

# **26<sup>th</sup> NETWORK OPERATIONS GROUP**

## **LINEAGE**

Established and activated as the 6914 Electronic Security Squadron on 1 Oct 1986  
Redesignated 26 Technical Group on 1 Mar 1993  
Redesignated 26 Intelligence Group on 1 Oct 1993  
Redesignated 26 Information Operations Group on 1 Aug 2000  
Redesignated 26 Network Operations Group on 5 Jul 2006

## **STATIONS**

Sembach AB, Germany, 1 October 1986  
Vogelweh, Germany, 1 March 1993  
Ramstein AB, Germany, Jul 2000-4 Jul 2006  
Kelly Field Annex, Lackland AFB, TX, 5 Jul 2006

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

67 Intelligence (later, Information Operations; Network Warfare) Wing, 1 Oct 1993

## **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device  
1 Jun 2002-30 May 2003.

#### **Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards**

1 Jul 1988-20 Jun 1990

1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1994

1 Oct 1994-30 Sep 1995  
1 Oct 1996-30 Sep 1997  
1 Jun 2001-31 May 2002  
1 Jun 2003-31 May 2005

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 26th Network Operations Group employs four operational squadrons worldwide, providing Air Force enterprise network operations, management, defense, and information assurance to Air Force Network Operations (AF NetOps) Commander and Commander, United States Strategic Command. The Group plans, tasks, executes, monitors and sustains AFNetOps forces for Warfighting Headquarters and Commands. The Group trains and certifies AFNetOps forces on tactics, techniques, and procedures that the Group develops.

## **26 IG/RAMSTEIN**

When Air Intelligence Agency stood up in 1993, its senior authority in Europe was the 26th Intelligence Group, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. Replacing the 26th Intelligence Wing that was deactivated on 30 June 1993,<sup>i27</sup> the 26th IG controlled six squadrons in Europe and by the mid-1990's was embedding AIA specialists in the USAFE organizations that the 26th supported.

An article in the Air Intelligence Agency Spokesman magazine in 1999 does an excellent job of showing how airmen of the 26th IG and USAFE worked as a warfighting team. It lays out the mission of the 26th IG and the role that the group's personnel played in Allied operations against Serbia and while monitoring for violations of the northern "no-fly zone" of Iraq during 1998 and 1999. Early in the article, the writer cited changes in Air Force cryptologic forces in Europe since the end of the Cold War.

In addition to several name changes to the organization itself, the number of personnel has been reduced by about 4000, and the number of major units has been reduced from ten to the current 26th IG structure, comprising six squadrons, three detachments and five operating locations. These reductions occurred as part of the overall European drawdown: Even though the numbers have drastically changed, the impact of AIA forces remains key as they provide critical products, data and services to their European warfighting partners.

There are 900 members assigned to the 26th IG and over 90 percent are dedicated enlisted experts. This highly-trained force is comprised of nearly 50 Air Force Specialty Codes, including 14 languages.

The units are located in seven countries, with activities and operations throughout 25 countries. The group's six squadrons and locations are: 26th Intel Support Squadron, colocated with the group headquarters, Ramstein Air Base, Germany; 402nd IS, Bad Aibling Station, Germany; 426th IS, Vogelweh, Germany; 451st IS, Royal Air Force Menwith Hill, United Kingdom; 485th IS, Mainz-Kastel Station, Germany; and 488th IS, RAF Mildenhall, United Kingdom.

#### Close Integration With Warfighters

As expressed by group commander Col. Gary Selin, the 26th IG was especially proud of the extent to which its forces were integrated into European theater commands—a trait that held true with other AIA forces in other theaters.

We perform our mission by totally integrating with our European warfighting partners. Everyone in the group has worked extremely hard to become an integral part of the team they work with day-to-day. The results are readily apparent and our people directly contributed to the success of the [Kosovo] air war.

The professional team members of the group do not wait until the shooting starts to become involved. The very nature of the mission means they are involved in the planning and spin-up as well as the actual shooting. In fact, members of the group were involved in these kind of activities for over a year before the air war over the former Republic of Yugoslavia began 24 March 1999.

Using the Kosovo air war and no-fly zone air patrols as a backdrop, the author of the Spokesman article highlighted the role of 26th IG elements in integrated operations.

#### 26th IG and Operation Joint Guardian

At the end of the air war, the focus of the 26th Intelligence Group shifted to assisting with Operation Joint Guardian—a follow-on NATO effort to facilitate a lasting peace in the Balkans. The 26th team (and its successor unit) remains active in Kosovo on a peace monitoring mission to this day. Meanwhile, during Operation Joint Guardian the U.S. Army announced plans to deactivate Field Station Bad Aibling.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources