

# 497<sup>th</sup> INTELLIGENCE, SURVEILLANCE AND RECONNAISSANCE GROUP



## MISSION

### LINEAGE

497<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Technical Group established and activated, 22 Aug 1967  
Organized, 1 Oct 1967  
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1992  
Redesignated 497<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Group, and activated, 1 Oct 1993  
Redesignated 497<sup>th</sup> Information Operations Group, 1 Aug 2000  
Inactivated, 1 Feb 2001  
Redesignated 497<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Group, 23 Oct 2003  
Activated, 1 Dec 2003  
Redesignated 497<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 1 Jan 09

### STATIONS

Schierstein Admin Ofc (later, Schierstein Compound), Germany, 1 Oct 1967  
RAF Molesworth, England, 1 Jul 1991-1 Jul 1992  
Bolling AFB, DC, 1 Oct 1993-1 Feb 2001  
Langley AFB, VA, 1 Dec 2003

### ASSIGNMENTS

United States Air Forces in Europe, 22 Aug 1967  
745<sup>th</sup> Tactical Intelligence Wing, 1 Sep 1985-1 Jul 1992  
Air Intelligence Agency, 1 Oct 1993  
National Air Intelligence Center, 31 Jan 2000-1 Feb 2001  
480<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Wing, 1 Dec 2003

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Paul G. Buskey, 1 Oct 1967  
Col Frank J. Malkiewicz, 29 Jul 1968  
Col Russell L. Lewis, Jul 1970  
Col Frederick W. Fowler, Jul 1971  
Col Nelson D. Thurman, Jr., 21 Aug 1972  
Col Lorenzo W. Burroughs, Mar 1973  
Col Jimmy A. Ifland, 2 Jun 1975  
LTC Arthur A. Andraitis (Acting), 13 Dec 1976  
Col Jimmy A. Ifland,  
Col Duane E. Vanderberg, 19 Jul 1977  
Col Richard E. Watson, Jun 1980  
Col Jack P. Lundgard, 2 Jul 1984  
LTC Walter J. Whitman, 9 Jun 1988  
Col Wendell F. Moseley, Jr., 30 Aug 1988  
Col James M. Sullivan,  
Col Joan G. Bullock,  
Col Daniel A. McCusker, Jul 2000–1 Aug 2000  
Col Scott A. Bethel, 1 Dec 2003  
Col Michael G. Archuleta, 30 Jun 2005  
Col Daniel R. Johnson, 31 May 2007  
Col Mark A. Cooter, 2 Jul 2009  
Col Patrick M. Shortsleeve, 24 Jun 2011

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct-31 Dec 1967

1 Jan 1971-30 Jun 1972

1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1975

1 Jul 1976-30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1983-30 Jun 1985

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1988-30 Jun 1990

1 Jul 1990-30 Jun 1992

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1996  
1 June 2007-31 May 2009

## EMBLEM



497<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group emblem: Azure, on a globe Celeste gridlined Sable, a mullet of eight points throughout Or surmounted by a rose Gules, in chief a key fesswise wards to sinister base Gold, all within a diminished bordure of the last. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "497TH ISR GROUP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The key represents AIA's efforts to unlock the secrets of protagonists worldwide, with the teeth on the ward representing the various disciplines of intelligence gathering — SIGINT, HUMINT, IMAGERY and MASINT. The compass, rose and sunburst background are common components of other intelligence agency emblems and indicate that the 497th is part of the larger intelligence community. The red rose suggests a relationship to warfare, while the rose in mid-bloom suggests the growth, history and future intelligence. The rose in mid-bloom also represents "sub-rosa," the ancient custom of hanging a rose over a conference table to indicate that all present were sworn to secrecy. Sub-rosa is also identified with clandestine activity and has traditional ties to British and Army intelligence. The position of the globe, with the compass over-lay signifies the worldwide impact of our mission on the intelligence community. The location of the rose, with the compass providing a sunburst background reflects strength and energy. (Approved 7 Jul 1994)

