

**279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment**  
**United States Army Security Agency Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional)**  
**77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit**  
The *Unofficial* Unit History

## **1. CHAPTER ONE – The Heredity (*Alpha to Omega*)**

### **279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field)**

The 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company (Field) was organized at Seckenheim, West Germany on October 15, 1957 and assigned to the United States Army Security Agency Europe as a tactical United States Army Security Agency mobile unit<sup>1</sup>. The company moved from Seckenheim to Frankfurt am Main, West Germany in late 1957 or early 1958 where Headquarters Platoon was established. The 1<sup>st</sup> Operations Platoon was located in a fixed site at Mount Schneeberg, West Germany, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Operations Platoon was located in a fixed site at Mount Meissner (Hoher Meissner), and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Operations Platoon, which was almost entirely mobile, was based at Bad Aibling, West Germany. On March 24, 1959, the Company's 3<sup>rd</sup> Operations Platoon was re-designated the **279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field)**<sup>2</sup>. The authorized strength of the unit on that date was two (2) officers, one (1) warrant officer, and forty-four (44) enlisted men. Other elements of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company were located in Rothwesten Air Base, eight miles north of Kassel, West Germany.<sup>3</sup> This location was also the home base for the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion. The United States Army Security Agency Europe had a unit located at Rothwesten Air Base since 1955.<sup>4</sup>

During early 1958, a team was dispatched from the Rothwesten Air Base to determine the feasibility of opening an operational site in the general area of Eschwege, West Germany<sup>5</sup>. After the team's reports had been evaluated, it was decided to open such a site on Mount Meissner, West Germany. This was accomplished in September 1958 when a team from Company C and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Operations Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company, which was attached to Headquarters Company of the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion, moved to Mount Meissner. On March 24, 1959, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Operations Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company was reassigned to Headquarters Company of the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion and the site at Mount Meissner came under the control of Headquarters Company of the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion. This control was later assumed by Company C of the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Operations Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company was an ELINT<sup>6</sup> group equipped with the ESGX-3, later designated as AN/MLQ-24 that traveled the 5 Kilometer zone to perform "threat" radar intercept and analysis.<sup>7</sup> The 2<sup>nd</sup> Operations Platoon was later re-designated as ELINT Platoon, C Company, of the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion (Corps).<sup>8</sup> On April 7, 1960, the **279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment** (279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment) was attached to the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion.

Another operational group of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field) was located at Schneeberg, West Germany during March 1959. The Headquarters of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field) was located in Frankfurt, West Germany. That detachment in Mount Schneeberg (originally the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Company) was transferred to the 318<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion at Herzogenaurach, West Germany and designated as Detachment J-1 of Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 318<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion. The detachment operated a fixed field site using the later AN/ALR-8 and the AN/TLR-1.<sup>9</sup>

On April 7, 1961, 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment was detached from the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion, but remained in the Rothwesten Air Base. On November 15, 1960, the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment (Field), the European Development Detachment (Provisional) and a team from the 183<sup>rd</sup> USASA Company<sup>10</sup> were designated the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment.<sup>11</sup> Ultimately on June 5, 1961, the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA

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Detachment was re-designated the **77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit** (77<sup>th</sup> USASASAOU) when it was consolidated with personnel and equipment from the **United States Army Security Agency Europe Theater Exploitation Company (Provisional)**. The men and equipment of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU moved in July 1961 to Biebererstrasse 225, Offenbach, West Germany. Appendix A summarizes the lineage.

Another operational group of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field) was located at Mount Schneeberg, West Germany during March 1959. The Headquarters of the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field) was located in Frankfurt, West Germany. That detachment at Mount Schneeberg (originally the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Company) was transferred to the 318<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion at Herzogenaurach, West Germany and designated as Detachment J-1 of Headquarters Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion. The detachment operated a fixed field site using the AN/ALR-8 and the AN/TLR-1.<sup>12</sup>

### **United States Army Security Agency Theater Exploitation Company (Provisional)**

On 15 November 1960 the United States Army Security Agency Europe Theater Exploitation Company (USASATEC) was formed by temporarily combining the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment (Field), the European Development Detachment (Provisional), and the 183<sup>rd</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company.<sup>13</sup> Originally, this unit's command jurisdiction was part of the function of Headquarters, United States Army Security Agency, Europe. Since the unit was designated as provisional, troop deployment strength was not authorized. Rations and billets were supplied by the 319<sup>th</sup> USASA Battalion at Rothwesten Air Base, where the headquarters remained. The administration, supply, and maintenance offices were located in Building 9243 on Rothwesten Air Base, while those personnel not in the field on operation missions or on Temporary Duty Orders, and were billeted in Building 9226.<sup>14</sup> The USASATEC utilized the personnel of the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment.<sup>15</sup>

The unit's major activities at that time was the detachment at Wobeck, West Germany (also known as Detachment II) and the site set-up for the VT Fuse operation in Dahme, West Germany (to be known as Detachment I) as well as other mobile detachments. The Theatre Exploitation Company was commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel.<sup>16</sup>

Due to the mobility and the nature of missions in which the unit participated, there was considerable fluctuation in the number of personnel quartered and working in the field as well as the garrison. The operational nature of the unit necessitated a recurrent movement of personnel and equipment throughout Western Germany. The unit operated in the proximity of the "East-West" border, from Hof in southern West Germany, near the Czechoslovakian border to Fehmarn Island in the Baltic Sea.<sup>17</sup>

Between July 1, 1960 and June 30, 1961 the unit participated in the following operational missions.<sup>18</sup>

- Dahme, Travemuende, and Fehmarn Island (July 1, 1960 to September 17, 1960), Mission – Prince Albert 1960.
- Woltersdorf, Bahrndorf, and Radenbeck (September 17, 1960 to October 28, 1960), Mission – *Undisclosed*.<sup>19</sup>
- Bahrndorf (November 7, 1960 to November 26, 1960), Mission – Wintershield II (Supplement for 319<sup>th</sup> USASA Battalion).
- Mount Meissner and Alsfeld (January 9, 1961 to January 13, 1961), Mission – Equipment Test.
- Hof (February 3, 1961 to February 11, 1961), Mission – Special.
- Weickersgrueben and Kitzingen (March 20, 1961 to March 24, 1961), Mission – ELSEC<sup>20</sup> Corporal Missile.

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- Dahme (May 16, 1961 to June 30, 1961), Mission – Prince Albert 1961.
- Wasserkuppe (May 22, 1961 to June 30, 1962), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Schmarsau (June 1, 1961 to June 9, 1961), Mission – *Undisclosed*.

Personnel and equipment was assigned to the 77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit on May 23, 1961. The USASA Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional) was discontinued on June 5, 1961.<sup>21</sup>

### **77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit<sup>22</sup>**

The mission of the 77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit was to conduct communications intelligence (COMINT) and electronic intelligence (ELINT) activities under the control of the Headquarters, United States Army Security Agency Europe. The 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU operated several mobile signals intelligence positions performing missions assigned by United States Army Security Agency Europe.

Headquarters of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, and its predecessor the Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional), was located at Rothwesten Air Base from November 15, 1960 through July 17, 1961. The 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU consisted of a Headquarters, Service Platoon, Operations Platoon and Search and Development Platoon (later to be recognized as the Search and Development Team). The unit was billeted in the two permanent, stone buildings occupied by the Theatre Exploitation Company. Again, the mobility and the nature of the missions in which the unit participated caused the number of personnel quartered and working in the field and in the garrison to vary.

Its location at Rothwesten Air Base placed the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU about one hundred and ten miles north of its supporting supply units in Frankfurt am Main, West Germany. In order to alleviate the many difficulties in logistical and administrative support, the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU relocated on July 17, 1961 from its barracks in the Rothwesten Air Base to the Offenbach Kaserne in Offenbach am Main, West Germany. The authorized strength of the unit at that time was five (5) Officers, one hundred seven (107) Enlisted Men and nine (9) local employees. The 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU was commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel. Offenbach Kaserne was a small compound consisting of five permanent stone structures arranged around the outside of a rectangle, leaving the center open for vehicle parking or a recreational area. Personnel not on operational missions were quartered in Building 1333 that also included supply. All married personnel authorized government quarters were quartered in the various military housing areas within Frankfurt am Main, West Germany. Commuting time between Frankfurt am Main and the Offenbach Kaserne was about forty minutes. Building 1327 was designated as a gymnasium. Building 1328 housed the unit mess and dayroom. Building 1326 was used for administration and operations, while Building 1329 was the motor pool.

Personnel, being cognizant of past achievements of the unit, continually strived for success. By proper utilization of personnel, capabilities, and delegation of responsibilities among dependable noncommissioned officers, many achievements were realized and a high state of morale was maintained among personnel of the unit. Elements of Detachment I were located at Dahme, West Germany as well as various sites throughout West Germany. Personnel assigned duty at Detachment II at Wobeck, West Germany were relocated from various locations in the vicinity of the operations site into one hotel. Personnel sent on operational missions to areas lacking military facilities were quartered in hotels or private homes. Field teams departed the home station with a minimum of six (6) persons. In addition to maintaining Detachments I and II, the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU provided logistics and support in the form of personnel and equipment for the COSAG<sup>23</sup> Mobile Activity (CMA) mission undertaken by the National Security Agency Europe. Other than for the rumor of imminent discontinuance, morale was high even for those at field detachments.

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The unit operated in the proximity of the Soviet Zonal Border from Bishofsheim northward to Dahme, West Germany, on the Baltic Sea between July 1, 1961 and June 30, 1962 (Fiscal Year 1962).<sup>24</sup>

During the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 1962, the unit participated in the following operational missions.<sup>25</sup>

- Dahme (July 1, 1961 to 30, 1962), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Wobeck (July 1, 1961 to June 30, 1962), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Mount Heidelberg (September 1, 1961 to September 30, 1961), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Coburg (October 15, 1961 to October 26, 1961), ELSEC against 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Division FTX.
- Rimbach (November 1961 to November 1961), Mission – CMA.
- Babenhausen and Heusenstamm (December 12, 1961 to December 17, 1961) ELSEC against 1<sup>st</sup> Missile Battalion, 39<sup>th</sup> Artillery.
- Schutschur (March 15, 1962 to March 27, 1962), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Vicenza, Italy (April 3, 1962 to April 19, 1962), ELSEC against 1<sup>st</sup> U. S. Army Missile Command.
- Schutschur (May 28, 1962 to June 30, 1962), Mission – *Undisclosed*.

Between July 1, 1962 and June 30, 1963 (FFY 1963) the unit participated in the following operational missions.

- Dahme (July 1, 1962 to December 1, 1963), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Wobeck (July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1962), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Vicenza, Italy (March 2, 1963 to March 18, 1963), ELSEC against the 1<sup>st</sup> USA Missile Command (FTX).
- Seckenheim (May 1 to May 8, 1963), Mission – CENTAG Grand Slam II (CPX).
- Rimbach (April 1, 1963 to May 8, 1963), Mission – *Undisclosed*.

During the FFY 1963 (July 1, 1963 to June 30, 1964), the unit participated in the following operational missions.

- Wobeck (July 1, 1963 to June 30, 1964), Mission – *Undisclosed*.
- Altefeld/Eschwege (July 9, 1963 to September 13, 1963), Mission – CMA.
- Woltersdorf /Gartow/Hitzacker (Woltersdorf) (September 14, 1963 to October 21, 1963), Mission – CMA.
- Brodau /Groemitz (October 22, 1963 to December 6, 1963), Mission – CMA.

Figure 1-1 shows the approximate locations of the units in West Germany during their operational missions between 1960 and 1964 as well as the location of Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

Permanent headquarters personnel and personnel not on field assignments worked in the Offenbach Kaserne or at the National Security Agency Europe's facility in Muehlheim, West Germany. The unit supply, signal supply, and signal maintenance facilities were located in two buildings at the depot in Muehlheim am Main which was also known as the Pionier Park Kaserne.<sup>26</sup>

The authorized strength of the unit at the beginning of each Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) is shown in *Table I – Strength*. The authorized strength when the unit was deactivated is also itemized.

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<b>TABLE I – Strength (Staffing)</b>					
<b>77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency</b>					
<b>Special Operations Unit</b>					
	FFY 1961	FFY 1962	FFY 1963	FFY 1964	FFY 1964
	01 JULY 1960	01 JULY 1961	01 JULY 1962	01 JULY 1963	01 JUNE 1964
	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized	Authorized
Officers and Warrant Officers	3	6	7	7	8
Enlisted Men	62	101	102	96	123
Indigenous	0	9	9	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>140</b>

On June 30, 1961, the last day of the 1961 Federal Fiscal Year, the authorized strength was six (6) officers, one-hundred and seven (107) enlisted men, and nine (9) indigenous. This was an increase of seventy-five (75) percent from the first day of the fiscal year that was a direct result of the amalgamation of the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment, the European Development Detachment and elements of the 183<sup>rd</sup> USASA Company.<sup>27</sup> The authorized strength at the end of the 1962 Fiscal Year was seven (7) officers, one-hundred and two (102) enlisted men, and nine (9) indigenous.<sup>28</sup> Similarly, the authorized strength at the end of the 1963 Fiscal Year was seven (7) officers, ninety-six (96) enlisted men, and nine (9) indigenous.<sup>29</sup> The increase from the beginning to the end of the 1964 Fiscal Year to the authorized strength was the addition of another team which increased the unit's strength by thirty-three (33) men.<sup>30</sup>

The assigned strength fluctuated within any fiscal year. At the beginning of Federal Fiscal Year 1963, the assigned strength was ten (10) officers, one-hundred and twenty-two (122) enlisted men and three (3) indigenous.<sup>31</sup> Similarly, the assigned strength on June 30, 1963 was seven (7) officers, ninety-five (95) enlisted men, and six (9) indigenous.<sup>32</sup> For example, during the 1963 Fiscal Year, forty-seven (47) enlisted men completed their term of service. Of this number, six (6) reenlisted giving the unit a re-enlistment rate of over twelve (12) percent.<sup>33</sup> The assigned strength on June 1, 1964 was six (6) officers, one-hundred and one (101) enlisted men, and two (2) indigenous.<sup>34</sup>

The assigned vehicles in the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU's fleet are tabulated in *Table II – Transportation* during each Federal Fiscal Year.

The amount and type of electronic equipment authorized for the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU coincided with the unit's mission(s). The electronic equipment was considered complex and consisted of collection systems and/or analysis systems<sup>35</sup> depending on the mission. The major components of the collection system were the antenna, receiver, recorder, direction finder, and analyzer. The components of a basic analyses system were more elaborate and consisted of a tape



Figure 1.1 – Location Mapping of Operational Missions.

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transport (to duplicate or monitor), a counter (to measure modulation frequency), an ink-on-paper recorder (to record signal amplitude), an oscilloscope (to observe the wave form), a vibratizer (to display frequency versus time graphs), filters (to separate signals), and a Polaroid camera. Appendix B discusses some of the electronic equipment used in collection systems that were maintained and operated by personnel assigned to the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU. Although the authorization for the electronic equipment was considered adequate for the type of missions performed by the unit, actual equipment possessed by the unit was not always the authorized number and type, the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU still met its obligations. The differences in actual versus authorized meant that modifications were necessary in personnel and equipment. When the actual equipment on hand was the same as that authorized, the unit's operational efficiency was greatly enhanced. *Table III – Equipment* summarizes the authorized and actual equipment on hand for each Federal Fiscal Year that the information is available.

The 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU was deactivated at Frankfurt am Main, West Germany on June 15, 1964. A deactivation ceremony was held in Offenbach Kaserne during June 1964 where the Colors of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU were received by Headquarters, United States Army Security Agency Europe.

However, that was not the end of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU. From June 22, 1966 until December 15, 1967, the 9<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Field Station, located in the Philippine Islands, also held the designation "77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU." This unit was re-designated on December 15, 1967 to the United States Army Security Agency Communications Unit, Philippine Islands.

<b>TABLE II – Transportation (Fleet)</b>			
<b>77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency</b>			
<b>Special Operations Unit</b>			
<b>Vehicle Type</b>	<b>FFY 1961</b>	<b>FFY 1962</b>	<b>FFY 1963</b>
Panel Utility Truck	1	1	1
Sedan	3	4	3
¼ Ton Jeep Ambulance	1	1	1
¼ Ton Utility Truck	7	8	9
¾ Ton Cargo Truck	6	6	6
2 ½ Ton Cargo Truck	5	5	17
M-292 Truck Van	5	5	6
2 ½ Ton Electron and Mechanical, Maintenance and Operational Truck	13	13	0
2 ½ Ton Tractor	2	0	0
5 Ton Tractor	1	1	1
M-185 Maintenance Truck	0	0	4
V18 Earth-boring Truck (Auger)	0	0	1
1200 Gallon Water Truck (Tank)	0	0	1
1200 Gallon Gasoline Truck (Tank)	0	0	1

**Detachment I – Dahme Site**

The site at Dahme, West Germany was organized during 1960<sup>36</sup> under the direction of a Sergeant First Class and two other enlisted personnel. A First Lieutenant became the Officer-in-Charge once initial elements at the site became operational. Full capacity was achieved during May 1961 when the VT fuse project became operational. Detachment I consisted of operations and analysis sections.

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The operational site was enclosed by concertina wire. Three Acomal buildings, 90 feet by 48 feet, insulated, and of metal exterior were constructed on site by its detachment personnel. The personnel were billeted in these huts. Contained within the enclosure were an array of antennae, i.e., conical helix, yagi and a AB-216 tower, MX292 Vans, M185 Huts and other vehicles necessary to maintain the operational capacity of the site.

A day room and “club” were located on site. Meals were Per Diem<sup>37</sup> from local restaurants. The most popular was Schroeder’s Garten Kafé.

Dahme ceased operations during December 1962. The site was closed during January 1963.

During 1968, the Dahme site was reactivated because of the cold war situation when personnel from the Naval Security Group situated three vans (operations, sleeper, and power with two generators) for intelligence purposes.<sup>38</sup>

## **Detachment II - Wobeck Site**

During the period 1959 through 1960, several site survey teams were evaluating the best location for Detachment J-2 (USM-621Y). Detachment J-2 was a mobile Research and Development Team located on the Wasserkuppe, near Fulda, West Germany between 1957 and 1960. The team was part of the National Security Agency Europe and, was supported by the United States Army Security Agency Europe. The site at Wobeck, West Germany was determined best because of the elevation. Wobeck is located in the Elm Forst near Schoenigen, West Germany and Helmstedt, West Germany. The site became operational on or about June 1, 1960<sup>39</sup> when an eighteen man team was assigned to temporary duty in Wobeck in anticipation of the move from Wasserkuppe. The team’s temporary duty was subsequently extended during July 1960 and made permanent on August 22, 1960. Detachment J-2<sup>40</sup> (identified as Detachment II as part of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU) was a research and development detachment. The mission was independent of the other Army Security Agency units surrounding Helmstedt, West Germany.<sup>41</sup>

The original site was a concertina wire enclosure containing a single AB-216 tower. Operation at the Wobeck site ceased for about a week during November 1961 when the tower fell. A guy point to the tower was disturbed by a moving vehicle which caused the tower to fall<sup>42</sup> Ultimately, the site was also a concertina wire enclosure containing two AB-216 towers, one over 200 feet high and the other over 300 feet high, plus an XM-292 and M109 vans, H-1 hut, and other trucks including the radio and communication vans as well as the diesel generators for on-site power.

The operational site had no facilities for barracks or mess. Initially, troops were billeted in a local hotel and some personnel residences in Koenigslutter, West Germany. The Hotel Klabauterman in Bad Helmstedt was also popular choice for rooms. Meals were purchased in local restaurants and gasthauses. During 1963, the personnel were garrisoned with Company A of the 319<sup>th</sup> USASA Battalion for rations and quarters. Eventually, the personnel were relocated into rooms provided by the Park Hotel in Schoenigen, West Germany. Again, meals were taken in local restaurants.

Over time, administration and operational support for the site was supported, in turn, by Headquarters Company, Headquarters & Supply Battalion (Frankfurt am Main); 183<sup>rd</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company (Herzogenaurach); United States Army Security Agency Element European Development Detachment (Provisional); 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion (Rothwesten); 183<sup>rd</sup> USASA Company, United States Army Security Agency Europe Theater Exploitation Company (Provisional); 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field); and the 77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit.

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Personnel stationed there were assigned to the local Army Security Agency Battalion when the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU was inactivated. The National Security Agency Europe shut down their mission at the site in late 1964.

### **Detachment III – Mobile Sites**

Mobility was the true character of the units by virtue of the equipment, transportation, and assigned missions. At times, mobile sites became more permanent with the eventual construction of buildings once the importance of the collected data was established, i.e., Dahme and Wobeck. Mobile operational sites were later identified as Detachment III in the operational plans and were a facilities and support type detachment. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the units furnished equipment and personnel for administrative, logistical, and operational support. Numerous areas visited are summarized below and illustrated in Figure 1-1. What is interesting is that many of the areas were visited almost annually although the actual sites may vary in location.

- Alsfeld, West Germany.
- Altefeld, West Germany.
- Babenhausen, West Germany.
- Bahrdorf, West Germany.
- Coburg, West Germany.
- Fehmarn Insel, West Germany.
- Freyung, West Germany.
- Heusenstamm, West Germany.
- Hoher (Mount) Heidelberg, West Germany.
- Hof, West Germany.
- Kitzingen, West Germany.
- Lam, West Germany.
- Radenbeck, West Germany.
- Schmarsau, West Germany.
- Schuttschur, West Germany.
- Seckenheim, West Germany.
- Travenuede, West Germany.
- Vicenza, Italy.
- Waldmuechen, West Germany.
- Wasserkuppe, West Germany
- Weickersgruben, West Germany.

A primary mission was the support of the National Security Agency Europe in their efforts. Site survey teams were assembled yearly to determine best locations for listening posts. These teams were identified as COSAG<sup>43</sup> Mobile Activities (CMA). Sites evaluated as part of the CMA were at:

- Altefeld (Eschwege), West Germany.
- Woltersdorf (Gartow/Hitzacker), West Germany.
- Brodau (Groemitz), West Germany.
- Hoher (Mount) Schneeberg, West Germany.
- Hoher (Mount) Meissner, West Germany.
- Hoher Bogan, West Germany.<sup>44</sup>



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Hoher Bogan (Rimbach)

In the summer of 1957, members of the Warsaw Pact held massive troop maneuvers in the area that was designated by NATO as one of the major invasion corridors. This gap is fifteen miles wide in a river valley between two mountain ranges running parallel to the eastern border of the West German State of Bavaria and the then Czechoslovakia. Plans were made for a listening post during the next summer scheduled for spring 1958. There was a survey of site along the border for a base of operations from which to monitor the situation. The best site was determined to be on the mountain named *Hoher Bogan*. *Hoher Bogan* was a long saddle back mountain, about three miles from Czechoslovakia. The mountain was made up of two peaks; *Grafenried* (3,201 feet) and *Eckstein* (3,520 feet). *Eckstein* was the eastern most point on the mountain with a major "view" point and later became the name of the border site. Three miles west of the mountain lay Rimbach, the closest village with access to the site. *Eckstein* was chosen because there was a clear view eastward from the top of cliff (1,200 feet straight down). About 1958, single lane logging road was used for access when first personnel were assigned to the area.<sup>45</sup>

Apparently, soldiers from the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment and 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU were assigned to support the effort beginning in 1960. Their temporary duty began about four or five weeks before the start of the Warsaw Pact exercises and ended about two weeks after the exercises concluded. Initially the temporary duty was totaled three to four months per year. The village of Rimbach was chosen to billet the troops since barracks and mess were not available on the site. This temporary duty continued for two years after the deactivation of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU with the support of other Army Security Agency units.

