

606th TACTICAL CONTROL SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

606th Tactical Control Squadron

STATIONS

Bremerhaven, Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

606th Tactical Control Squadron

Biggs, Texas(?)

15 December, 1945 – 30 January, 1946

606 TCS 606 TCS Bremerhaven, DE

TPS 43E15-Mar-77

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The 609th TCS and 619th TCF were activated at Bad Muender and Schwelentrup respectively on 1 April 1976. A month later, on 1 May 1976, the 629th TCF was also activated at Schwelentrup. Equipment for the 609th TCS came from Cannon AFB, New Mexico, and that for its two flights arrived from the 103rd TCF, Orange County, Connecticut, and the 101st TCF, Worcester, Massachusetts. Shortly after, on 21 May 1976, Hessisch-Oldendorf Air Station was officially opened under project Creek Control and, on 20 September 1976, the 600th TCG and 600th Combat Support Squadron (CSS) were activated to provide control and support for 2 ATAF radar units. This left three new units yet to be activated. Almost a year later under project Creek Brahman, on 15 March 1977, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF were activated at Carl Schurz Kaserne near Bremerhaven. This marked the completion of mobile radar expansion into Northern Germany. But, unknown to wing officials at that time, the final bed-down of these latter two flights would become a monumental headache.

Several other operational "firsts" also highlighted 1972. The 629th TCF assisted the 636th TCF in its first practice deployment from 4 through 7 January 1978 and the 606th TCS controlled its

first practice intercept several weeks later on 2 February. The intercept involved F-15 aircraft from Bitburg AFB. On 22 March 1978, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF officially came on line as operational units and were declared fully operationally ready. Their sister radar units in 2 ATAF had previously achieved the same status on 1 February 1977. Also, in another key development, a change of command ceremony was held on 31 December 1978 which passed control and ownership of the Wasserkuppe 412L fixed radar site from the wing to the German Air Force. This concluded the transfer of various 4 ATAF 412L sites to the Germans that had been planned since 1959. On the next day, the 616th AC&WS was officially inactivated. Since the 606th AC&WS was previously inactivated and the Doebraberg site turned over to the GAF on 1 July 1974, only the 615th AC&WS fixed 412L radar site at Boerfink remained assigned to the wing. The remaining five fixed radar sites were now owned and operated by the German Air Force.

War broke out between Iran and Iraq on 22 September 1980. Shortly after, the Saudis requested and received US assistance in the form of various radar elements to ensure that Saudi Arabian airspace was not violated during the on-going hostilities. Indeed, early in October 1980, the 601st TCW received a short notice order to deploy a survey team to Riyadh to assist in setting up a mobile radar network in Saudi Arabia. Subsequently, stateside TAC elements dispatched a FACP, a TSQ-91V CRP operations central cell, and a TYC-10 MPC to Saudi Arabia. The overall radar operation in Saudi Arabia was collectively known as Elf One. Actually, Elf One's operation involved three operating locations set up along the eastern edge of the Arabian peninsula on the coast of the Arabian Gulf and in the central city of Riyadh. The MPC and E-3A AWACS aircraft operated out of the latter location. The TSQ-91V cell, along with the communications element of the Saudi Arabian SOC, was situated at a location on Dhahran AB, just inland from the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia. The FACP operated out of Al Jubayl, also along the eastern coast of the country. The primary mission of this operation was to maintain an air defense enhancement package in Saudi Arabia in providing support to the Saudi Arabian government through air defense radar surveillance of the Gulf area. Some 500 personnel made up the population at the three operating locations. Since its activation in 1980, the wing has alternated with stateside TAC units in fulfilling the bulk of Elf One manning requirements. On 11 April 1981, the 602nd TCS began deploying en masse to Elf One with vans and equipment. Prior to this date, the majority of wing members who supported Elf One were taken more or less equally from all 601st TCW TAGS units. By the close of 1981, the 606th TCS, 619th TCF, 621st TCF, and 622nd TCF also served tours in Saudi Arabia.

