

Remain In Touch



USAFSS/ESC

Alumni Association Newsletter

Vol I, No 3

July, 1982

I AM THE NATION'S FLAG

I am the nation's flag.

With no coward's stripe or mark of shame, I have sweated with the country's defenders through the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the wars that tried to tear me asunder. I gave proof through the rocket's red glare and the bombs bursting in air, that our nation was the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I have flown high and proud through world wars, the depression and the coming and going of presidents. I have helped lay to rest American martyrs like Abraham Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, as I draped myself over their coffins in final salute.

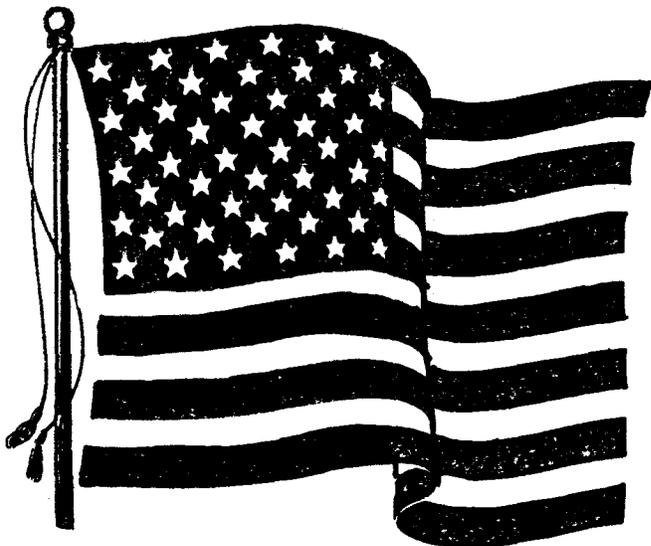
My stars recall the history of this nation, from the beginning to the present and the roads traveled in between. Look deep and see their reflections, the symbols of individual states and the men and women they represent.

It shames me that I, the symbol of strength, freedom and the United States, am scorned by the thoughtless and the selfish. When reveille or retreat is played, too many fail to pause, gaze with respect and give quiet thanks that they are Americans. I have seen people run and hide to avoid me.

Civil War veteran Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote of me in 1931 --

"Sixty-nine years ago, the sloop Cumberland was sunk by the Merrimac. The vessel went down with her flag flying and when my regiment arrived to begin the campaign I saw the flag still flying above the waters beneath which the Cumberland lay. It was a lifelong text for a young man. Fight to the end and go down with your flag at the peak."

Words like this make me proud. They reflect what I am and what Americans are. I am the nation's flag. A person must be cold indeed who can look upon my rippling folds in the breeze without pride in America.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Your board is busy making arrangements for our annual meeting now firmly set for 17 and 18 September 1982 here in San Antonio. If you will recall from our Constitution and By-Laws published in our first newsletter, we are required to have an annual meeting in September of each year to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of USAFSS and ESC and to elect officers for the next year. This year we are also celebrating the 35th birthday of the United States Air Force.

HQ ESC is working with us to help make our meeting and activities as beneficial, productive and entertaining as possible. I will give you a rundown of the activities planned at this time. Obviously there may be some changes but nothing substantive.

Friday, the 17th of September, we can go to either a parade at Lackland AFB or we might have a reveille at the HQ ESC. Then we will have coffee and pastries set up prior to the next event. Immediately following this we will go to the picnic grounds on Security Hill for tours through some static displays by some of the local ESC units, namely the 6948th ESS and the 6906th ESS. After the displays we have a number of things we can do depending on preference. First, the SENCO is planning a picnic where we have soft drinks, sausage, beer or whatever. Then we are sponsoring a golf tournament at the Kelly AFB golf course and a tennis tournament at the Security Hill courts. For those who do not wish to participate in the tournaments, we will have transportation available to take you to the El Mercado (a real nice Mexican market) for shopping. That same afternoon after the tournaments and presentation of awards, we will hold our annual meeting at the Kelly AFB golf course. We will have soft drinks, tamales and beer for our members. The meeting will be the final planned function for Friday.

On Saturday morning, the 18th of September, we will meet at HQ ESC and be provided a tour of the building and some briefings by the command. You will be pleased to see these briefings and the many changes in the building as they will show the new mission of the command and many new facilities. We will tour part of the Air Force Electronic Warfare Center and the ESC Alert Center. Our briefings will be held in the new Larger Auditorium on the third floor. In addition there will be a lot of memorabilia on display in the building in keeping with the 35th birthday of the USAF. We might be able to memorialize the first members into the Hall of Honor which is scheduled to be completed by then. As you know your association is very much involved in this program, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter. You will be left with a number of options for Saturday afternoon. Some of you will want to visit the Air Force museum at Lackland AFB and we are working with Lackland to see if we can get some tours through the Basic Training units.

Beginning at 1800 hours on Saturday, we will have a cocktail party and reception honoring all past commanders of USAFSS, all past and present Senior Enlisted Advisors of USAFSS and ESC and past and present senior civilians of USAFSS and ESC. Following the reception we will have a nice dinner followed by a guest speaker and dancing from 2100 to 0100. All of the Saturday night activities will be held at the Lackland AFB Officers Club.

We believe you will have a good time at our first annual meeting. In August, you will receive in the mail the details and the specifics -- so mark your calendar now and plan to be here!

We are making progress in developing chapter organizations in San Angelo, the Washington area and the Dallas/Greenville areas. We will keep you posted on these activities.

This newsletter will tell you some of our Association activities. We can always use help in working some of these programs so contact the chairman or a board member and volunteer.

Remember, Remain in Touch -- You'll Enjoy It!

See you in September.

Warm regards,

Bill Ballard

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Article VII of our Constitution states that the Constitution and its By-Laws may be amended by a majority of members present and voting at a scheduled meeting, provided a notice of said amendment has been provided to the membership at least 30 days in advance of said scheduled meeting.

In accordance with this requirement, all members are advised that the following proposed amendment to the By-Laws will be voted upon at the 17 September 1982 Alumni Association meeting, 1800 hours, Kelly AFB Golf Course Rotunda.

Proposed amendment background: Article II of our Constitution states in part: "Other locations to serve as chapter focal points may be authorized at the discretion of the Board of Directors." The Board believes the Association should avoid becoming a San Antonio area "club" and encourage a truly worldwide organization with active participation and representation by all of its members. Therefore, the following By-Laws amendment to implement Article II of the Constitution is hereby provided for your consideration.

Article X - Chapters:

The Board of Directors may authorize the formation of Association Chapters outside the Bexar County, Texas area. Chapters may elect their own executive officers to administer local activities. Chapters whose membership exceeds 30 members may be represented by their Chapter President on the Association Board of Directors. The Chapter President's title will be Chapter Representative. As such, he/she will have the same voting privileges, benefits and responsibilities as a member of the Association Board of Directors. He/she will be consulted regarding any non-routine voting issue that comes before the Board.

Chapter activities that may require use of Association funds will be reviewed for approval by the Association Board of Directors. Chapter generated funds, in excess of Association dues, may be expended without Association approval.

HALL OF HONOR COMMITTEE

James H. Macia Jr, Project Chairman, has formed a small steering committee consisting of Joe McShane and Tom Hyde. They have considered a number of interesting ideas, which were discussed with General Larson and Bill Ballard on June 17th. Some of the preliminary thoughts are:

1. This committee will be rather large with broad representation.
2. A Hall of Honor will be established where we can bring together and display memorials, plaques and other forms for honoring those who have performed distinguished service in USAFSS/ESC.
3. Consideration will be given to establishing a USAFSS/ESC Hall of Fame within the Hall of Honor to which a small number of individuals will be elected each year.

Herb expects to have his committee formed and working by mid-September.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Over 150 members, spouses, and guests joined in some "jawboning" social festivities at Lackland's O'Club on May 7th. The turn-out was less than expected, and believe many of us failed to mark the calendar when our April newsletter arrived (the one containing the membership roster). (Yes, look on the bottom of page one!) There were more than enough dips, chips, and assorted cheeses -- almost paid for by the one dollar "donations" collected by chief arm twisters, Ron Galin and myself. We are down roughly fifty bucks after our two parties, and it looks like we can fine-tune our snack budget without scrimping, as we have had food left after both affairs. Our policy is to keep our socials self-supporting and not dip into our dues fund for this type of activity. So, for those who attend, please smile when we collect that "old head tax" from you!

REUNIONS

- KARAMURSEL MERHABA

30 October 1982

Kelly AFB Officers Club

7PM - ?

For all who were assigned to KCDI. Contact Bob and Frances Touby for details (512-674-1224).

- MISAWA RECALL A SUCCESS!

There was quite a flurry of excitement in San Antonio, Texas, the weekend of June 25th and 26th, when approximately 80 former members of the 6921st Radio Group Mobile and 6989th Radio Squadron Mobile, USAFSS, of Misawa Air Base, Japan, in the years 1959-1963, held a 20th year reunion. The group consisted mainly of people who had been active together in almost every activity at the almost-remote site of Misawa Air Base during their tour of duty there. These members of USAFSS have kept in touch with each other through changes in assignments, following each other around to various USAFSS (now ESC) bases, and now, for the most part, retirement, since departing Misawa in the early '60s. Former Misawa-ites came for the reunion from as far-flung places as Oregon, California, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Oklahoma. Several of those present reside in the San Antonio-Austin area, but other Texans attended from San Angelo, Ft Worth, and Pasadena. Children and grandchildren of some of the reunion participants attended also. A reunion dinner was held on Friday evening, June 25th, at the Lackland AFB NCO Club, attended by 48 persons. On Saturday afternoon and evening, a backyard catered Texas Bar-B-Que was held at the home of retired MSgt and Mrs. Terry Kemp. This affair was attended by approximately 80 persons. An added feature of this afternoon-evening affair was the taking of video-tape movies by MSgt William Johnson of California and shown to the group as a finale of the day's activities. So much enthusiasm was manifested by the group at this reunion that they voted to have a similar affair in 3 years (1985). Hosts and planners for the reunion were: MSgt (Ret) & Mrs. Duane Bueche (Austin TX), MSgt (Ret) & Mrs. Terry Kemp, SMS (Ret) & Mrs. Ralph Parr, and CMSgt (Ret) and Mrs. Allan Thompson. (Submitted by: Mrs. Ralph Parr)

MEMORIALIZATION PROJECT: Renaming Streets on Security Hill

A USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association committee is presently working on a memorialization project for renaming streets on Security Hill. W. C. "Bill" Deal, Chairman of the committee, indicates that the criteria for consideration will be as outlined in AFR 900-9. In making recommendations, the committee will consider only:

- 1) The name of a deceased person with a record of heroism, or
- 2) the name of a deceased person with outstanding performance of duty on behalf of the Air Force, and
- 3) a name which does not duplicate or may be confused with a street in the local community.

Mr. Deal emphasizes that the committee will only make a recommendation through the USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association to the Electronic Security Command Commander. If the ESC Commander concurs, the recommendation will then be forwarded to the Kelly Air Force Base Commander for final approval, coordination with the next of kin and for final arrangements for a dedication ceremony.

Individuals that have recommendations are asked to forward them to Bill Deal, President, Board of Directors, Security Service Federal Credit Union or call one of the following committee members:

Bill Deal	673-7980 extension 269
Chuck Thurn	673-4710
Jim Breedlove	674-5734
Bill Chapman	699-1133

The committee hopes to complete all evaluations and be in a position to forward recommendations to the ESC Commander no later than 15 August 1982.

COMFY OLYMPICS PROGRAM

The USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association has developed a project to support the Electronic Security Command's COMFY OLYMPICS Program. This program identifies the best enlisted technicians in most specialties throughout ESC by means of stiff, comprehensive tests. Additionally, units with similar missions compete against each other for the outstanding title.

The Alumni Association is sponsoring one of the COMFY OLYMPICS awards categories, the OUTSTANDING MOBILITY UNIT trophy. The units competing for this award are the 6906ESS, Brooks AFB TX; the 6911ESS, Hahn AB GE; the 6913ESS, Augsburg GE; and the 6948ESS, Lackland AFB Annex. These units work on the defensive side of the C3CM threat and provide a mobile electronic monitoring system to improve the security of our tactical forces. They identify what electronic vulnerabilities our forces offer to the enemy and recommend countermeasures to the combat commander. The trophy sponsored by the Alumni Association will be awarded to the unit that accomplishes this job in the most outstanding manner.

Our Association will also sponsor the COMFY OLYMPICS Awards Banquet on 28 October 1982 at the Turtle Creek Country Club. Tickets will be available to our members. Details regarding the banquet will be published at a later date. Edward L. Barnes is the Association Project Officer.

KEEP IN TOUCH -- REMEMBER

The most valuable antiques are old friends!

HISTORICAL COMMITTEE STATUS

OBJECTIVE: To assemble key representatives of units involved in tactical support roles to analyze techniques and methods employed from World War II through Southeast Asia.

The following units/projects are primary to the objective:

- 1) Pacific World War II unit which had both ground and airborne facilities. Roger Wells and Harry Drake have had brochures on this unit.
- 2) 1st RSM/15th RSM units in Korea.
- 3) Project BLUE SKY.
- 4) USAFSS RB 29 test platform.
- 5) 91st SRS missions from Yakota AB, including RB 45.
- 6) USAFSS RB 50 Units (need to verify that these were deployed in tactical support roles).
- 7) C-130 projects.
- 8) Joint missions with SAC.
- 9) C-47 role in SEA.
- 10) Ground units in SEA.

Numerous other units implemented roles in periods of tension and processing centers in theaters and the U. S. made significant contributions. Inclusion of these will be considered as a later objective.

CONCEPT: To identify and assemble a few very experienced representatives to determine if early visions and objectives have been realized, and, to assure that all valid lessons have been maintained. It would be very motivational to current personnel to share with the ones who participated in early phases. It would be significantly rewarding to the pioneers to see current capabilities. To this end, it is hopeful that arrangements can be made to have a current platform available for tour and ground inspection.

CURRENT ACTION: Contact is being made with key personnel involved in early projects. Initial responses have been received. Other interested, experienced personnel are invited to identify themselves with resumes for possible participation. Please contact the Historical Committee Chairman, George I. Mason, 531 Gettysburg Rd, San Antonio, TX 78228.

SOCIAL ACTIVITY - 18 September 1982

We have reserved the Lackland Officers Club (main ballroom) for our Dinner Dance - serving Filet Mignon - to be held 18 September 1982. Festivities will start with a pay-as-you-go cocktail hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., dinner from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., guest speaker (to be announced elsewhere) 8:15 to 9:00 p.m., and dancing from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., music by Ruben Portilo and his seven piece combo. NOTE: they can read music, are familiar with Glen Miller style ... and even accept requests! (Wonders never cease.)

We can seat 450 comfortably and have room for the cocktail hour. When you get the annual meeting package with the details, DON'T DELAY, let's get the reservations flowing (we must have checks), so we can get this "first Dinner Dance" off to a good start. Our motto will be "FIRST MONEY, FIRST RESERVED" and cut-off number is 450 -- so don't be left out!

Dress will be coat and tie for the men and "after five" (whatever that means) for the women.

Let's make this a good one. Hope to see 450 there!

OPEN LETTER TO NCOs AND AIRMEN OF USAFSS/ESC

In July 1981, I was asked to serve on a committee to establish a USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association. I was personally extremely pleased to be asked to serve on this group and I was totally enthused with the possibilities that it represented. Primarily, an opportunity to be a part of an organization that could bring together all of us who served in the USAFSS or the ESC Command.

In the intervening months, I have attended several of the informal socials organized by this group and I have become increasingly concerned at the lack of participation by the enlisted alumni of both commands. During my seventeen years with the command, I served with many fine people in all grade levels and in many of the organizations. I enjoy very much the opportunity to meet with those folks and relive some of the experiences that were shared. When General Larson asked that this organization be formed, he specifically asked that all former members of USAFSS/ESC be encouraged to participate in the organization. To date, a few have. At the socials I have attended, there have been many of the former commissioned members of the command and without exception I have enjoyed meeting those I did not know and talking with those I haven't seen for a long time but I have missed the enlisted members of the command with whom I served. The Alumni Association is a former command members organization and I would hope to see in future meetings a strong representation of this group of people who I know contributed immeasurably to the mission, the purpose and the objectives of the command. It was your command -- it is your organization and you deserve to be a part of it!