## MOTTO

PERVIGILIS – Ever Vigilant

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

After more than seven years of planning and preparation, the new operating facilities for the 497th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group at Langley AFB, Va., are now fully operational. This unit runs DGS-1, one of the main hubs for the Distributed Common Ground System, the Air Force's global enterprise for processing overhead imagery and signals intelligence

from airborne ISR assets. The \$75 million construction project consolidated DCGS assets and more than 700 personnel into two new buildings in a centralized complex at the north end of the base. Previously, the group's airmen operated out of six different facilities around Langley. The new operations center is four times larger than the previous setup, with twice as many work stations. The changes have increased the group's daily capacity to analyze still imagery by 50 percent and full motion video by 300 percent. 2010

The 497th Intelligence Group, Langley AFB, Virginia is assigned the 10th and 48th Intelligence Squadrons. The group is a warfighting unit leveraging the most robust national/DoD intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance air, space and ground systems architecture. Operates Deployable Ground Station-1 of the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System. Projects global vigilance, providing persistent world-class timely and tailored multi-discipline intelligence analysis to the warfighter while directing reachback/distributed operations.

The 497th IG, provides worldwide intelligence infrastructure support, physical and personal security, threat support to weapon systems acquisition and employment and automation support.

The group also serves as the Washington-area focal point for Air Force intelligence planning, logistics and readiness issues, communications/computer system support and all military and civilian personnel actions and programs. The 497th also includes the Air Force Departmental Imagery Requirements office. Formerly known as the Air Force Intelligence Support Agency, the group was renamed the 497th Oct. 1, 1993.

The 497th Intelligence Group, a subordinate unit of the Air Intelligence Agency, located at Boiling Air Force Base, Washington, D.C., provides worldwide intelligence infrastructure support, physical and personal security, threat support to weapon systems acquisition and employment, and automation support.

The group also serves as the Washington area focal point for Air Force Intelligence planning, logistics and readiness issues, communications/computer systems support and all military and civilian personnel actions and programs.

The 497th Intelligence Group has the distinction of having a dual track lineage.

One path follows the unit designator which provided operational support to flying units in Europe during the Cold War, while the other more closely follows the current mission — providing broad-based intelligence infrastructure and services focused in the National Capital Region.

Growing from the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group stood-up Oct. 1, 1967, and headquartered at Schierstein Administrative Offices in West Germany.

Charged with processing and interpreting reconnaissance imagery, the 497th RTG served under

the United States Air Forces Europe providing intelligence to the European Command and the U.S. commander in chief Europe, Allied Command Europe and U.S. intelligence agencies.

At various periods, the 497th RTG had the following subordinate units:

7113th Special Activities Squadron

495th RTS

496th RTS

Del. 1, 497th RTG

July 1, 1991, the unit moved to RAF Molesworth, England, to form the basis of the USEUCOM's Joint Analysis Center. One year later the unit and designator were inactivated.

Across the Atlantic, another part of the unit's history was being written. In 1971, the Secretary of the Air Force directed the realignment of Air Staff operating and support functions to other organizations.

As a means of continuing the original intelligence mission, the Air Force Intelligence Service was established June 27, 1972, as a separate operating agency with headquarters in Washington, D.C., to provide specialized services to the Air Force and its commanders.

In 1988, APIS became the Air Force Intelligence Agency. In 1991, the agency underwent a large functional reorganization, reflecting changing world situations and budgetary realities. This resulted in a reduced mission, a new name — the Air Force Intelligence Support Agency and a new status as a field operating agency.

The agency was deactivated and its mission was assumed by the newly activated 497th IG, subordinate to AIA, Oct. 1, 1993.

The unit is a multiple recipient of both the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award.

Throughout the restructuring, the 497th IG retained its unique role of providing planning, policy implementation and functional management support to the Air Force Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Air Staff offices and other Department of Defense and Joint customers in Washington, D.C., and around the world.

Unsurpassed intelligence infrastructure and services ... security, weapon system support, automation, information operations ... to defend community users worldwide.