### **Rothwesten Air Base**

Stone Age relics have shown that the Rothwesten Area had been inhabited and farmed for more than 4000 years. In 1294 the area, then called Rothwardshusen, and controlled by the Bishop of Paderborn, was traded to Henry I, the first Landgrave of Hesse. In 1552, the Clenberg family began a reign that lasted 200 years. The land domain had been state-owned since Landgrave Frederick II purchased it as a food producing center for Kassel.<sup>46</sup>

*The relatively remote Reinhardswald Forest in the State of Hesse bordered the quiet German village of Rothwesten. In early 1935 the area had been selected by the Air Staff of Hitler's Air Marshal, Herman Goering, for the clandestine construction of post-World War I Germany's first Army Flying School. The secret flying school was considered to be a key element first step in Hitler's plans for the future domination of Europe. Such a facility had been clearly forbidden under the country's Surrender Treaty with the Allied Forces.*

*The site was heavily wooded and the air base structures were designed and built to resemble a series of harmless appearing apartment buildings, particularly from the air.*<sup>47</sup>

When construction of the air base began in 1934, the agricultural mission was secondary. The airfield opened in 1936 as a Luftwaffe pilot training center and fighter base and soldiers from all branches of service came to be trained as pilots. The airfield was one of the most modern and up to date for its time. In 1937 the German Air Force built a radio and observation station north of Rothwesten Air Base.<sup>48</sup> The airfield over time was used by a Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, a Fighter Squadron, the Pilot training center, and lastly as a Russian prisoner-of-war camp by the Germans. In April 1945, the retreating German Army destroyed or badly damaged most of the existing operations buildings. Because of masterful camouflage techniques employed by the Luftwaffe during World War II, the base was never discovered by Allied Forces until very late near the end of hostilities. On April 5, 1945 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division entered Rothwesten Air Base from nearby Hofgeismar.

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While elements of the Division were entering the airfield by the rear gate, German Air Force units were departing through the front gate.<sup>49</sup>

During World War II, the base became the home of the 36<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group in April of 1945. Subsequently the Group was replaced by the United States 22<sup>nd</sup> and 32<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Groups, who in turn were succeeded by the 417<sup>th</sup> Starlight Night Fighter Squadron and the 155<sup>th</sup> Photo Recon Squadron. Both these squadrons remained there until shortly after the war with Germany officially ended.<sup>50</sup>

The United States Army utilized the base as a German prisoner-of-war camp from 1945 through 1947. In 1947 the United States Air Force built a communications station on the site.<sup>51</sup> About 1945, an American Constabulary Unit, the 1<sup>st</sup> Constabulary Regiment, was based at the air base until the 601<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron of the United States Air Force Europe shared occupancy.

The first presence of Army Security Agency operations at Rothwesten was as early as 1955 when elements of the 307<sup>th</sup> Communications Reconnaissance Battalion began sharing the post with the 615<sup>th</sup> AC&W. The 307<sup>th</sup> CRB was activated on 27 December 1951 by the United States Army Security Agency, Europe.<sup>52</sup> During 1957, the 307<sup>th</sup> USASA CRB was deactivated and the 319<sup>th</sup> USASA Battalion formed from the officers and men of the 307<sup>th</sup> CRB. The 319<sup>th</sup> USASA Battalion remained at Rothwesten Air Base until the late 1960s when the base became Field Station Rothwesten.

Finally, the German military occupied the air base and the base was named the *Fritz Erler Kaserne*. The kaserne has been closed and the land will be privately developed.

### **Offenbach Kaserne (also known as the Biebererstrasse Kaserne)**

The first military use of this location along Biebererstrasse was thought to begin about 1840 with the construction of a military barracks. The current buildings, built in 1912, were of the neo-renaissance style influenced by Prussian Military architecture. Over the years, the buildings' interiors were substantially changed by the various occupants. Some of the exteriors were altered when the doors and windows were replaced.<sup>53</sup>

The 5th Grossherzoglich Hessian Infantry-Regiment Number 168 was one of the regiments billeted in the Kaserne on Biebererstrasse.<sup>54</sup> The Kaserne was the scene of a bloody demonstration when a coup by Communist forces attempted to overthrow the provisional municipal government (People's Council) of Offenbach during the aftermath of World War I. On April 19, 1919, a clash between communist insurgents and members of the regiment as well as other government troops killed seventeen people and wounded another twenty-six. It is unclear which side fired the first shots. The military claimed someone in the crowd opened a hand-grenade while the insurgents say a soldier fired his machine gun. The so-called "*Good Friday*" coup is considered the bloodiest civil uprising in the City of Offenbach's history.<sup>55</sup>

Between 1920 and 1928, the Officer's Mess in the Kaserne was rented by the *Neuapostolische Kirche* for the assembly of their congregation.<sup>56</sup>

One of the initial United States Army units to be stationed in the *Biebere strasse Kaserne* was Company A of the 709<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion. Company A was stationed in the Kaserne from late 1945 through late 1947 when the company was then consolidated with the battalion at the Gutleut Kaserne in Frankfurt am Main.<sup>57</sup> The Kaserne remained under the command of the United States Army's Military Police until 1961.

During July 1961, the Kaserne became the headquarters for the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU. The Kaserne was eventually shared with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordnance Company beginning in August 1963. Troops from the 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordnance

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Company (DS) were billeted in Building 1333. The third and fourth floors of Building 1326 above administration and operations were converted to barracks for the personnel of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU. A training room was built in the attic of Building 1326. The two units shared Building 1327, the gymnasium, Building 1329, the motor pool, and Building 1328, the mess was on the first floor while training room and recreation room occupied the second floor. The arms room, linen storage, and recreation room were moved to the first floor of Building 1326 from their location in the basement of Building 1333. Part of Building 1326 was converted into a small Post Exchange.<sup>58</sup>

The Kaserne housed the Army's Post Office for Europe after the departures of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU and 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordnance Company.

The Headquarters and Company A of the 709<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion began residency in the Kaserne during July 1965. The Battalion Headquarters and Company A again moved from the *Biebererstrasse Kaserne* to the Gutleut Kaserne, located in Frankfurt am Main, on October 12, 1972.

One of the soldiers from the 709<sup>th</sup> billeted in the *Biebererstrasse Kaserne* after World War II (Circa 1946-47) reminisced about Offenbach. His quote emphasizes many of the same memories that members of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU have with regards to their assignment in the Offenbach Kaserne some fifteen or so years later.

