

## 8078 ELECTRONIC SECURITY SQUADRON



### **MISSION**

The 8078th Electronic Security Squadron, the Air Force's second Reserve communications security unit, was activated at Offutt AFB, Neb., in October 1983. Its mission is to train for and conduct defensive communications security in an active environment at Headquarters, Strategic Air Command, also located at Offutt. In peacetime, the 8078th is assigned to the Reserve's 10th Air Force at Bergstrom AFB, Texas. When mobilized, it is gained by Electronic Security Command and operational control of the unit is assumed by the ESC commander.

Located in a 4,000 square foot, prefabricated building, the 8078th is the Reserve counterpart of ESC's communications security branch. Squadron members have worked side-by-side with their active duty counterparts during major annual exercises at SAC. Initially, the unit provides telephone monitoring based on SAC's operational requirements, but further development is projected to include various radio communications countermeasures.

The squadron has approximately 35 Reservists, five officers and nearly 30 enlisted people.

### **LINEAGE**

8078 Electronic Security Squadron  
Activated, 1 Oct 1983

### **STATIONS**

Offutt AFB, NE

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Kenneth W. Arnold

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**



On a yellow disc, a blue demiglobe grid lined yellow issuing from base supporting a gray electronic tower emitting two scarlet electronic bolts arcing to chief between in chief a blue eagle in flight detailed black; in dexter a gray gauntlet detailed black grasping three scarlet lightning bolts and a green olive branch in sinister black knight chess piece; all within a narrow scarlet border. Attached above the disc a yellow scroll edged with a narrow scarlet border. Attached below the disc a yellow scroll inscribed "SECOND TO NONE" in blue letters, edged with a narrow scarlet border. Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater for Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The chess piece, from the Electronic Security Command emblem, indicates the unit's major command. The mailed fist represents the Strategic Air Command. The eagle symbolizes the unit's mission to police the electronic communications of Air Force and other DoD facilities. The lightning bolts and tower signify electronic communications.

## **MOTTO**

**SECOND TO NONE**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 8078th Reservists look forward to a challenging future in which Reserve and active forces can interface in an operational and training environment.

Commencing in 1981, the Electronic Security Command began using Air Force Reserve airmen to supplement its dwindling active duty SIGINT and COMSEC personnel.

The 8075th Electronic Security Squadron (USAFR), ESC's first Air Force Reserve unit, was established at Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, on 1 October 1981 to provide Communications Security support for the Air Force and other DoD organizations.

On 17 December 1982, the ESC Assistant Chief of Staff for Total Force Augmentation and the Reserve Affairs Office were merged into one function—Individual Mobilization Augmentation—that reported directly to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

The 8078th ESS (USAFR) was activated at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, on 1 October 1983. USAFR Prime Beef teams from Indiana, Washington, and Wisconsin constructed the squadron's 4,000 square foot building. The unit's mission was to train for and conduct communications surveillance activities in support of HQ SAC. Peacetime control of the 8078th ESS was through the Fourteenth Air Force. ESC would gain the unit upon mobilization.

Earlier in 1983, the idea of establishing an ESC-gained Air National Guard (ANG) electronic security squadron was born, but it took three years to bring the plan for the new ANG unit together.

The large number of language-qualified people and excellent ANG support available in the Salt Lake City, Utah, area made that city a most attractive location for an ESC Reserve Force airborne unit to support wartime and contingency operations. The idea was to fill ESC shortages of airborne crypto linguists while saving Air Force training funds by recruiting individuals already proficient in a language.<sup>1</sup>

On 5 February 1986, organization of the unit was announced publicly. Then, a Department of the Air Force (DAF) letter officially announced the constitution of the unit effective 9 April 1986, stating the unit would be allotted to the ANG on/about 8 October 1986, with ESC as the gaining command. ESC's first and only Air National Guard unit, the 169 ESS, Hill Air Force Base, UT, received its federal recognition on 27 April 1987 and was activated on 19 September 1987.

An airborne SIGINT reconnaissance squadron, the 169th ESS conducted its mission in Comfy Levi and Senior Scout S-141 mobile intercept shelters aboard C-130 aircraft. The 169\* Intelligence Squadron continues SIGINT missions today under control of 8th Air Force and the Air Combat Command.

## 8078 ESS (Reserve) Offutt AFB, NE 1 Oct 1983

1 October, the 8078 ESS (AF Reserves) activated at Offutt AFB, Nebr. The AFRES Prime Beef teams from Indiana, Washington, and Wisconsin constructed a 4,000-square-foot building for the squadron. As its mission, the unit trained for and conducted communications surveillance activities in support of SAC. Fourteenth Air Force controlled the unit in peacetime, but on mobilization, the ESC would gain control over the unit. 1983

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.