

10th RADIO SQUADRON, MOBILE

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Brooks AFB, TX, 23 Feb 1949-21 Oct 1950

RAF Chicksands, England, 8 Nov 1950-8 May 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Security Service activated the 10th Radio Squadron Mobile at Brooks AFB, Texas, in 1949, but little was accomplished immediately to prepare the unit for shipment to the United Kingdom. With the crisis in Berlin, beefing up, the 2nd RSM's capabilities got first priority. In the spring of 1950, USAFSS Headquarters designated Major Donald Robinson the 10th RSM commander and charged him with equipping and deploying the 10th RSM to RAF Chicksands, England.

Temperatures hovered around 100 degrees F. in San Antonio as the 10th RSM came to life. Some 30 newly assigned personnel worked throughout the summer in a stifling aircraft hangar at Brooks—gathering and packaging squadron equipment and supplies in crates for shipment to their new home in England. This 10th RSM cadre would be joined in England by additional intercept operators and traffic analysts who had served and trained briefly with the 2nd RSM in Germany. In

September 1950, USAFSS commander Col. Hetherington alerted Maj. Robinson for movement of the 10th RSM to England.

Created in 1940 under wartime constraints, Chicksands facilities were spartan; built expressly as a COMINT intercept station, it had the essential elements to support a 10th RSM intercept mission. A small RAF detachment that occupied Nissen huts south of the Flit River operated a comms relay station at Tech Site B and served as caretaker for the entire station. When the 10th RSM arrived, the RAF ceded control of RAF Chicksands to the U.S. Air Force except the RAF area below the Flit River and Tech Site B. The former WAAF area and billets (Nissen and Seco huts) became home for 10th RSM airmen.

TSgt. Olson headed a 10th RSM team that deployed to Scotland in mid-1951 to set up a second DF station while George Montague and a stay-behind team activated the local DF site at Henlow Camp. The squadron arranged through the Air Ministry to detach Olson's team at RAF Station Edzell, about 10 miles west of Montrose—a port city on Scotland's North Sea coast 90 miles north of Edinburgh and 35 miles south of Aberdeen. The DF site was located in a pasture about five miles from RAF Edzell.

Det 1, 10 RSM Activated

Activated as Detachment 101, 10th RSM, the DF team lived in RAF billeting at Edzell and commuted to the site by jeep. Situated some 450 miles apart, the two DF stations (Edzell and Henlow Camp) provided excellent base legs for location fixes against targets on the continent. Thinking back on the activation of the two sites, George Montague recalls that the Edzell DF site was up and running awhile before the site at Henlow Camp became operational.

DET 2, 10 RSM ACTIVATED

Soon after opening its DF site at Edzell, the 10th Radio Squadron Mobile dispatched a team to activate a second detachment in Scotland. In early 1952, the squadron published orders activating Det 102, 10th RSM at Kirknewton RAF Station, outside Edinburgh. In mid-1952, the 37th Radio Squadron Mobile arrived at Kirknewton and assumed the mission and the airmen assigned to Det 2, 10th RSM.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Nov 2011

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.