*"In regards to being billeted at the Biebererstrasse Kaserne – what can I say? It was the best assignment I ever had. I had my baptism into Police work there (my previous assignment was in the Philippine Islands as a guard in a Post Stockade). Our Company was routinely assigned to Jeep Patrols in Frankfurt and Foot Patrols in the Bahnhof in Frankfurt. Some of our Sergeants worked the Desk in the Frankfurt Police Station. Our Company actually had a Police Station in Offenbach for a short time on Kaiser Strasse. I have a photograph of it.*

*We were authorized to establish a NCO Club, which we did. Being just a Company size unit all NCOs were invited to belong. Corporals and T/5s included. A rear room was rented from a local restaurant. We had our own entrance. A three-piece German Music Group was hired for Saturday nites. Our liquor ration was diverted to the Club. I seem to remember that some liquor was imported from Paris. (We had a man on the Paris train detail.) Day times it served as an Off Company day room. The Poker Boys met there regularly. The name of the club was 'THE KING OF CLUBS.'*

*In 1946 things were GOOD in Offenbach – in the Kitchen our Army cooks were supplemented by German cooks, a German cook converted Army fare to gourmet deserts, even baking each man a Birthday Cake on his Birthday. He could do wonders with canned peaches and pears converting them to glazed cakes. We had our own German Barber and Taylor. There was no Mess Hall; rather there were two or three dining rooms with tables and chairs, flat ware, no trays. Offenbach was especially memorable to me, as I met and married my wife there."<sup>59</sup>*

Subsequently, the former machine-gun barracks was returned to the German Government when it then fell under the authority of the *Kriminal Polizei* (German Criminal Police).

The Kaserne was demolished in 2006 to make way for a modern shopping market.

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**Muehlheim Depot (also known as the Pionier Park Kaserne)<sup>60</sup>**

The Depot on Muehlheimer Strasse in Muehlheim am Main, West Germany was approximately three (3) miles from the Offenbach Kaserne. Offices and warehouses for the unit supply, signal supply, and signal maintenance facilities were located in two of the buildings available. The Pionier Park Kaserne was also known as the Muehlheim Depot and was comprised of Buildings 1348, 1352, 1356, and 1357. Building 1352 was a wooden frame warehouse. Buildings 1348, 1356, and 1357 were constructed of brick and concrete construction. Approximately 99,000 square feet of open storage and 15,000 square feet of covered storage space were available for use.

Beginning August 1963, the open storage area was shared with the 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordnance Company (DS). The deactivation of the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU ended the shared arrangement.

**Timeline**

The occurrence of various events and/or missions of the three units, the location at the time of the occurrence, and the date of occurrence, are summarized in *Table IV – Relevant Dates*.

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**TABLE III – EQUIPMENT<sup>1</sup>**  
**77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency**  
**Special Operations Unit**

EQUIPMENT	FFY 1961 <sup>2</sup>		FFY 1962 <sup>2</sup>		FFY 1963 <sup>2</sup>		FFY 1964 <sup>3</sup>	
	AUTHROIZED	ACTUAL	AUTHORIZED <sup>4</sup>	ACTUAL <sup>4</sup>	AUTHROIZED	ACTUAL	AUTHORIZED <sup>4</sup>	ACTUAL <sup>4</sup>
ESGX5	1	1	--	--	1	1	--	--
ESGX4	3	1	--	--	3	3	--	--
EIDX4	0	1	--	--	0	0	--	--
EIEX4	0	1	--	--	0	0	--	--
ESGT2	1	1	--	--	1	1	--	--

**NOTES:**

<sup>1</sup>As listed in the *Annual Historical Report(s)* for Federal Fiscal Years 1961 through 1964, *Volume I of II*, 77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit, by the Commanding Officer, APO 757, New York, New York, RCS-ININT-(R2) or RCS-IAINT-(R2).

<sup>2</sup>Table of Allowance (TA) 32-55; Table of Allowance (TA) 32-57.

<sup>3</sup>Table of Allowance (TA) 32-13; Table of Allowance (TA) 32-55; Table of Allowance 32-57.

<sup>4</sup>Remains Classified in the sanitized version of the *Annual Historical Report(s)* identified in Footnote 1.

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<b>United States Army Security Agency Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional)</b>		
<b>77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT or MISSION</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
15 October 1957	Organized as 279 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company (Field).	Seckenheim, West Germany
September 1958	Elements of 279 <sup>th</sup> USASA Company (Field) established remote operational site.	Mount Meissner, West Germany
24 March 1959	Elements of 279 <sup>th</sup> USASA Company (Field) established remote operational site.	Mount Schneeberg, West Germany
24 March 1959	Re-designated as 279 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field).	Frankfurt am Main, West Germany
13 October 1959	Elements of 279 <sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment (Field) established remote operational site.	Schoeningen, West Germany
07 April 1960	279 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment attached to the 319 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion.	Rothwesten Air Base, West Germany
01 June 1960	Detachment II becomes operational.	Wobeck, West Germany
01 July 1960	United States Army Security Agency Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional) activated.	Rothwesten Air Base, West Germany
July 1960	Prince Albert 1960. (Detachment I become operational.)	Dahme, Travemuende, and Fehmarn Island West Germany
September-October 1960	Undisclosed.	Woltersdorf, Bahrdorf, and Radenbeck, West Germany
November 1960	Wintershield II.	Bahrdorf, West Germany
January 1961	Equipment Test.	Mount Meissner and Alsfeld, West Germany
February 1961	Special.	Hof, West Germany
March 1961	ELSEC.	Weickersgruben and Kitzinger, West Germany
07 April 1961	279 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment detached from the 319 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion.	Rothwesten Air Base, West Germany
May-June 1961	Prince Albert 1961.	Dahme, West Germany
May-June 1961	Undisclosed.	Wasserkuppe, West Germany
June 1961	Undisclosed.	Schmarsau, West Germany