The 497th IG is comprised of three major directorates and support staff:

Located at Boiling, the Directorate of Intelligence Systems assists the Air Staff in the acquisition, implementation, development and security certification testing of Intelligence Data Handling Systems worldwide.

IND bridges both national and tactical communities to ensure architectures, policies, standards and systems facilitate the flow of intelligence from national to tactical unit levels. IND advises the Air Force Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance on programs and policies. The Operations Applications Directorate, located at the Skyline Office Building Complex in Northern Virginia, provides targeting, threat assessments and forecasts, geospatial support and intelligence infrastructure to weapon system acquisitions.

INO directly influences the numerous moving map displays, mensurated coordinates, vertical obstruction/terrain elevation data, and databases in the realm of mapping, charting, geodesy and targeting.

Located at the Pentagon and Boiling, the Security and Communication Management Directorate manages the Air Force Special Compart-mented Intelligence and collateral clearances, conducts all security clearances adjudications for the Air Force, security management, oversight, document dissemination and personal security administration for the Secretary of the Air Force, Air Force Chief of Staff, as well as the automated information systems program.

Personnel, Mission Support and Plans, Programs, and Policy Support Staff, also located at Boiling, provides mission support planning, personnel, and information to over 600 personnel assigned to the Air Force Intelligence community in the NCR.

Oct. 1, 1996, the 497th IG began its fourth year of existence. Though a relatively young organization, the 497th IG continues to draw upon the rich tradition of the 497th RTG, which directly supported U.S. forces in the European theaters for more than 40 years, providing imagery products and imagery-based intelligence to consumers worldwide.

With the relocation of operations to RAF Molesworth and the assumption of a larger theater-level analysis role, the 497th RTG became the Joint Analysis Center. In order to preserve the proud heritage established by the 497th RTG, the Air Force Intelligence Support Agency was redesignated the 497th IG Oct. 1, 1993.

The 497th Intelligence Group, Langley AFB, Va., is assigned the 10th and 30th Intelligence Squadrons. The group operates and maintains a \$750M Sentinel weapons system (AN/GSQ-272), commonly referred to as Distributed Ground System-1 (DGS-1). This group provides combatant and component commanders with near- and real-time processing, exploitation, and dissemination of actionable ISR data collected by U-2, MQ-1, RQ-4 aircraft, and other platforms as required.

Activated the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron and established its TO&E as adjusted with a complement of 24 officers and one hundred ninety-four airman with station at Wiesbaden Air Base, Effective 3 May 1951. The unit was assigned to 12th Air Force and attached to the 60th Air Base Group

497th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron was activated on 3 May 1951. The mission of the 497th was to provide photo processing and production, detailed photo interpretation and compilation and reproduction of aeronautical charts and related products.

It soon became apparent that manning, training and equipping the squadron could be better accomplished in the United States. As a result, to cut costs and facilitate training, action was taken on 14 July 1951 by Headquarters 12th Air Force to release the few personnel then assigned to the unit, and on 26 July 1951, the 497th RTS (Reconnaissance Technical Squadron) was Transferred from Wiesbaden to Shaw AFB, South Carolina.

While the unit was being formed at AFB, command of the Squadron changed hands several times as officers reporting for duty outranked the commanding officer and assumed command in turn. By the end of September 1951, squadron strength as seven officers and 122 airmen. The unit was initially attached to the Tactical Air Division, 9th Air Force. It was soon Transferred to the 363rd RTS for Quarters, administrative and logistic support and on 24 September 1951 was attached to the 20th Fighter-Bomber Wing.

On 28 November 1951, the squadron was alerted for overseas deployment to Wiesbaden. Major Charles F. Heil, Commander of the squadron, dispatched an advanced party to procure billeting and supplies and to expedite renovation plans for the Schierstein Kaserne, the future home of the 497th RTS. The advanced party arrived in Wiesbaden on 24 January, 1952. The remainder of the squadron (19 officers, 174 enlisted) departed Shaw AFB 11 February 1952 and made the trip to Germany aboard the USS General Sturgis. The Unit arrived at Bremerhaven on 3 March 1952, and was greeted by Col R. E. Herndon, Assistant Chief, Air Intelligence Division, USAFE, who accompanied it on the overnight troop train to Wiesbaden.

