major trends and developments, as well as its frustrations and the chasm that separated the two super powers, the role of air intelligence will surely be seen as a defining influence.

With the AIA now in the 21st century and carrying out its mission of information operations it is worth a moment to reflect on where the command was, where it has been and what it has achieved. This publication outlines briefly the command's first 55 years as the Air Force's air intelligence arm and chronicles many of the important contributions which have provided for the continued security of the United States. We wish to recognize the superb support provided by the 690th Information Systems Squadron Visual Production Reprographics Office and the Headquarters AIA Public Affairs Office. To Jim Pierson and Mary Holub and the others who endeavored tirelessly over the years to record this exciting and important story, and to Juan Jimenez, MSgt Anthony Pendleton and Staff Sergeant Christina Floyd, whose assistance and advice were invaluable, we express our special thanks.



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*"Members of the Air Force
should be deeply interested
in the history they helped make
and are making daily.*

*And they should be concerned
about how authentically it's recorded."*

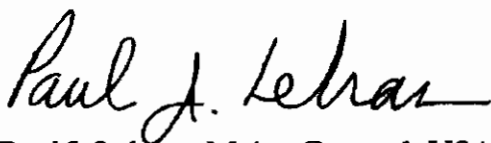
**General Lew Allen, Jr.
Chief of Staff
10 July 1978**

Foreword

The AIA's rich heritage began in the autumn of 1947, when Colonel Richard P. Klocko began laying the groundwork for a separate Air Force organization devoted to special information. On 23 June 1948, the Air Force Security Group (AFSG) was established. It immediately underwent a significant metamorphosis and became the USAFSS on 20 October 1948. Not quite two years later USAFSS personnel found themselves headed into a new conflict when on 20 June 1950 North Korean ground forces crossed the 38th parallel into South Korea. The Cold War had suddenly heated up; a war from which America ultimately emerged victorious.

On 11 September 2001, the United States came under a vicious and bloody attack. It was struck on its homeland and Americans were killed on American soil. Innocent citizens died as victims of war—a war that we feared but whose sheer horror took the world by surprise. The war being fought today was not a war of America's choosing; it was brought brutally to our shores by terrorists—enemies of the U.S. and the free world. Thus we were thrown into a new type of “war;” one that required new strategies and transformations. AIA's professionals again took the challenge and transformed significantly in the face of adversity in pace, intensity, and technologically.

Today's AIA is a fused intelligence organization serving as a critical part of the air operations arm of the United States. Its mission continues to change as it endeavors to provide combatant commanders with current, readily usable and focused information products and services. This was exactly the case during Operations DESERT STORM, ALLIED FORCE, ENDURING FREEDOM, and most recently, IRAQI FREEDOM. These combat operations tested the resolve of AIA's warriors to provide diverse and critical Information Operations (IO) services they are trained to do in an even more demanding and time sensitive environment. The 21st century brought about many changes and transformations and this Agency stepped up to the plate. Its new *raison d'être*—IO—continues to keep AIA in the forefront of technology and leverages it to combat global terrorism and continues to provide for the security of the United States.



Paul J. Lebras, Major General, USAF
Commander, Air Intelligence Agency

BRIEF HISTORY

From USAFSS to AIA — A Legacy More Than Half a Century Old Continues

Origins

During WWII, intelligence, most notably signals intelligence (SIGINT), proved invaluable in helping the Allies secure victory. The successes of the ULTRA and MAGIC efforts in the European and Pacific theaters respectively, undoubtedly helped shorten the war and save American lives.

The nation's euphoria over the victory in 1945 quickly gave way to a post WWII political climate defined by the Cold War. A bipolar world began to emerge when a massive Soviet Army presence in Eastern Europe threatened to engulf the western portion of that continent and the U.S.' principal allies under communist rule. With the country rapidly transitioning to a post war economy and the U.S. military machine in the midst of an even more unprecedented demobilization effort, America's leaders realized how important establishing and keeping intelligence organizations intact would be to the national security future

of the United States.

In order to gain a real appreciation for just how intelligence operations were conducted during the post WWII years, it is necessary to examine why the AIA predecessor organizations were established and what their original missions entailed.



*Major General Richard P.
Klocko.*

The AIA beginnings can be traced to the autumn of 1947, when then Colonel Richard Klocko (who would later command USAFSS) transferred from the Army Security Service Headquarters at Arlington Hall, Va, to an office in the newly created air staff. Once there, Klocko and others began to lay the groundwork for establishing a new, separate air force major command charged with the responsibility for processing and reporting special intelligence information. The concept of a separate air force intelligence organization, one vastly different from the army and navy structures, quickly received the approval of Air Force's second Chief of Staff General Hoyt S. Vandenberg. Within the framework of the newly organized air staff, responsibility for intelligence matters initially fell under the purview of the deputy chief of staff for operations.

The seeds of the new air intelligence organization were sowed months earlier at the Army Security Agency (ASA), and AIA began to take shape with the establishment, on 23 June 1948 of the Air Force Security Group (AFSG) in the Directorate of Intelligence at HQ USAF in Washington, D.C. As the junior service in the new Department of Defense (DoD) structure, the AFSG faced many obstacles when dealing with its sister services on policy matters regarding the cryptologic and communications security (COMSEC) missions of the new air force.

Other National Military Intelligence Reorganizations

One of the more significant intelligence reorganizations of the immediate post war period saw President Harry S. Truman abolish the Office



Radio operators train at Brooks AFB in the summer of 1949.

1948



1979



Arlington Hall--the first home of USAFSS.

of Strategic Services in September 1945. This event preceded the January 1946 creation of the Central Intelligence Group—the forerunner of the CIA. The establishment of the DoD in 1947 significantly influenced the subsequent development of the nation's air force intelligence structure.

In 1949, other changes in the organization of the nation's intelligence structure resulted when the Joint Chiefs of Staff announced the establishment of the Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA), and charged it with overseeing cryptologic and COMSEC operations throughout the military. Then in 1952, the ASA was renamed the National Security Agency (NSA).

The USAFSS Established

Because the Air Force leadership wanted the new service to have an active role in producing intelligence information, they established USAFSS on 20 October 1948 at Arlington Hall Station, VA, and Colonel Roy H. Lynn assumed command on 26 October 1948. Just one year after its own birth, the new military service now had in place a Major Command (MAJCOM) tasked with two important charters—to carry out a cryptologic mission and to provide COMSEC for a fledgling Air Force.

After three months of negotiations with the ASA the new MAJCOM gained its first subordinate units on 1 February 1949, when the 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile (RSM) in Japan, the

2nd RSM in Germany, the 8 RSM at Vint Hill Farms, VA, and the 136th Radio Security Detachment at Fort Slocum, NY, were transferred to USAFSS from the ASA.

The initial exposure of the USAFSS staff to the full scope of ASA operations and missions provided valuable firsthand experience for the newly formed USAF MAJCOM. The new organization had an initial authorized strength of 156 personnel—34 officers, six airmen and 116 civilians.

Korea

When elements of the communist North Korean Army swarmed across the 38th Parallel on 25 June 1950, the Korean peninsula was an unfamiliar region few Americans knew existed. The entry of the U.S. forces into a United Nations "police action," found an understaffed (just 3,050 personnel) and somewhat untrained USAFSS in its infancy.



Operators of the 15th Radio Squadron, Mobile during the Korean War.



Construction of the front of Bldg. 2000--later known as Ardisana Hall--winter 1952.

The USAFSS was tasked to support the Korean conflict and the command quickly ordered the 1st RSM to alert status on 27 June 1950. By November 1950, a detachment of the 1st RSM deployed to Korea in time to become involved in a retreat from the rapidly advancing North Korean Army. Not hindered by the quick evacuation, the 1 RSM contributed significantly to United Nations and Far Eastern Air Forces (FEAF) operations during early 1951. The detachment provided invaluable intelligence information on the movements of major North Korean Army units from Manchuria to Wonsan. The intelligence information enabled UN air and naval units to interdict the enemy advance.

Within the air operations realm, the intelligence furnished by a USAFSS detachment in June 1951 enabled

American F-51 and F-86 fighters to inflict heavy losses on the enemy. By early 1952, the first detachment of 33 airmen underwent language training at Yale University and established operations at Ehwa University outside of Seoul. USAFSS' performance during the Korean conflict earned the MAJCOM a permanent place at the table of the American intelligence community. In early 1953, USAFSS personnel, flying aboard converted 5th Air Force C-47s, began experimental airborne operations in the Far Eastern Theater. The operation, known as Project Blue Sky, used the modified C-47 aircraft to relay communications to allied ground forces on the Korean Peninsula. The USAFSS organization grew steadily during the Korean War. As the Korean conflict wound down, USAFSS had grown considerably and reported an authorized strength of 17,143 airmen, officers and civilians.

Headquarters Moves/ Organizational Changes

The USAFSS originally began operations at Arlington Hall, VA. With the Army and Navy intelligence hierarchies planted in Washington D.C., the air staff directed that USAFSS Headquarters be relocated elsewhere. Brooks AFB, TX, surfaced as the best choice for a new home. Headquarters USAFSS and related functions moved there in April 1949. Colonel Klocko and the USAFSS staff prepared plans to temporarily relocate only to Brooks after Major General Charles P. Cabell, the Air Force's first director of intelligence, secured funds for the construction of a headquarters for USAFSS at Kelly AFB. Construction of a new \$4,798,000 USAFSS Headquarters building at Kelly AFB began in late summer 1951. Operations commenced at the new headquarters (Bldg. 2000) when personnel began the move into the newly constructed headquarters building during the first week of August 1953.

Within HQ USAFSS, several organizational changes took place in the first few years of its existence. In July 1953, the newly established Air Force Communications Security Center located at



The C-130A-II--successor to the RB-50.



Operations site of the 6937th Communications Group, Peshawar, Pakistan 1969.

Kelly AFB took on responsibility for the USAFSS COMSEC mission from the HQ USAFSS Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) for operations. Also at this time, the 6901st Special Communications Center at Brooks AFB took over the operational functions previously performed by the USAFSS DCS for Operations. Shortly thereafter, on 8 August 1953, with the new Headquarters building complete, the 6901st now renamed the Air Force Special Communications Center, moved from Brooks AFB to "Security Hill" at Kelly AFB.

Airborne & Contingency Missions Evolve

Modern USAFSS airborne operations commenced in 1952 using converted B-29 Super Flying Fortresses. Crews from USAFSS began flying operational airborne mission in the Pacific on Strategic Air Command (SAC) RB-50 Superfortresses in March 1954. C-130A-IIs, more maintainable and having longer endurance than their predecessors, began replacing RB-50s in 1958. In 1962, USAFSS crews first flew missions aboard SAC sponsored RC-135 aircraft.

As regional trouble spots began to develop in the Cold War world, USAFSS reacted accordingly. In 1956, the first USAFSS mobile unit deployed to the Middle East in response to instability in the area. Later in 1963, in the aftermath of the Cuban missile crisis, the command activated three Emergency

Reaction Units (ERUs)—the 6948th Security Squadron, Mobile (SSM), at Goodfellow AFB, TX, the 6926th SS M, at Clark Air Base and the 6911th SSM, at Darmstadt, Germany.

Fixed Ground Operations Flourish

As the 1950s gave way to the 1960s, USAFSS support to national level customers expanded rapidly. The USAFSS ground units sprang up in a few out of the way places around the globe. The 6937th Communications Group, at Peshawar, Pakistan, situated just west of the historic Khyer Pass, began operations in April 1958. The command also operated at Samsun and Trabzon, Turkey, Zweibrücken and Weisbaden in Germany, Kirknewton, Scotland and other locations. As 1959 drew to a close, 21,602 airmen, officers and civilians comprised a still growing team of USAFSS intelligence professional.

Fixed Operations significantly improved when the first of USAFSS' AN/FLR-9 "Elephant Cage" antennas reached operational status at the 6950 SS at RAF Chicksands, England and the 6917 SS, San Vito Air Station (AS), Italy in 1964. Other "Elephant Cages" entered service throughout the 1960's, by the end of which the antenna was operational with the 6922nd SS at Clark AB, the Philippines, the 6981 SS, Elmendorf AFB, AK, the 6920th SS, Misawa AB, Japan, the



AN FLR-9 and Operations building at the 6922 SS, Clark AB, Philippines

6933rd SS, Karamursel AS, Turkey, and the 6913th SS, Augsburg, Germany. Other important USAFSS/ESC field sites included Iraklion AS, Crete, Wakkanai AS, Japan and Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan. The introduction of several high technology systems like IATS, STRAWHAT and TEBO at USAFSS ground sites during this time further automated many time and labor intensive unit field operations.

Vietnam

The USAFSS involvement in Vietnam began in late 1961. On 20 December 1961, HQ Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) directed the command to deploy a capability to establish an Air Force Special Security Office and related intelligence functions at Tan Son Nhut Airport near Saigon. Later in early 1962, the Air Staff began to make firm plans to provide intelligence support to the Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Air Forces in Southeast Asia. USAFSS resources and personnel would play a leading role. By the end of 1962, USAFSS' 6923 RSM and three subordinate detachments located in Vietnam and Thailand, were serving national intelligence customers and providing tactical support for the fast growing number of military units operating in the Southeast Asia theater of operations.

By mid 1964, U.S. military involvement in Southeast Asia significantly increased. In August 1964, Major General Richard P. Klocko, now USAFSS commander, met with the commander of PACAF's 2nd Air Division (AD) at Tan Son Nhut Airport, South Vietnam, to work out issues for USAFSS support to the 2 AD. Over the course of the next four years, USAFSS personnel provided key support to COLLEGE EYE threat warning operations for U.S. aircrews conducting air operations over North Vietnam.



AN FLR-9 of the 6917 ESG, Summer 1984.



A USAFSS crewed EC-47P from Phu Cat AB, Vietnam in flight.

With the air war in Southeast Asia escalating, DoD added six RC-135 aircraft to the SAC inventory. Based at Kadena AB, Okinawa, and supported by USAFSS crews, the 6990th SS activated at Kadena AB, Okinawa on 15 July 1967 in support of the added RC-135s. The first USAFSS manned Combat Apple - RC-135 mission staged out of Kadena AB, Okinawa on 12 September 1967. During the Vietnam conflict, USAFSS personnel also served with distinction aboard the EC-47, supporting search and rescue operations for downed U.S. airmen.

With U.S. involvement in the Vietnam conflict increasing significantly, USAFSS took on the role as the central evaluating agency for USAF electronic warfare activities in 1967—the first major change in the command's mission since its inception. By mid 1969, command manning authorizations totaled 28,637, the highest number in the history of the organization.

Post Vietnam Mission Changes

The redesignating of AFSCC as the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center (AFEWC) on 1 July 1975 gave USAFSS a greater role in the Air Force's expanding electronic warfare mission. Throughout the 1970's the command continued to furnish ERU support to tactical commanders and gained approval of its plan to offer direct support to Air Force Component commanders. The USAFSS further refined its direct support role during this time through the extensive participation in numerous military exercises.

1979



1991



Major General Doyle E. Larson, ESC's first commander.

Combat Operations Intelligence Center (KCOIC) had achieved initial operational capability. The KCOIC consolidated ESC, and other U.S. and Republic of Korea intelligence functions under one roof to better serve the operational needs of the theater commander. Also during 1986, ESC began an association with the USAF Space Command with the activation of the Headquarters Space Electronic Security Division at Peterson AFB, Colorado. That same year, ESC personnel began supporting USAFE COMPASS CALL operations staging from Sembach AB, Germany.

The 1980's witnessed the fruition of technologies that would foreshadow present day intelligence support. Systems like PARSEC and the Conventional Signals Upgrade became operational, changing profoundly the way command organizations carried out their rapidly expanding missions. These new modern, computer-based, state-of-the-art automated systems replaced those based on outdated technologies from the 1950's and earlier.

The ESC Takes Shape

By the end of the 1970's, USAFSS had become thoroughly involved in electronic warfare. The command had first demonstrated this operational capability during the Tactical Air Command (TAC) sponsored exercise Blue Flag 79-1 at Hurlburt Field, Florida in late 1978. The ESC began to take shape on 1 February 1979, after the USAFSS transferred the operation and maintenance of its Telecommunications Center to the Air Force Communications Service (later called the Air Force Communications Command.) On 1 August 1979, the USAFSS was redesignated the ESC with Major General Doyle E. Larson as the commander. With this change, ESC assumed a broad responsibility for improving the Air Force's use of electronic warfare technology in combat. From an operational standpoint, ESC also gained more challenging and critical national missions, with the 6920th Electronic Security Group (ESG), Misawa AB, Japan starting Operation LADYLOVE in the early 1980s.

The ESC Matures

The ESC focused its attention for much of the 1980's on supporting warfighters and theater commanders. During this time, the command began to concentrate its efforts on carefully tailoring its products for use by operational commanders in military operations. In 1985, the command took over responsibility for computer security from the Air Force Computer Security Office at Gunter AFS, AL.

In Korea, ESC's 6903rd ESG underwent a major mission change in 1986. By year's end, the Korean

The ESC in JUST CAUSE & DESERT STORM Ushers in a New Era

In December 1989, ESC field units, the ESC staff and the AFEWC played an on-the-scenes role in Panama, ensuring the success of Operation JUST CAUSE. As the 1980's drew to a close, the ESC had made its mark as a prime source of



Operations site of the 6948th Electronic Security Squadron (ESS), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, summer 1990.

intelligence products for the command's expanding list of customers.

The first two years of the new decade set the stage for the future of ESC and its predecessor organizations. On 9 August 1990, ESC personnel from the 6916th ESS were among the first U.S. military personnel to arrive in Saudi Arabia to support RC-135 DESERT SHIELD operations. By the end of 1990, Operation DESERT SHIELD was well underway and on 10 November 1990 the 6975th ESS (Provisional) was activated at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia in support of RC-135 operations.

As DESERT SHIELD gave way to DESERT STORM during the second half of January 1991, ESC personnel were engaged in key intelligence support roles both in the air and on the ground. The 6948th ESS operated from three different locations in Saudi Arabia and Turkey during the conflict, providing air commanders with valuable intelligence and communications support. The unparalleled success of U.S. and coalition forces in DESERT STORM ushered in the age of information warfare. Iraq's command and control system, killed with airpower several weeks before the ground war began, became a prime example of how information dominance was used in warfare. Within the now emerging doctrine of information warfare, it was clear that ESC forces played a large role in helping the U.S. to achieve operational supremacy over Iraqi forces during the war in the Persian Gulf.

The AFIC Formed

The ESC was redesignated AFIC on 1 October 1991. The new organization, commanded by Major General Gary W. O'Shaughnessy, consolidated, restructured and streamlined the functions of Air Force intelligence resources into a single command. AFIC formed by merging the personnel and missions of the Air Force Foreign Technology Center at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, the Air Special Activities Center, Fort Belvoir, VA. and elements of the Air Force Intelligence Agency, Washington D.C., and ESC into one command. AFIC provided direct intelligence support to national decision makers and field air component commanders. Support furnished by AFIC focused on the interrelated areas of intelligence, security, electronic combat, foreign technology, and treaty monitoring. During AFIC's first year, the new command established a strong foundation for meeting the changing intelligence needs of the warfighter.



An RC-135V RIVET JOINT aircraft in flight. AIA and its predecessor organizations have served aboard this venerable reconnaissance platform for nearly four decades.

The AIA—Pioneering Air Force INFORMATION OPERATIONS (IO)

The need to establish AIA stemmed from the introduction of the objective Air Force—the one base, one boss concept authored by Air Force Chief of Staff General Merrill A. McPeak. Because of this, further restructuring of Air Force Intelligence beckoned and AFIC was redesignated as the AIA on 1 October 1993. Commanded by then Major General Kenneth A. Minihan, the new organization reported directly to the USAF Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. This move emphasized increased support to the warfighter. The Air Force Information Warfare Center (AFIWC) was established at Kelly AFB on 10 September 1993 by combining AFEWC with the securities functions from the Air Force Cryptologic Support Center. AFIWC's primary mission remains that of channeling all electronic battle field information toward the objective of gaining information dominance over any adversary. The AFIWC became a significant player in AIA activities.

During the 1990s, one significant fact became more prevalent than ever—U.S. military forces now operate in an information age, where the need for precise, instantaneous intelligence is increasing and expanding across the entire spectrum of military operations. Within today's framework of the USAF Global Presence strategy, AIA serves as an

integral part of the presence component in the application of this principle. The agency and its supported units help the U.S. maintain a "virtual" advantage by providing battlespace forces with unique information. This helps the U.S. maintain global situational-based capabilities. The AIA plays a prime hour-to-hour, day-to-day role in helping maintain global awareness.

The new agency now supports customers from nearly every governmental department and agency, and all of the U.S. Armed Forces. The Agency plays an active role in supporting almost every military contingency operation in which U.S. armed forces are committed. AIA, today, a remarkably diverse organization defends the information highway, providing the best battle space information to the right customer—anywhere, anytime. Since the beginning of 1996, AIA has been taking steps to develop and become the leader in IO. With an emphasis on participating rather than just supporting combat operations, AIA is now moving boldly towards a new frontier. On AIA's horizon is an environment in which the Agency will play a central role by insuring that America's military forces achieve and maintain information superiority. This will become the prime objective in shaping future battlespace.

Clearly, national security events during the last half of the 1990s signaled the need for precise battlefield information. In response to national taskings, AIA found its assets and people being deployed to places like Bosnia Herzegovina, Southwest Asia, and Kosovo. The activation of the Air Force Information Warfare Battlelab in 1997 and the USAF approval in August 1998 of an Air Force Doctrine Document (AFDD) for IO Doctrine have shown that IO will continue to evolve and that it will be an integral and sustaining part of future US military operations. The emergence of Information Superiority as an Air Force Core Competency in the landmark 1996 *Global Engagement* publication ensured the products and services provided by AIA will mean the difference between success and failure for the warfighter. At the end of the 20th Century, AIA had become an essential part of US Aerospace Operations. The Agency's IO mission is rapidly becoming an indispensable ingredient in the overall mission of the Air Force.