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<b>TABLE IV – Relevant Dates (Continued)</b>		
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<b>77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit</b>		
<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT or MISSION</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
05 June 1961	279 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment re-designated as 77 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit.	Rothwesten Air Base, West Germany
05 June 1961	United States Army Security Agency Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional) discontinued.	Rothwesten Air Base, West Germany
17 July 1961	77 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit moves to Offenbach Kaserne (aka Biebererstrasse Kaserne).	Offenbach Kaserne, West Germany
September 1961	Undisclosed.	Mount Heidelberg, West Germany
October 1961	ELSEC.	Coburg, West Germany
November 1961	CMA.	Rimbach, West Germany
December 1961	ELSEC	Babenhausen and Heusenstamm, West Germany
March 1962	Undisclosed.	Schutschur, West Germany
April 1962	ELSEC.	Vicenza, Italy
May-June 1962	Undisclosed.	Schutschur, West Germany.
November 1962	Detachment I.	Dahme, West Germany
March 1963	ELSEC.	Vicenza, Italy
April-May 1963	Undisclosed.	Rimbach, West Germany
May 1963	CENTAG Grand Slam II	Seckenheim, West Germany
July-September 1963	CMA.	Altefeld, West Germany
August 1963	63rd Ordnance Company (DS) shares Offenbach and Pioneer Park Kasernes	Offenbach am Main, Germany
August-September 1963	Undisclosed	Rimbach, West Germany
September-October 1963	CMA.	Woltersdorf, West Germany
October-December 1963	CMA.	Brodau, West Germany
15 June 1964	77 <sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit deactivated.	Offenbach Kaserne, West Germany

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## Chapter One Notes:

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<sup>1</sup> The roots of the units reach back to Vienna, Austria. At the end of World War II, it began as a Signal Corps unit designated the 7224<sup>th</sup> Department Unit (DU). The 7224<sup>th</sup> DU, later stationed at Bad Aibling, West Germany, or segments of this unit reorganized through the years; it became the 7224<sup>th</sup> Army Security Agency (ASA) Detachment, then the 24<sup>th</sup> ASA Detachment, next the 257<sup>th</sup> (or 259<sup>th</sup> – designation uncertain) ASA Detachment, then to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Operations Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> ASA Company (Field), next came the 279<sup>th</sup> ASA Detachment (Field), then Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional), and finally the 77<sup>th</sup> ASA Special Operations Unit. Similarly, the 7219<sup>th</sup> DU at Mount Schneeberg, West Germany reorganized as the 7219<sup>th</sup> ASA Detachment, 19<sup>th</sup> ASA Detachment 258<sup>th</sup> ASA Detachment, 1<sup>st</sup> Operations Platoon of the 279<sup>th</sup> ASA Company (Field), and finally Detachment K, Headquarters Company, of the 318<sup>th</sup> ASA Battalion. (SOURCE: William N. Evans.)

<sup>2</sup> Article, Karen Kovach, Writer-Editor, History Office, United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, March 14, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> During the 1950s the Army Security Agency had three ELINT detachments located at Mount Schneeberg, Mount Meissner, and Bad Aibling in West Germany. The three detachments were formed into the 279<sup>th</sup> Army Security Agency Company. The Headquarters and Headquarters Platoon were located in Frankfurt am Main, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was located at Mount Schneeberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was located at Mount Meissner, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was located at Bad Aibling. Sometime during 1959 the detachment at Bad Aibling moved to Rothwesten Air Base. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoons were fixed site, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was mobile. In March 1959 the 279<sup>th</sup> Army Security Agency Company was disbanded. The 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was assigned to the 318<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion at Herzogenaurach and re-designated as Detachment J-1 of Headquarters and Headquarters Service Company; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon was assigned to the 319<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion at Rothwesten Air Base and was assigned to Headquarters Company. The site at Mount Meissner came under the control of Headquarters Company and subsequently Company C. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon was designated the 279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment (Field). (SOURCE: E-mail from Bill Evans to Lew [last name unknown] circa 2001.)

<sup>4</sup> The first presence of Army Security Agency operations at Rothwesten Air Base was as early as 1955 when elements of the 307<sup>th</sup> Communications Reconnaissance Battalion were billeted at the air base.

<sup>5</sup> Apparently, the early days of the Army Security Agency (ASA) were concentrated on communications intelligence (COMINT) and did not take over electronic intelligence (ELINT) from the U. S. Army Signal Corps until around 1956. The supposition is based partly on; (a) Prior to 1957, in West Germany, the name tapes worn on fatigues were branch colors instead of the later standard black lettering on white background. Initially, the Army Security Agency's name tapes were white lettering on teal blue background. Signal Corps's name tapes were white lettering with orange background. During 1957 at Mount Schneeberg, many of personnel were still wearing white/orange name tapes; (b) All of the Officers were commissioned in the Signal Corps. As time passed, officers from other branches were detailed to the Army Security Agency for varying tours. For example, the esteemed Captain Pease was commissioned in the Transportation Corps. (SOURCE: William N. Evans.) USAINSCOM supported William Evan's observation when they wrote that "*In 1955, the Army Security Agency redefined its own mission, absorbing responsibility for conducting electronic intelligence and communications-related electronic warfare operations from the Army Signal Corps. In turn, ASA surrendered its functions of crypto-materiel distribution and repair to the Signal Corps. The realignment was logical, since electronic intelligence was an aspect of what was now known as signals intelligence (SIGINT) and since electronic warfare closely impacted on signals intelligence and used the same types of equipment.*" (SOURCE: Page 20, *The Military Intelligence Story - A Photographic History*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, USAINSCOM.)

<sup>6</sup> ELINT is the acronym for *Electronic Intelligence*.

<sup>7</sup> Website [http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR\\_ASAE.htm#319th](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#319th).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Web site at [http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR\\_ASAE.htm#318th](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#318th).

<sup>10</sup> On 15 October 1957, the 183<sup>rd</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company was formed. It held the Operators and T/A's from other units around Germany, including from the 339<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company. Initially, the main operations (intercept) work at Herzogenaurach, West Germany was done by the 6<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Field Station. But, it appears that in March 1959, the 6<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Field Station merged into the 183<sup>rd</sup> United States Army Security Agency Company and the 318<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Battalion. In 1960 there were two remote detachments operated by the 183<sup>rd</sup> United States Army Security Agency Operations Company, one was located at Giebelstadt Air Base and the other at Straubing, West Germany. They performed the Radio Direction Finding (RDF) missions.



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(Source web site at [http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR\\_ASAE.htm#318th.](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#318th.))

<sup>11</sup> Page 11, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>12</sup> Web site at [http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR\\_ASAE.htm#318th.](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#318th.)

<sup>13</sup> Page 9, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>14</sup> Page 6, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>15</sup> Page 11, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>16</sup> E-mail from Mervin Balyeat to William Christen, August 20, 2001.