Brigadier General M. Lewis, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, was on hand to greet the squadron when it arrived in Wiesbaden. Quarters had been prepared at Camp Lindsey for the Airmen. The Officers were billeted at the Kur Hotel, while the Commander was assigned quarters at the newly constructed American Arms Hotel. The unit was officially assigned to USAFE on 7 March 1952. It was attached to the 12th Air Force, then located in Wiesbaden, for logistical support.

On 7 April, 1952, work began to renovate the ground floor and basement of the main building at the Schierstein compound. The renovation was 50% complete on 30 April when operational sections of the 497th moved in to the compound for the first time.

The 497th increased in size and responsibility to USAFE Intelligence during the succeeding years and demonstrated early the desire to become involved in community programs. In sports, the unit excelled and quickly became a power to be reckoned with in community sporting competition.

Expansion within the compound was similarly rapid. On July 1954, ground was broken for the

construction of the reproduction building (S-11) and the wall running from the vehicle sheds (S-6) to the mail room was broken through to gain access to what used to be the Headquarters Building (S-12). Building S-2 (later to house the communications and data processing center) was first permanently occupied in August 1954.

By mid-January 1955, Building S-11 was ready for occupancy, Building S-5 (later to be the unit mail room) was remodeled to house transformers and converters. By late 1955, the photo lab in S-1 was producing over 80,000 prints per year, the first refresher photo interpretation (PI) course was being taught, and the 497th fielded a winning football team.

On 30 September, the 497th Dining Hall in building S-1 closed. Utilizing the same facilities, AFEX opened a cafeteria the following day, which serviced the unit into the early 1980's. Concurrently, the S-5 snack bar was closed and the building remodeled to house the unit mail room.

By late 1959 the 497th RTS had suffered a 12 percent decrease in manpower. Higher headquarters suggested the unit stream line operations and reduce costs by moving the mission to the United Kingdom. Major Eugene Tighe was appointed project officer for the 497th's part in Project Red Richard. This project caused several major organizational realignments and numerous unit closures. The motto of the 497th became, "We will make no move before its time" (adequate in retrospect). Only 30 years later did the 497th re-acquire the 496th RTS from the 10th Fighter Wing at RAF Alconbury, and initiate a change that resulted in the 497th relocation to RAF Mildenhall some 35 years after planting its flag at Schierstein.

As 1959 came to a close, change continued. In the reproduction building, the prints shop advanced from zinc lithographs to aluminum plates, and in S-1 the Operations Division was again reorganized, to accommodate a target research section. In December 1959, the 497th assumed responsibility for document control and distribution for the Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence.

The 496th RTS, a subordinate unit to the 497th, was activated in Vogelweh, on 15 July 1959. This unit however, would last only two years, closing down in 1961. Operational control over the 497th RTS was moved in 1960 to HQ, USAFE/IN, and a new unit shield adopted.

To further community involvement, the 497th adopted the Kinderheim Jockem in Mainz during Christmas time. Lastly, in late 1958, to improve the gastronomical morale of the unit, the Air force Exchange opened a snack bar in S-5 to replace the mobile canteen that patrolled the compound during lunchtime. The cafeteria served breakfast and lunch until it was finally closed in May 1991

The 1960's witnessed the largest growth and expansion in the 497th history. The growth was in response to the increased need for intelligence support caused by the explosion of world events in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The 497th RTS, during this time period, was tasked to monitor the corridors to prevent further mishaps.

The 497th grew physically once the 7650th Aeronautical Chart and Information (AC&I) Squadron relocated from the Schierstein Compound to Mainz Kastel in 1962. During this same year, renovation in building S-1, added an SCI secured facility to the second floor.

And in 1965, the 497th operational excellence was recognized by achieving its first Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA).