IO in the 21st Century

Now in the 21st Century, AIA and its IO mission have fully integrated with ACC to become an essential part of US Aerospace Operations. The 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C., signaled the absolute necessity for the U. S. to have an IO capability. This was evident during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan in 2001. The Agency's mission is an indispensable element in the mission of the USAF. It is also the one



AIA personnel work side-by-side with the other services. Members of the 93rd IS conduct intelligence collection operations at the Medina Regional SIGINT Operations Center--1998.

indispensable element that will ensure the success of any military operation undertaken by the United States.

For 55 years, AIA's personnel and their predecessors have withstood each challenge that confronted them. As recent events in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM have shown, air and space power and the employment of precision guided munitions, driven by an unparalleled, all-encompassing IO capability, have changed the manner in which modern warfare is conducted.

In the new century, the people of AIA are collecting, controlling, defending and exploiting information. These efforts have enabled Agency people to meet the challenge of aerospace information superiority, the continuance of which is crucial to our helping shape and maintain-to our advantage-the future battlespace. The 21st Century is taking shape as the age of information and space. AIA, its people and its capabilities continue to be called upon to make the difference in securing a successful completion of present and future US national security challenges.

CHRONOLOGY

1948

On 24 May 1948, HQ USAF informally activated the AFSG in the Office of the Intelligence Requirements Division, Directorate of Intelligence, HQ USAF, in the Pentagon and designated Major Idris J. Jones, an Air Force officer, to head the Group.

The AFSG was formally established in the Directorate of Intelligence, HQ USAF, on 23 June 1948, with a cadre of eleven officers and some clerical enlisted personnel on loan from the ASA.

On 20 October 1948, the USAFSS, forerunner of the Air Intelligence Agency, was established at Arlington Hall Station, VA, as a major air command to perform cryptologic and communications security missions for the Air Force.

On the date of activation, the total authorized strength of USAFSS was 156 personnel — 34 officers, 6 enlisted, and 116 civilians.

Colonel Roy H. Lynn was assigned as the first USAFSS Commander effective 26 October 1948.

1949



USAFSS direction finding (DF) operators worked with equipment such as this during the early years. This DF position was located at Vint Hill Farms Station, VA, in 1949.

On 1 February 1949, the USAFSS received its first subordinate units when the ASA transferred responsibility for the operation, equipment and personnel of the 1st RSM in Japan; the 2nd RSM in Germany, the 8th RSM at Vint Hill Farms, VA, and also the 136th Radio Security Detachment in upper NY state.



Colonel Roy H. Lynn, shown here as a Major General, was USAFSS' first commander.

In March 1949, based on the authority of a signed agreement with the U.S. Army, HQ USAF assigned Capt David D. Morris, an Air Force officer, to the Army Special Security Office at HQ USAF. Approximately two and one-half months later, in June 1949, HQ USAFSS assigned Capt Campbell Y. Jackson, an Air Force officer, as the Security Service Liaison Officer to HQ USAF. Those assignments were the first use of Air Force personnel in the previously all-Army Special Security Office system.

The transfer of HQ USAFSS from Arlington Hall Station, VA, to Brooks AFB, TX, was effective with transfer of the morning reports on 18 April 1949.

On 29 May 1949, Mr. Louis Johnson, the Secretary of defense, issued a Memo to the Joint Chiefs of Staff announcing the establishment of a unified cryptologic organization — the Armed Forces Security Agency — (which later became NSA in October 1952) for the conduct of Intelligence and COMSEC activities within the National Military Establishment.

On 30 June 1949, USAFSS had 2,032 personnel authorized — 171 officers, 1,745 enlisted, and 116 civilians.

The USAFSS Photography Laboratory had its beginning in July 1949 with the assignment of a master sergeant and a corporal. On 7 October 1949, a photo officer was assigned. By 30 June 1950, the total number of personnel assigned to the photo lab had grown to 22.

JCS 2010/6 was published on 28 July 1949. It assigned the responsibility for Intelligence processing to each individual service as needed



Early intelligence processing operations were tedious and time consuming--a USAFSS Radio Traffic Analyst at work in 1949.

for combat intelligence.”

Colonel (later Brigadier General) Travis M. Hetherington replaced Colonel Lynn as Commander effective 6 July 1949.

The USAFSS Printing Plant began operations in December 1949 with the arrival of a litho camera, paper cutter, and opaque table. Two civilians were assigned to the Printing Plant.

On 29 December 1949, HQ USAF approved the USAFSS-developed concept of fully capable Radio Squadrons Mobile.

1950

The USAFSS concept and plan for production of tactical area intelligence was approved by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Vice Chief of Staff, USAF, in April 1950.

Sergeant Christena Ogle, the first Women's Air Force (WAF) to join USAFSS, was assigned to the command for duty in the Directorate of Security on 2 April 1950. Major Corinne E. Edwards became, on 1 May 1950, the Command's first WAF officer when she was assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General.

In May 1950, USAFSS attempted to get the Director of Intelligence at HQ USAF to support the publication of an

Air Force regulation which would specify that USAFSS was responsible for the production of intelligence of interest to the Air Force and that the USAFSS units would be attached to the air commanders to meet tactical intelligence requirements. (no such a regulation was never published.)

In June 1950, the Airways and Air Communications Service (later the Air Force Communications Command) transferred to USAFSS the responsibility for service testing USAF cryptological equipment, systems, and devices. Airways and Air Communications Service also transferred the personnel and spaces authorized to perform this function.

On 30 June 1950, USAFSS had 3,050 personnel authorized — 298 officers, 2,365 enlisted, and 387 civilians.

On 1 September 1950, the USAFSS Flight Section was organized with the assignment of three administrative aircraft — two C-47s and one B-25 — and nine personnel.

The USAFSS established a detachment at Pyongyang, Korea (Detachment C, 1st Radio Squadron, Mobile) in November 1950 to provide support to USAF organizations engaged in the Korean War.

1951

The USAFSS gained its first two units above the squadron level when the 6910th Security Group (SG) at



Office of the Comptroller in USAFSS Headquarters, Brooks, AFB, TX, 1950.



Personnel of the Headquarters USAFSS Operations Production Division, Brooks AFB, TX, prepare a map depicting the Eurasian landmass, 1950.

Brooks AFB, TX, activated on 23 May 1951 and the 6920th SG activated on 1 September 1951 at Johnson AB, Japan. The 6910 SG was moved to Germany in July 1951 with the Group Headquarters going to Wiesbaden and Group Operations going to Darmstadt.

Brigadier General Roy H. Lynn, who had previously served as the first USAFSS Commander, returned as the organization's third commander effective 22 February 1951.

There were two incidents in 1951 in which support provided by USAFSS units in Korea resulted in major U.S. air victories. The most significant of the two occurred on 29 November 1951 when a small USAFSS detachment provided 5th Air Force with tactical support concerning the North Korean Air Force. This support contributed directly to the largest U.S. air victory of the war up to that point. In a single air-to-air engagement, the F-86s from the fighter wing at Inchon shot down eleven North Korean aircraft and damaged four more. The U.S. sustained only one slightly damaged F-86. These incidents were aptly termed "turkey shoots" by U.S. pilots.

USAFSS provided intelligence support at the Kaesong, Korea, truce meetings which began on 10 July 1951 and dragged on for more than two years. A truce was finally signed on 27 July 1953. During those two years, intelligence was provided to Vice

Admiral C. Turner Joy, who headed the U. S. delegation to the conference.

The first Annual USAFSS Commanders' Conference was held at USAFSS headquarters from 12-16 November 1951. On 30 June 1951, USAFSS reported 8,192 personnel authorized, 775 officers, 6,773 enlisted, and 644 civilians.

1952

On 24 October 1952, National Security Council Directive No. 9 was revised. It redesignated the AFSA as the NSA, delegated control of resources of the DoD to the Director of NSA (DIRNSA), designated DoD as the executive agent of the Government for SIGINT information, and authorized DIRNSA to delegate control for close support purposes.

In March 1952, HQ USAF consolidated the Security Service Liason Office and the major command (MAJCOM) Special Security Office activities into an Air Force Special Security Office System (AFSSOS). The responsibility for the



USAFSS senior commanders pose with world renowned cyrtologist William Friedman (in suit, third from left) at Landsberg AB, Germany, 23 November 1951.

1948



1979

development and operation of the AFSSOS was delegated to USAFSS in April 1952. At the time, the consolidated system consisted of nineteen authorized offices worldwide.

The USAFSS emblem was approved in August 1952 after a command-wide contest to select a winning entry. It was designed by Airman Second Class William Rogers.

On 30 June 1952, USAFSS had 12,319 personnel authorized — 1,366 officers, 10,267 enlisted, and 686 civilians.

The USAFSS flew its first Airborne Reconnaissance Program test mission in the Pacific on 18 April 1952 using a converted B-29 aircraft. The aircraft was later sent to Europe for additional testing before commencing regular operational missions in the Pacific in March 1954.

The USAFSS reorganized to operate with the procedural functions, authorities, and responsibilities of a major Air

Force command, which it had been since its activation on 20 October 1948, but within policy constraints required by tri-service relationships.

1953

Brigadier General Harold H. Bassett assumed command from Major General Roy H. Lynn as Commander effective 14 February 1953.

On 1 July 1953, the 6901st SCC was activated at Brooks AFB, TX to perform the operational functions previously handled by the Analysis and Disseminations Divisions, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, HQ USAFSS. Simultaneous with establishment of the 6901st Special Communications Center, the Air Force Communications Security Center (AFSCC) was established to take over the communications security operational functions of DCS/Operations.

On 30 June 1953, the USAFSS was authorized 1,547 officers, 15,013 enlisted, and 583 civilians for a total of 17,143 personnel.

An RB-50G-2 aircraft of the 343rd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron was shot down off the Soviet coast near Vladivostok. Two USAFSS airmen who were serving as part of the crew on the aircraft — Staff Sergeant Donald G. Hill

and Airman Second Class Earl W. Radlein, Jr. — were presumed killed on 29 July 1953. This marked the first loss of USAFSS airborne operators as a result of hostile action.

Headquarters USAFSS closed out operations at Brooks AFB, TX, effective 31 July 1953 and began operations from its new headquarters building at Kelly AFB, TX. The move into the newly constructed Headquarters building was accomplished during the first week in August 1953.

As of 8 August 1953, the 6901st Special Communications Center moved from Brooks AFB to "Security Hill" at Kelly AFB and was renamed the Air Force Special Communications Center (AFSCC). Initially, the mission of the AFSCC was: (1) produce and disseminate long-term intelligence data; (2) operate the USAFSS School for training intelligence specialists; (3) provide



A C-47 Bluesky aircraft. Manned by USAFSS crews the platform began experimental collection operations over Korea in early 1953.



Intelligence operators of the 37th Radio Squadron Mobile, RAF Station, Kirknewton, Scotland



Major General Harold H. Bassett, USAFSS commander, February 1953-January 1957.

technical guidance and operational assistance to USAFSS field units; (4) assist the USAFSS Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations to develop and test the operational procedures and techniques required for USAFSS to implement its mission, intelligence support for the Air Force; and (5) direct and monitor operation of the Special Security Office system.

On 1 August 1953, the 6900th Security Wing (SW) was activated at

Landsberg AB, Germany, as an intermediate Headquarters (numbered Air Force equivalent) to plan, coordinate, and direct the activities of all USAFSS units in Europe. The 6920th SG at Johnson AB, Japan, provided the same support to USAFSS units in the Pacific.