Fred Barrett

KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR PEOPLE

What is one of the very important missions of the USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association? "To communicate with people we knew and with whom we worked." It is with this in mind that this notice is written.

The Administration Office needs to know when, if, and as, any member is in the hospital or has passed away. This, so that we may have a representative at the hospital to visit or attend the funeral. Let us know when you hear of these occasions by calling the Administration Office or by writing us as soon as you hear about our members. The telephone numbers are 925-2405 or 925-2601 and the address is: 6960ESW, ATTN: Alumni Office, San Antonio TX 78243. Remember, we won't be able to act if we don't hear from you. So, please keep in touch.

George Parr

HELP! WE NEED YOU

Volunteers are needed for Tuesday and Thursday mornings to man the Administration Office. If you have a few free hours and can occasionally man the office please call 925-2405 or 925-2601.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Over 150 members, spouses and guests joined in some "jawboning" social festivities at Lackland's O Club May 7th. The turnout was less than expected and believe many of us failed to mark the calendar when our April newsletter (containing the membership roster) arrived. (Yes, look on the bottom of page one.) There were more than enough dips, chips and assorted cheeses -- almost paid for by one dollar "donations" collected by chief arm twisters Ron Galin and myself. We are down roughly fifty bucks after our two parties, and it looks like we can fine tune our snack budget without scrimping, as we have had food left after both affairs. Our policy is to keep our socials self-supporting and not dip into our dues fund for this type of activity. So, for those who attend, please smile when we collect that "old head tax" from you!

REMEMBER -- Lock onto the September 18th weekend and plan to join in for our first "Biggie." Take the time NOW to mark your calendar -- if you're like me, better not rely on the old memory.

Grover McMakin

ANNUAL MEETING - ELECTION TIME

As the President, Bill Ballard, indicated in the last membership mailing dated April 1982, the annual meeting would be held in September and concurrently there would be an election of Directors. Bill Bowers, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, has submitted the report of that committee consisting of Joe Hinchcliff, Ed Barnes, Mary Holub and Ery Fleischmann to the current board. Nominees for the director positions are as follows:

William T. Ballard - President
Fred Barrett - Vice President
Curt Swan - Secretary
James W. Johnson JR. - Treasurer

The election will be held at the annual meeting to be held on 17 September 1982. In accordance with the By-Laws, Article VII, Section 2, the election will take place at the annual meeting. Nominations from the floor will be accepted, an open ballot will be used with a simple majority required for election. Every member is encouraged to cast a ballot at the annual meeting. For those members who cannot attend, the ballots will be included in the annual meeting notice. They must be completed and returned on or before 3 September 1982 to be considered. Please remember proxy ballots at the annual meeting election are not authorized.

SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

ACTIVITY STATUS REPORT

Subcommittee on Support of USAF Policy - At the present time this committee does not have a current project. Any member who would like to suggest a current USAF subject that may be of interest to our membership should submit their ideas to Wade E. Firmin, 802 Clearview Dr, San Antonio TX 78228 (telephone 684-5045).

HISTORY - THE BEGINNINGS OF THE OLD AND NEW

USAFSS - The United States Air Force Security Service was established on 20 October 1948 at Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia, an Army installation housing the Army Security Agency. Authorized strength was 34 officers, 6 airmen, and 116 civilian spaces.

Research of General Orders during that time period revealed the following: Col Roy H. Lynn assumed command of USAFSS on 26 October 1948; Col Travis M. Hetherington became USAFSS Commander on 16 July 1949; Col David Wade became Vice Commander on 26 October 1948; Col Culpepper Exum, Jr. became Chief, Material Division on 13 December 1948; and Maj Staten L. Wilcox was named Chief, Personnel and Administration Division and Acting Adjutant General on 14 December 1948. On 14 February 1949, Col Exum was announced Director of Material; Maj Wilcox was announced Adjutant General, HQ USAFSS and Col Dabney H. Maury was announced Director of Personnel and Administration on 14 February 1949. On 1 Mar 1949, Lt Col James L. Weeks became Director of Security; Lt Col James I. Vanderhoof was named Inspector General effective 24 Mar 1949; on 31 Mar 1949, Maj Louis R. Lammie was announced Adjutant General vice Major Wilcox; and on 7 April 1949, Lt Col Barton R. Pulling became Director of Operations.

Efforts toward obtaining other accommodations for USAFSS were advanced -- Arlington Hall Station was already crowded with the facilities of the Army Security Agency when the USAFSS was moved onto the station. Consideration was given to sites in Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Wichita Falls and San Antonio, Texas. Brooks AFB, Texas was selected because of what the area had to offer.

Once plans were completed to move to Brooks, Col Dabney H. Maury, Director of Personnel and Administration, and a party including Capt Clyde E. Allen and TSgt Hugh T. Smith departed Arlington Station to proceed as the first echelon of the HQ USAFSS to Brooks AFB. This was on 5 April 1949. Colonel Maury was charged with establishing an advanced headquarters for the command, pending arrival at Brooks AFB of Col Roy H. Lynn, the USAFSS Commanding Officer. Captain Allen and Sergeant Smith were delegated the responsibility of setting up a minimum personnel function to furnish continuity in personnel matters during the move.

ESC - Reorganization plans for USAFSS were announced as early as April 1978; however, they were shelved. Adopted instead was a General Officer Board recommendation to establish an Electronic Warfare (EW) Command by restructuring the USAFSS mission and organization. So, it was on 1 August 1979 that HQ USAFSS was redesignated as the HQ Electronic Security Command (HQ ESC).

HQ ESC's first commander was Maj Gen Doyle E. Larson who was accompanied by Col Paul M. Ingram, Vice Commander; Col Bobby J. Berry, Chief of Staff; and Mr. Gordon W. Sommers, Advisor to the Commander. Other staff members included Col D. E. Oyler, Col R. D. Lemons, Col R. E. Hamilton, Col G. M. Kawanami, Col Grover McMakin, Col William T. Ballard, Col W. F. Cummings, Col L. R. Mellott Jr., Col D. L. Frederick, Col L. E. Larche Jr., Col L. C. Pfeiffer, Col R. E. Matejka, Col H. H. Johnson, Lt Col W. R. Carroll, Lt Col B. L. Casey, Lt Col C. T. Slagle, Lt Col R. J. Aars, Lt Col F. C. Heiss, Mr. Bob Rush and CMSgt W. C. Chapman.

Mrs. Mary V. Holub

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

THANKS - BUT WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP!

Since our last publication we have gained 142 new members for a 30 June total of 667. Your personal contacts with eligibles is evident in the queries received. Look for the newest membership listing in the back of the newsletter and contact all not yet signed up.

We are planning on a complete new alphabetized listing of all members in the November-December newsletter, just prior to kicking off our CY 83 membership drive.

Buck Rogers

WAY, WAY BACK

At Birmingham, Alabama recently some veterans of the 4th Radio Security Section, 136th Radio Security Detachment of World War II vintage held their first reunion since disbanding in late 1945. Nostalgia, war stories and hilarity were abound. Historically, this organization had a short, active and fluid life.

Back in early 1942 the U. S. Army activated the 136th Signal Radio Intelligence Company (aviation) at Bolling Field, D. C., including Signal Operating Platoons #1 thru #6 that were to be operationally deployed. The 136th was assigned directly to the Air Communications Office, Headquarters Army Air Forces for operational control. The mission was to ensure radio communications security within the AAF by intercept-monitoring and reporting at platoon level. Thus, radio communications security was born at our air arm at the onset of World War II.

Platoon #4, redesignated 4th Radio Security Section, was deployed at one-fourth strength in early 1943. They took a twenty-eight day boat ride from Boston to Iceland in a convoy playing hide-and-seek with the wolf-pack German U-Boats, submarines, losing troop and supply ships on the high seas. Upon arrival a monitor-intercept station was set up at Camp Meeks on the Keflavik peninsula. In those days, manual Morse and voice intercept with little or no recording back-up was the name of the game.

Once set up, there were tricks of twelve on and twelve off until the arrival of eleven reinforcements some five months later. Of military necessity the mission was diverted to intercepting encoded German weather broadcast which were forwarded to the states for analysis. The code was broken and the mission assigned elsewhere. Meantime, a German submarine was surfacing in the Iceland area and giving false RDF bearings to combat aircraft being ferried to England thru Iceland. This prank caused loss of many aircraft and crew, running out of fuel on a point-of-no-return heading. The 4th Radio got into the act with RDF equipment to pinpoint the source of this enemy activity and the U-Boat was destroyed. Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) codes were implemented and very effectively used thereafter in receiving RDF bearings.

These tasks accomplished, routine monitoring and reporting on the activities of the Airways and Air Communications Service in the North Atlantic consumed the remainder of the stay in Iceland. The unit was brought up to full strength in December 1943.

Shortly after the invasion of France, the need for the 4th Radio was in that area. Plans were made to relocate to Bushy Park, England to monitor the 5th AACS Wing. At the same time the 9th Radio Security Section was deployed from England to France to monitor the 9th Air Force. Erroneously, theater troop movements assigned the same movement number to the 4th Radio as to the 9th Radio. In spite of vigorous objections along the way by ship and rail, the 4th Radio wound up on the recently silenced Omaha Beach battleground along with thousands headed for the combat area. This misrouting was eventually corrected, the 4th Radio having the distinction of being the only organization shipping from France to England in a convoy of empty troop ships.

Monitoring the 5th AACS Wing occupied the 4th Radio Security Section for the rest of the war. They were relocated to France in April 1945 in a more orderly fashion than heretofore experienced.

At the end of World War II there were twenty-two Radio Security Sections in operation all over the world.

During all this activity the 4th Radio pooled ideas and experimented with improvements subsequently adopted, most passing to obsolescence since World War II.

These were:

- 1) Copy on legal sized paper with carbons inserted was always clumsy, but accepted. The 4th Radio designed and used a frame to hold multi-copy teletype paper.
- 2) Sloping-V antennae proved highly sensitive and directional.
- 3) Recorders activated by relay actuated by signal voltage, the use of foot pedal no longer required.
- 4) Locally fabricated antenna multicouplers, an improvement over the RF distribution panel.

By our accepted standards at that time, these were sophisticated improvements, way, way back ...

Submitted by B. S. McClure, Capt, USAF (ret), Commander of the 4th Radio Security Section from March 1944 to inactivation in November 1945.

YOU WERE THERE

The 1949-1950 USAFSS grads from Brooks AFB and Keesler AFB spent 12 days aboard the George Goethals or Alexander Patch in angry seas enroute to Darmstadt or Bedford. They were shortly joined by Navy Weather Detachment personnel who arrived by air.

The tour ending, return trips were also Air Force by ship and Navy by air. In those days, it was not uncommon to find an airman with two months sea duty and a Navy-type who had logged 100 flying hours. Seems the Air Force spent its time defining poop-decks and starboards to sailors while the Navy, in turn, explained the aerodynamics of flight.

Earnest H. Fellows

RAF KIRKNEWTON CLOSES - 1 JULY 1966

'Little America' Says Good-Bye To Midlothian

The Stars and Stripes are being lowered at the United States Air Force Base at Kirknewton -- Midlothian's "Little America" for the last 14 years.

The last of the removal trucks are making their way down the base's graceful tree-lined avenue. Almost every stick of furniture and equipment has been lifted. Even the bountiful shelves of the PX -- the United States Servicemen's Naafi -- are bare. Now a "ghost squad" of 20 USAF men, plus a few Ministry of Works employees, are left to put the last ticks on the removal chits. "A lot of us are very sorry to go," Colonel Jack D. Young, Kirknewton's last commanding officer, declared. "I have been in the services for 24 years, three of them here, and believe me, this is the best posting I have ever had."

Since the beginning of the year when the closure of the base was announced, 1000 servicemen, with their wives and families, have been vacating the complex of administrative and amenity buildings. New homes in Kirknewton village, built as late as 1962, have been emptied. By the end of the month American operations at the base which once had a top-secret rating will have ceased and control will revert to the R.A.F. and the Ministry of Public Building and Works.