While the unit was growing physically, it was also growing in respect and stature, earning its second Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (AFOUA). At the same time (October 1967) it was also designated as the USAFE Intelligence Research Center (IRC)/497th RTG. The IRC was assigned directly to the USAFE Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence. This step, more than just a name change, increased the operational responsibility of the unit dramatically including the mission of observing the Berlin corridors. The Intelligence Research Center now boasted 73 officers, 296 enlisted and 23 civilians. In June 1966 It absorbed the USAFE Target Directorate which was dissolved and moved from the Lindsey Air Station to Schierstein to become a part of the newly formed IRC. A processing center at Brampton, UK was also added to its assets, which complimented the theater's largest mass reproduction capability, based at Schierstein.

As a money and resource saving venture, the 497th RTG also pioneered the theater's first silver recovery operation, recovering silver from old film, photos and processing chemicals.

In June 1968, the Target Division was accorded full directorate status and computer support personnel moved into building S-2. In September, U.S. Army personnel at Schierstein, who had been associated with the mission of the 497th, were formally incorporated into the 497th under the provisions of a Memorandum of Understanding between Hq. USAFE and U.S. Army Europe.

Of greater concern to most were rumors of re-organization. In 1971, the numbered Air Forces were reduced by 70%, and all of USAFE was speculating on who would be deactivated and who would move. Headquarters USAFE became one of the first victims, causing it to be moved from Lindsey Air Station to Ramstein AB. (Truth be known, the end game plan was to move all of the Air Force components from Lindsey and the Wiesbaden area, and General Jones really wanted to have the Headquarters at an operating Air Base, not a couple of city blocks which housed Lindsey Air Station.) This decision drew severe anti-American protests from local Germans who wanted the US to pull out of Lindsey and the Schierstein compounds completely so the city of Wiesbaden could convert them into a social housing project. The 497th began looking for a home at Ramstein AB, looking at the Ramstein north gym among others. Planners finally gave up, but the rumors persisted. It was always in the plan to close down Air Force operations in Wiesbaden, but the same constraints that prompted the move (money and resources) ironically caused Lindsey to thrive, ironically because there was no "room at the inn" at Ramstein, and not only did the organizations left behind at Lindsey grow, its additional space and facilities virtually insured that any new organization could find a home there. (We were also told that finances were so tight, and General Jones decision to move so firm, that it was almost all a self-help operation with the complete staff packing their own equipment and office furniture to vehicles to go to Ramstein)

Meanwhile, the Rhine Main AB terminal was completed in 1972, and the point of distribution for 497th materials was moved from Wiesbaden Air Base to Rhine Main. On a lighter side, 1972 was the occasion of the first 497th sponsored summer "Olympiad"

In 1973 the 497th began issuing security badges for the first time to control access to buildings S-1 and S-11. The entry control booths were constructed and remained till deactivation.

In 1974, the 497th photo lab was completing its first tasking for color print requirements. The need to consolidate all of the units photo lab operations became apparent. In 1974, the 497th ceased production of charts and maps and also took operational control of the photographic processing facilities which serviced the group.

USAFE/IN and the 497th RTG acquired the 7499th Special Operations Squadron facilities at Building 23 E, Wiesbaden Air Base. Now the 497th assumed control of CREEK MISTY processing and first phase reporting. This change necessitated a rehabilitation of the former Operating Location C (OL-C) building. All of the light tables and processing equipment except for the Fultron processors were moved to S-1. One side of the horse stables were filled in and covered with tile to create a basement hallway. Construction crews gutted the precision photo processing lab, removing old walls, installing an air shower at the entrance to the chemical mixing room and adding air conditioning. This transformation of building 23E marked the start of the daily commute between Wiesbaden AB and Schierstein Compound fortunately a gallon of gas only cost 68 cents at the time..

1978 also marked the cessation of the T-10 radar simulator operations, the inauguration of micro-graphics production capability, and the introduction of a new computerized imagery interpreter support system known as Computer Aided Tactical Information System (CATIS). In the Spring of 1979, an Operating Location (OL-A) of the 497th was established at Ramstein AB to provide expanded imagery intelligence support to Headquarters, USAFE.

During this decade, the 497th RTG earned three more Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards, and designed a brand new unit shield.

In the spring of 1979, Operating Location A (OL-A) was established at Ramstein AB to provide expanded imagery intelligence support to Hq. USAFE. There was further expansion at home as the Deputy Commander for Resources and Group Administration were created.

On 1 October 1982, the 10th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron at RAF Alconbury, United Kingdom was acquired by the 497th RTG, and re-designated the 496th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron (RTS). Its mission was to provide more focused intelligence support to the United States Commander in Chief, Europe, The Commander in Chief, US Air Forces, Europe, and the 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing.

The following year Operating Location A picked up additional tasking and was re-designated

Detachment 1, 497th RTG. In 1985, the 497th RTG and its squadrons were officially subordinated to the newly established 7455th Tactical Intelligence Wing activated at Ramstein AB. This re-alignment was intended to provide a more effective chain of command for USAFE intelligence in a transition from peacetime to wartime. At the same time, the newly established 7100th Combat Support Wing at Lindsey became the unit's servicing personnel, finance, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation supporting organization.

On the operational side, the 497th photo labs produced specialized color prints of the Iranian hostages arrival in Germany for the State Department and the local military community.

1986 was an extraordinary year for the 497th RTG. The unit contributed imagery intelligence support to the Chad crisis, Operation Eldorado Canyon into Libya, as well as analysis of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant accident. Imagery highlight production doubled between 1986 and 1987, as the list of customers expanded. Community involvement, and morale boosting activities like the Olympiad, and Volksmarches continued as well.

Over the years, the 497th RTG had established linkages with the Birmingham, Alabama and Little Rock Air National Guard, which housed the 117th and 123rd Tactical Reconnaissance Squadrons. Many came to spend active duty training time alongside members of the 497th. By the end of 1988,

- \* The color lab had moved to the second floor of Building 23E at Wiesbaden AB,
- \* 268 in-theater imagery intelligence briefings had been delivered
- \* Two Eastman Kodak 1140 Versamats had been received and installed.
- \* The gym had been refurbished
- \* And three crisis operations had been supported

1989 marked yet another upgrade at Ramstein as Detachment 1 became the 495th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. The Army's 581st Military Intelligence (MI) Detachment at the 497th became Detachment C, Imagery and Analysis Battalion (I&A Bn) (Provisional). Meanwhile, the unit released the first collateral-level imagery exploitation reporting.

As the decade ended, serious work was underway to expand imagery intelligence operations in the United Kingdom. As a result of treaty changes, RAF Molesworth was deactivated as a missile storage facility, and its facilities were now being eyed by many as a home for future intelligence operations.

On 1 September 1989, four individuals arrived at Molesworth to assess the potential for this new mission.

Production was booming by 1990. The unit provided support to one contingency operation, (Desert Shield), two humanitarian operations (BUSY PLAYMATE and DESERT RAIN), and the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (which produced over 5,000 intelligence reports) As always, the 497th was on many distinguished visitor's itineraries, this year including the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Congressional representatives, and the Secretary of the Air Force. In efforts to safeguard American lives, the 497th provided support for Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) evacuations from Liberia, Zaire and Turkey.

When it seemed the unit could not possibly top its 1990 achievements, it was called upon to provide vital support to Operation Desert Storm. It deployed personnel and supplied time-sensitive imagery products to help ensure the success of air, ground and naval forces in the Gulf. Most members worked a minimum of 12 hour shifts from August 1990 to April 1991. Following Desert Storm, when other intelligence operations wound down, the 497th was still working 12 to 18 hour shifts and deploying personnel in support of the Kurdish refugee relief efforts in Iraq.

During the Fall of 1990 and Spring of 1991 the rumblings of a new mission grew louder in the Molesworth area. After discussions with the British Government, the United States and NATO authorities, the United States European Command decided to develop RAF Molesworth as a new intelligence base. In late Spring of 1991 Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher authorized the formation of a Joint Analysis Center (JAC) at RAF Molesworth. After additional planning and senior level approvals, final approval for the JAC was granted. The JAC was activated at Molesworth on 1 October 1991.

From 1951 to 1991 the 497th RTG established a long and enduring record of excellence. Performing in a variety of roles and missions, the airmen, soldiers, marines and even sailors have served the imagery intelligence community not only of the European Theater, but world-wide.

Even though not a "Joint" unit, the men and women of the four services worked as a cohesive team, side by side, making indelible contributions on behalf of their respective components. Each a credit to his service, and each an integral part of the whole.

Finally, the 497th flag was resurrected by the Air Force IN, recognizing the unique contributions and legacy it represented. Major General Rokke bestowed this legacy on what was then the Air Force Intelligence Support Group, which, on 2 November 1993, became the 497th Intelligence Group.

The former 497th Intelligence Group (HUMINT) was deactivated at Boiling and reactivated at Langley AFB as the 497 IG reporting to the newly activated 480 Intelligence Wing. NASIC is DoD's producer of foreign aerospace intelligence, while AFIOC engages in a myriad of activities supporting Air Force information operations.

Included under the Air Intelligence Agency umbrella was the 497th Intelligence Group, a support organization that previously reported directly to Air Force Headquarters.

The newly activated 497th Intelligence Group assumed the mission of the Air Force Intelligence Support Agency that it replaced.

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7455th Tactical Intelligence Wing. The command activated the 7455th at Ramstein Air Base on 1 September and assigned it to Headquarters USAFE. This wing was established to provide a more effective chain of command to transition the USAFE intelligence support structure from a peacetime to a wartime footing and to coordinate the activities of the wing's five subordinate units—the 7450th and 7451st Tactical Intelligence Squadrons, 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group, and the 7113th and 7452d Special Activities Squadrons. Deputy Chief of Staff, Intelligence was dual-hatted as the wing commander. 1985

In 1951, the United States Air Forces, Europe (USAFE), recognized the need to permanently base a Reconnaissance Technical Squadron in the European theater. To satisfy this requirement, the Air Force activated the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron on 3 May 1951 and based it at Wiesbaden Air Base, Germany. USAFE tasked the unit to provide photo processing and production, detailed photo interpretation, and a compilation and reproduction of aeronautical charts and related products to U.S. forces assigned in theater. The Air Force realized it would gain greater efficiencies if the squadron received the required manpower, training and equipment while assigned to a base in the United States. As a result, the 497 RTG transferred to Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina in July 1951. After the completion of training, the squadron received an alert order for overseas movement to Weisbaden, West Germany. In January 1952, the 497 RTG deployed an advance party to Wiesbaden. The purpose of this team was to procure the necessary billeting and supplies for the unit, and initiate the expedited renovation of the Schierstein Kaserne. The Schierstein compound dates from the Allied occupation following World War I. The remainder of the squadron (19 officers, 174 enlisted personnel) departed Shaw AFB on 11 February 1952 and made the voyage to Germany aboard the USS General Sturgis. Arriving at Bremerhaven on 3 March, the unit transferred to an overnight troop train to complete the trip to Wiesbaden. Quarters were prepared at Camp Lindsey for the airmen, while the officers were billeted at the Kur Hotel. The Air Force officially reassigned the squadron to USAFE on 7 March 1952 under 12th Air Force, which was also located at Wiesbaden. On 7 April 1952, work began to