1954

In March 1954, the USAFSS initiated a new concept in reconnaissance collection by implementing its Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort. One RB-29 began flying missions in the Far East in April 1954. This was the only aircraft, which the USAFSS already had jurisdiction over, engaged in the Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort at that time; however, USAFSS had personnel serving as operators aboard 343rd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron RB-50G ECM aircraft.

In March 1954, the USAFSS Commander submitted tentative plans for expansion of processing activities at the squadron level and for direct reporting to the using commands. In June 1954, the point of analysis and reporting concept was implemented on a test basis at the 6901st SCC in Germany and the 6902nd Special Communications Center in Japan. In late August 1954, the point of intercept analysis and reporting concept was approved. The objective was to facilitate direct and timely responses to the requirements of military commands and other organizations receiving intelligence support.

On 30 June 1954, the USAFSS was authorized 16,244 personnel — 1,485 officers, 14,079 enlisted, and 680 civilians.

By the end of 1954, the technical training function and oversight of the Special Security Office system had been transferred from AFSCC to HQ USAFSS.

1955

The USAFSS deployed the 6926th RSM, to Japan to participate in Project Grayback.

On 30 June 1955, USAFSS was authorized 15,730 personnel — 1,372 officers, 13,757 enlisted, and 601 civilians.

1956

The USAFSS developed a new concept of mobile operations to satisfy increased tasking for tactical support during contingencies. The first deployment came in January 1957 in response to the unstable situation in the Middle East in late 1956 and early 1957.

On 30 June 1956, USAFSS had 17,928 personnel authorized — 1,275 officers, 16,003 enlisted, and 650 civilians.



Airmen assigned to the 6920th SG, Johnson AB, Japan repair radios--1953.



The AFCSC was inactivated on 1 July 1956 and its personnel and communications security monitoring, reporting and management mission became a part of the AFSCC. This change reflected an effort to decrease management overhead.

1957

RB-50 aircraft were assigned to the Airborne Reconnaissance Program. There were five RB-50s in Europe and five in the Pacific.

Major General (later promoted to Lieutenant General) Gordon A. Blake assumed command from Major General H. H. Bassett effective 4 January 1957.

On 30 June 1957, USAFSS had 17,297 personnel authorized — 1,292 officers, 15,356 enlisted, and 649 civilians.

The USAFSS School was moved from Kelly AFB, TX, to March AFB, CA, on 1 July 1957.

1958

A major milestone in the history of USAFSS occurred on 1 July 1958 when the command assumed control of several bases throughout the world where its units had previously been tenants. Included were: Misawa AB, Japan; San Vito AS, Italy; Iraklion AS, Crete; Royal Air Force (RAF) Station Chicksands, UK; Karamursel AS, Turkey; Wakkanai AS,

Japan; and Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan. Later that year, Goodfellow AFB, TX, was added to the list. Through coordination with PACAF in early 1958, USAFSS increased its airborne capability in Korea by adding three more C-47s to the Blue Sky effort, for a total of four platforms. Each C-47 staged from Osan AB, Korea. They flew an average of 60 hours each month. During 1960, the project name was changed from Blue Sky to Rose Bowl. Though it was "primitive," it was an effective Airborne Reconnaissance Program operation, and it continued until 1962 when C-130s staging from Yokota AB, Japan, were able to provide the necessary support of Korea. At this point C-47s were phased out.

On 30 June 1958, USAFSS was authorized 18,124 personnel — 1,291 officers, 16,158 enlisted, and 675 civilians.

C-130s were sent to Europe to replace the RB-50s in the Airborne Reconnaissance Program effort. The first two arrived in Germany during July 1958.

The USAFSS School moved from March AFB, CA, to Goodfellow AFB, TX, on 15 October 1958.



Major General Gordon A. Blake, USAFSS commander January 1957-September 1959



An RB-50F aircraft -- USAFSS' first operational aerial reconnaissance platform.

The 6920th SW (later redesignated HQ Pacific Air Forces Security Region) was moved from Shiroy AB, Japan, to Wheeler AFB, HI, on 1 November 1958.

On 26 August 1958, USAFSS sent a unit to Taiwan to augment the 6987th Radio Squadron Mobile, located at Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan, due to the increased tension in the Taiwan Straits created by the Chinese shelling of Quemoy.

Soviet fighters shot down a C-130 Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft on 2 September 1958 when it strayed off-course over Soviet Armenia. All its crew members were killed, including the 11 USAFSS personnel.



1959

A B-50 Superfortress, also used by USAFSS as a reconnaissance platform.

On 30 June 1959, USAFSS' manning was authorized a total of 21,602 personnel — 1,427 officers, 18,724 enlisted, and 1,551 civilians.

The replacement of RB-50s in Europe was completed in July 1959 with arrival of the eighth C-130. The European RB-50s were moved to the Pacific, giving that area nine RB-50 Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft.

The transfer of bases to USAFSS under the "Integrated Command Concept" was completed on 1 July 1959 with the transfer of Wakkanai AS, Japan, and Shu Lin Kou AS, Taiwan.

The USAFSS first became involved in the war in Southeast Asia in August 1959 when national intelligence authorities tasked the command to make maximum effort to provide intelligence relating to North Vietnamese or Laotian rebel movements. Existing USAFSS units were not in the most favorable geographical locations to obtain such information; therefore, in the spring of 1960, USAFSS sent a small team to Bangkok, Thailand.

Major General Millard Lewis assumed command of USAFSS effective 21 September 1959, replacing Major General Gordon A. Blake who was reassigned to HQ PACAF as Chief of Staff effective 5 August 1959.