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The year 1975 was a relatively quiet one for wing radar units. But, 1976 was, altogether, quite a different story. In an effort to provide mobile radar coverage services for Northern Germany, the 601st TCW planned on opening up several new units in 2 ATAF. Final planning stages for Creek North were completed by 31 March 1976, and, by year's end, the wing's mobile TAGS network grew by 40 percent. This expansion project involved the activation of eight units and first took in the development of three new sites in Northern Germany—Hessisch Oldendorf, Bad Muender, and Schwelentrup. Hessisch Oldendorf was the site of a former Royal Netherlands Air Force Hawk missile battery headquarters and the other two locations were its satellite missile launch sites. The 609th TCS and 619th TCF were activated at Bad Muender and Schwelentrup respectively on 1 April 1976. A month later, on 1 May 1976, the 629th TCF was also activated at Schwelentrup. Equipment for the 609th TCS came from Cannon AFB, New Mexico, and that for its two flights arrived from the 103rd TCF, Orange County, Connecticut, and the 101st TCF, Worcester, Massachusetts. Shortly after, on 21 May 1976, Hessisch-Oldendorf Air Station was officially opened under project Creek Control and, on 20 September 1976, the 600th TCG and 600th Combat Support Squadron (CSS) were activated to provide control and support for 2 ATAF radar units. This left three new units yet to be activated. Almost a year later under project Creek Brahman, on 15 March 1977, the 606th TCS, 626th TCF, and 636th TCF were activated at Carl

Schurz Kaserne near Bremerhaven. This marked the completion of mobile radar expansion into Northern Germany. But, unknown to wing officials at that time, the final bed-down of these latter two flights would become a monumental headache.

TPS-43E activity dominated the early months of 1978. On 20 January, the 606th TCS became the last CRP to receive the new radar set and several months later, on 31 March 1978, the remaining eight TPS-43Es stored at the 603rd TCS were released to the gaining PACPs. At this time, only two wing units still operated the TPS-44—the 626th and 636th TCFs. However, on 8 May 1978, TPS-43E radar sets became operational at the last two FACPs. This activity, was to advertise the advanced capabilities of the E-3A to provide improved air surveillance for the European theater and its ability to down-link data through the ground environment system. The 603rd TCS deployed to Gruenstadt from 9 November through 15 December to support this demonstration. In several other TAGS related events during the year, on 14 November 1977, the 626th and 636th TCFs moved off Carl Schurz Kaserne to a location on top of the Bremerhaven City Dump at Muellplatz Grauer Wall, just down the road from their previous site. They would operate here, literally surrounded by garbage, for the next three years. Also, on 1 December 1977, the 636th TCF controlled its first mission, a sortie of two F-111s out of RAF Lakenheath, England. However, like the other two newly activated units, they would not be fully operational for several months.

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601st Tactical Control Group Activated. On 15 February USAFE activated the 601st Tactical Control Group at Sembach Air Base, Germany. One tactical control squadron—the 601st—was assigned to the group. 1965

601st Tactical Control Wing. As part of an overall reorganization of air defense, on 1 July, USAFE discontinued the 601st Tactical Control Group and activated and organized the 601st Tactical Control Wing to oversee the 407L Tactical Air Control System and the 412L Aircraft Control and Warning System. Concurrently, the 601st Tactical Control Squadron was reassigned from the group and assigned to the wing. 1968

601st Tactical Control Wing. The command made several changes during the year to allow the wing to concentrate more fully on its tactical air control mission. On 1 May the 601st Tactical Air Support Group was reactivated at Sembach to provide a control headquarters for the wing's three flying squadrons, the 20th, 601st, and 704th Tactical Air Support Squadrons. Another tactical control squadron, the 606th, was activated at Bremerhaven on 15 June and assigned to the 600th Tactical Control Group. On 1 July the 7575th Operations Group was activated at Rhein Main Air Base and two 601st units, the 7th Special Operations Squadron and the 7405th Operations Squadron, were assigned to it. 1977

601st Tactical Control Wing. On 1 June several organizational changes took place in the wing. The 600th and 601st Tactical Control Groups were inactivated, and their squadrons—the 601st, 603d, 606th, and 609th—were reassigned to the wing. At the same time, the 601st Tactical Air Support Squadron was reassigned from the 601st Tactical Air Support Group to the 601st Tactical Control Wing, in preparation for the group's inactivation on 15 October. And, on 1 August, the 602d Tactical Control Squadron was inactivated. (Also assigned to the wing were two paper organizations—the 20th and 704th Tactical Air Support Squadrons.) 1985

Air Force Lineage and Honors
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.