renovate the ground floor and basement of the main building at the Schierstein compound. By the end of April, unit personnel occupied the facility while renovation efforts continued in the building. Continuous unit growth occurred during a ten year period from the mid-1950's to the mid-1960's. On 6 June 1966, USAFE re-allocated the manpower assigned to its Directorate of Air Targets to become part of the newly formed USAFE Intelligence Research Center/497th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron. With the mission increase, the Air Force decided to inactivate the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, and on 1 October 1967, established the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group. History The 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group, or "Recce Tech Group", performed key duties by providing intelligence support to flying units in Europe during the Cold War. In September 1968, the group assumed a Joint role when the U.S. Army formally incorporated its personnel into the 497th RTG. The next year, HQ USAFE moved from Wiesbaden to Ramstein Air Base while the group remained at Wiesbaden. At this time, the unit ceased production of charts and maps but assumed operational control of the photographic processing facility at Wiesbaden Air Base. Nine U.S. Marines joined the group in 1978, and a micrographics production capability was added as part of the organization's mission set. In the Spring of 1979, the Air Force activated an Operating Location at Ramstein Air Base to provide expanded imagery intelligence support to HQ USAFE. Now headquartered at Schierstein, the 497 RTG supervised units based at both Ramstein and Weisbaden. Under this construct, the group accomplished photographic intelligence exploitation to include studies, analysis and estimates as well as precision targeting, plotting and production efforts. During this period, the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group staffed and supported the USAFE Intelligence Development Center. The group also processed and interpreted reconnaissance imagery for the commander of U.S. forces in Europe. The unit disseminated processed intelligence materials to USAFE, United States European Command, the North Atlantic Treaty 480th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing Organization's Allied Command Europe, and specified U.S. intelligence agencies. In 1982, the 496th Reconnaissance Technical Squadron, based at RAF Alconbury, joined the group. It provided full imagery services to British-based Air Force units and served as a back-up to the main operating location. The 497 RTG provided critical intelligence imagery products during the build-up and execution of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. On 1 July 1991, the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group moved to RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom, where it served as the foundation for the U.S. European Command's Joint Analysis Center. With the fall of the Soviet Union and withdrawal of Russian forces from Eastern Europe, the Air Force made the decision to inactivate the 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group, effective 1 July 1992. Fifteen months later, the Air Force re-designated 497th Reconnaissance Technical Group as the 497th Intelligence Group and activated the unit on 1 October 1993. The group was stationed at Bolling Air Force Base, District of Columbia, as part of the Air Intelligence Agency. The 497 IG mission encompassed three main functions to include intelligence systems, operations applications, and security and communications management. As the Air Force developed its doctrine for Information Superiority and Information Operations, the 497th IG officially transitioned, on 1 August 2000, as the 497th Information Operations Group (497 IOG). In this capacity, the 497 IOG performed as the primary planning, policy implementation, and functional management arm of the Directorate of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, (AF/XOI). The unit also supported a number of Air Staff offices, and other DoD/Joint customers around the world. Its mission focus ensured critical intelligence infrastructure services and security, weapons system

support, automation, and information operations support to defense community users worldwide. As such, the 497 IOG directly contributed to the Air Force strategy that developed a myriad of intelligence support infrastructure requirements for future weapons systems. The 497 IOG inactivated on 1 February 2001, but it was re-designated the 497th Intelligence Group on 23 October 2003. The unit was activated at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia on 1 December 2008. On 1 January 2009, the unit was again, re-designated as the 497th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group. The 10th and 30th Intelligence Squadrons are currently the subordinate organizations within the group structure. The group also works with Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve units to include the 192nd Intelligence Squadron of the Virginia ANG and the 718th Intelligence Squadron assigned to the Air Force Reserve. The 497th ISR GP operates a \$750 million AN/GSQ-272 "Sentinel" weapons system, commonly referred to as the Distributed Ground System-1 (DGS-1) or "Sentinel-1". The DGS-1 infrastructure includes analytical and reporting elements for Imagery and Signals Intelligence obtained through U-2, Predator, Reaper, and Global Hawk reconnaissance platforms. The 497th ISR GP provides all source analysis and fusion, via the DCGS Analysis and Reporting Team (DART). Prior to the establishment of the 480 ISR GP, the 497 ISR GP performed duties as the Air Force component supporting the National Security Agency/Central Security Service-Georgia operations site. The group now provides real-time tactical and national intelligence collection, exploitation, analysis, and reporting operations providing imagery, full motion video, and cryptologic intelligence to USCENTCOM,

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