1960

On 30 June 1960, USAFSS had 23,128 personnel authorized — 1,508 officers, 19,827 enlisted, and 1,793 civilians.

The 6917th RSM, became the first USAFSS unit in Italy when it was activated at San Vito AS on 1 November 1960.

1961

As the tempo of the Vietnam War increased, USAFSS became involved in a program which eventually became known as the Airborne Radio DF program. That year, General Curtis E. LeMay, the Air Force Chief of Staff, ordered several experimental aircraft, equipped with radio homing equipment, into Southeast Asia.

On 30 June 1961, USAFSS had 23,105 personnel authorized — 1,532 officers, 19,568 enlisted, and 2,005 civilians.



*Major General Millard Lewis
commanded USAFSS from
September 1959-September 1962.*

1962

In December 1961, PACAF sent a request to USAFSS for an Emergency Reaction Unit to support the Tactical Air Control System (TACS) that was being set up at Da Nang AB, in the Republic of South Vietnam (RVN). USAFSS deployed the unit in early 1962.

Intelligence processed by the USAFSS Airborne Reconnaissance Program proved to be the first significant intelligence data concerning the extent of Soviet involvement in Castro's Communist Cuba.

The USAFSS deployed an Emergency Reaction Unit (ERU) to Key West, FL, to provide tactical support. Also, the command increased its Cuban Airborne Reconnaissance Program coverage from one to three aircraft.

On 30 June 1962, USAFSS had 24,718 personnel authorized — 1,613 officers, 20,975 enlisted, and 2,130 civilians.

Major General (later promoted to Lieutenant General) Richard P. Klocko assumed command of the USAFSS effective 1 September 1962, replacing Major General Millard Lewis who retired from active duty.

1963

The USAFSS activated three ERUs, the 6948th Security Squadron, Mobile (SSM), Goodfellow AFB, TX; the 6926th SSM, Clark AB, Philippines; and the 6911th SSM, Darmstadt, Germany.

The following USAFSS communications functions were transferred to AFCS: (1) operation and maintenance of the Critical Communications relay stations; (2) operation and maintenance of terminal station technical control; and (3) terminal station maintenance.

On 30 June 1963, the USAFSS had 26,849 personnel

authorized — 1,655 officers, 23,047 enlisted, and 2,147 civilians; however, the assigned strength on 30 June 1963 was 29,068 — 1,719 officers, 25,254 enlisted, and 2,095 civilians.

In response to the Air Force problem of how to reduce or eliminate intermediate echelons and separate units, USAFSS initiated the "Operational Wing Concept." Under this concept, the mission unit was discontinued and a support squadron was organized. The functions of the mission unit were absorbed into the wing structure. The concept was implemented in Europe late in 1963 and in the Pacific in 1964.

1964

The motto *Freedom Through Vigilance* was adopted in January 1964.

As of 30 June 1964, USAFSS was authorized 24,643 personnel — 1,656 officers, 21,925 enlisted, and 1,062 civilians.

In early 1964, the USAFSS commander, Major General Richard P. Klocko, asked the Air Staff and the Strategic Air Command to support the addition of six RC-135s to the airborne effort.

1965

In June 1965, after many months of intense negotiations, the Office of the Secretary of Defense approved the addition of six RC-135s to the airborne effort. But even then, a debate arose over where to base the RC-135s, and it took 18 more months of negotiations before a base of operations was finally selected. With the air war in Vietnam heating up, Japan, Thailand, and the Philippines, as well as Da Nang, South Vietnam, and Kadena, Okinawa, were all considered.

On 26 March 1965, the USAF headquarters issued instructions to USAFSS to transfer all Air Force Special Security Officer functions to their customers' commands effective 1 July 1965. This resulted in the transfer of 811 USAFSS personnel at some 50 locations around the world to the consumer commands.

The Gold Flow problem, an Air Force-wide program to reduce overseas manning, resulted in the reduction of 302 USAFSS personnel overseas.

The Government of Turkey placed a ban on Airborne



By the mid-1960s AN FLR-9 "Elephant Cages" became the mainstays of several USAFSS units, including this one at the then 6981st SS, Elmendorf AFB, AK.

Reconnaissance Program flights from their country in direct result of the USAFSS' loss of an RB-57 over the Black Sea on 15 December 1965. The RB-57 was one of two aircraft in the Little Cloud project which were manned and maintained by the Pakistan Air Force at Peshawar.

The USAFSS Airborne Reconnaissance Program missions in Southeast Asia increased from one to two daily, using four RC-130s instead of two.

The first AN/FLR-9 systems became operational in the Pacific at Misawa AB, Japan, in March 1965 and Clark AB, the Philippines, in April 1965.



USAFSS' Detachment 2, 6925th SG Emergency Reaction Unit, Da Nang AB, South Vietnam, October 1964.

The USAFSS Airborne Reconnaissance Program aircraft (C-130s) began participating in tactical operations in Southeast Asia, supporting both USAF and Navy strike forces by providing alert warnings. This was the first time the command became involved in a regular program of providing tactical support to combat operations.

As of 30 June 1965, USAFSS was authorized 26,835 personnel — 1,686 officers, 23,062 enlisted, and 1,087 civilians.

The USAFSS Airborne Reconnaissance Program unit in the Pacific area performed the command's first airborne transmission security monitoring mission on a test basis by mid-1965.

On 28 September 1965, the Air Force Chief of Staff approved the release of communication security violators' names in transmission security reports. This was a first in transmissions security reporting. The approval granted release of names down to division level.

Major General Louis E. Coira assumed command of USAFSS effective 16 October 1965, replacing Major General Richard P. Klocko who was reassigned as commander of the Air Force Communications Service.