The Americans have made their mark on the area ever since they took over the former R.A.F. station in 1952. Huge aerial masts soon dotted the skyline -- about 100 of them were dismantled and sold for scrap recently -- in order, according to the brief official explanation, to monitor United States Air Force radios in planes in many parts of the world. The base, which built up slowly from a small detachment then to a squadron, and finally to a full group employing more than 150 local people. Carpenters, electricians, plumbers, and clerical staff have now found other jobs, helped by a special jobs liaison service operating at the base for several months. "As far as I know, pretty well everyone has found other employment now," Colonel Young said. "We had quite a few people working here for us and our relationship with them was extremely good."

The marriage rate at Kirknewton was ranked as one of the highest among USAF bases in any part of the world. "It was quite fantastic," Colonel Young said. "We estimated that 80 percent of the eligible single men who came to us from the States married local girls." "Most of them took their wives back home after their tour of duty ended. But some have come back for good with their families and have settled down as civilians in the Edinburgh area." Major M. S. Buckberry, base engineer at Kirknewton and father of four children aged between ten and sixteen, said: "When I came here three years ago the reception we got was really great. We lived at Dalkeith for the first five months and my wife and family really loved it there. We were taken into the local clubs and groups and my children settled in perfectly at school. Now my two eldest boys are at the Royal High. My eldest son doesn't really want to leave because he enjoys it so much and if we had been moving to a base elsewhere in Britain or even on the Continent, we would have left him here to finish his last year at school."

Both Colonel Young and Major Buckberry are leaving for the United States on July 1st and will take up posts in Massachusetts.

No decision has yet been taken on the future of the base or the 52-home housing estate at Kirknewton village. East Calder District Council have made an approach to the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. William Ross, to discover what is to happen to the houses. The Council have been told by the Defense Land Agent (Air), in Aberdeen, that their use was now a matter for headquarters policy. But the homes and the base are believed to be restricted as to their use under British-American defense agreements so that they can be re-occupied in any emergency.

Submitted by John J. Moore Jr., Philadelphia PA

What has 26 letters and consists of all five senses?

The USAFSS/ESC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - consisting of people - containing the five senses.

Sight - seeing old friends and acquaintances
Touch - of warm handshakes
Hearing - the laughter and talking as fond memories are recalled
Taste - of a good drink shared with friends
Smell - the goodies prepared to be shared

REMEMBER THE SOCIAL ACTIVITIES PLANNED -- JOIN US -- YOU'LL ENJOY IT!

OUR ASSOCIATION

What is the USAFSS/ESC Alumni Association? It may be different things to different people, but there are some things that it is not.

It is not a social organization, although we do enjoy reunions, get-togethers and even parties.

It is not a clan, clique or group of old timers with nothing better to do. Although, because of who the people of the Association were, and are...members of a relatively small and closely knit Command... the spirit and endeavors of the Alumni are perhaps misunderstood.

Our Association is dedicated to the support and perpetuation of the objectives of the USAF and ESC. We can do this best by working with the ESC to help recognize those in the Command who perform with excellence and with honor. We do this too through memorialization programs aimed at remembrance of those who have gone on before us.

Most importantly though, our Association is the only formal activity that can and will insure that those treasured attributes of USAFSS earned throughout the many years it was in being are not forgotten. USAFSS, as we all know, was a Command which took care of its own. We looked after our comrades, our buddies, and we looked after our families while we were assigned to some of the garden spots of the world like Shemya, St. Lawrence, SEA, P-Y Do, Johnson Island and Sinop. Our Association will perpetuate the heritage, camaraderie, history and esprit-de-corps that was present in USAFSS and provide a bridge to carry these traits into the new Command, ESC. We fear that without something like our Association, in time, that heritage, camaraderie, spirit and indeed our name would be forgotten. We are totally dedicated to this challenge.

The Alumni Association is the bridge from the old to the new. It is your organization, it is my organization, it is OUR ASSOCIATION. Let's make it, and keep it, strong and enduring.

(from the editor)

PATRIOTISM

Breathes there a man with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
'This is my own, my native land!'
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burned
As home his footsteps he hath turned
From wandering on a foreign strand?
If such there breath, go, mark him well!
For him no minstrel raptures swell;
High though his titles, proud his name,
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim --
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,
The wretch, concentered all in self
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,
And, doubly dying, shall go down
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,
Unwept, unhonored, and unsung.

Sir Walter Scott