<sup>17</sup> Page 6, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>18</sup> Page 17, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757. These operational locations include the 279<sup>th</sup> USASA Detachment (Field), USASA TEC (Provincial) as well as the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU.

<sup>19</sup> “Mission – Undisclosed” because the mission’s description remains classified as written in the *Annual Historical Report(s)* for the 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU.

<sup>20</sup> ELSEC is the acronym for *Electronic Security*, which is a mission to determine whether electronic interception of the electronic signal emission was possible in connection with U.S. Army missile firing.

<sup>21</sup> Page 12, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>22</sup> Article, Karen Kovach, Writer-Editor, History Office, United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, March 14, 2006.

<sup>23</sup> COSAG is the acronym for *Collection of Signal Analyses Group*.

<sup>24</sup> Page 15, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1962*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Page 2, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1963*, Volume I of II, Paragraph 3, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757. The kaserne was identified as “Pioneer Park Kaserne, Muehlheim am Main.” The German military term *Pionier Park* translates literally into *Engineers stores*.

<sup>27</sup> Page 11, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1961*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>28</sup> Page 19, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1962*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>29</sup> Page 5, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1963*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>30</sup> Page 5, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1964*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Page 1, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1964*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>35</sup> Pages 6 through, Charles A. Kroger, Jr., ELINT: A Scientific Intelligence System, Central Intelligence Agency, 22 September 1993 (Approved for Release) at <https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/kent-csi/>.

<sup>36</sup> Earlier use of the site was confirmed from LO 1046-59 dated 23 October 1959 when a five man team from the 318<sup>th</sup> USASA Battalion stationed at Mount Schneeberg was ordered to pick-up some equipment in October 1959. when the site was initially occupied has not been established at this writing.

<sup>37</sup> Originally started at \$13.00 per day and then reduced to \$6.60 per day until the site closed.

<sup>38</sup> E-mail from Richard Kerr to William Evans, December 29, 2001. James Bamford in his book entitled *Body of Secrets* wrote (page 152) that “another small listening post, made up of vans the size of semi trailer trucks, was established at Dahme on the German Riviera. One telemetry intercept operator described Dahme as ‘a target-rich environment’.”

<sup>39</sup> E-mail from Dean Carlson to William Mielke, June 21, 2001.

<sup>40</sup> On January 16, 1961 Detachment J-2 was identified as Detachment Y of the 183<sup>rd</sup> USASA Company and attached to the USASA Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional).

<sup>41</sup> The reader is directed to Appendix C where a complete chronology establishing the site in the Elm Forest is given. The chronology was contributed by Dean M. Carlson.

<sup>42</sup> E-mail from Dean M. Carlson to William Mielke, June 26, 2001.

<sup>43</sup> COSAG is the acronym for *Collection of Signal Analyses Group*.

<sup>44</sup> One of the more important sites was at Hoher Bogan (Eckstein), West Germany although more commonly identified as Rimbach by unit personnel.

<sup>45</sup> Discussion entitled *Incomplete History*, F. Harrison Wallace, Jr., Author, USASA Field Station Augsburg website <http://www.usafsa.org/>, 1997.

<sup>46</sup> E-mail attachment from the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, History Office, March 15, 2006.

<sup>47</sup> Website <http://601st-615th-acw.org/history.htm>.

**279<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Detachment**  
**United States Army Security Agency Theatre Exploitation Company (Provisional)**  
**77<sup>th</sup> United States Army Security Agency Special Operations Unit**  
**The *Unofficial* Unit History**

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<sup>48</sup> The Germans referred to the Rothwesten Air Base as “Rothwesten Reichfliegerhorst.”

<sup>49</sup> E-mail attachment from the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, History Office, March 15, 21006.

<sup>50</sup> Website <http://601st-615th-acw.org/history.htm>.

<sup>51</sup> E-mail attachment from the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command, History Office, March 15, 2006.

<sup>52</sup> In 1955, the 307<sup>th</sup> was located at Rothwesten as follows: Battalion Headquarters was first located in the building ultimately occupied by the Kassel Sub-Post but moved shortly afterwards to Building 9253. Operations was in the basement of the Starlight Theater; the Battalion Motor Pool was in the area which was later occupied by the Post Engineer Motor Pool; Headquarters of the 353<sup>rd</sup> Communications Reconnaissance Company (ultimately Company B) occupied the building that was later occupied by an Air Force unit; and Headquarters Company moved into the building that ultimately housed the 184<sup>th</sup> USASA Operations Company. The Non-Commissioned Officer’s Club, Officer’s Club, Enlisted Men’s Club, and Bachelor Officer’s Quarters were originally located in the building were they remained throughout occupation. The only dependent quarters in the Rothwesten area in the beginning were the duplex-type buildings although the Air Force had started construction of the eighteen family apartments in the Rothwesten community. The preceding history is from a publication copyrighted 1998 by the ASAVETS USA.

<sup>53</sup> Frankfurter Allgemeine’s FAZ.NET web site containing article entitled *Shopping market Bieberer police to the street in Offenbach*.

<sup>54</sup> Article entitled “Good Friday coup” from the web site for the [Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#).

<sup>55</sup> The City History Time Bar from *Offenbach.de* web site’s article entitled 1919: At least 17 dead in “Good Friday Offenbacher coup” dated October 10, 2004.

<sup>56</sup> Neuapostolische Kirche, Hessen/Rheinland-Pfalz/Saarland/ Gemeinde Offenbach a. M., web site article entitled *100 Jahre Neuapostolische Kirche Offenbach a. M., Eine Libendige Gemeinde blickt dankbar zuruck, Kurzchronik der Neuapostolischen Gemeinde Offenbach*.

<sup>57</sup> Website [http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/MilitaryPolice/UsAREUR\\_709thMPBn.htm](http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/MilitaryPolice/UsAREUR_709thMPBn.htm).

<sup>58</sup> Page 3, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1964*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757.

<sup>59</sup> E-mail from Merv Frink, Company A, 709<sup>th</sup> MP Battalion, 1946-49 posted on the web site for the 709<sup>th</sup> – [http://usarmygermany.com/Units/MilitaryPolice/USAREUR\\_709thMPBn.htm](http://usarmygermany.com/Units/MilitaryPolice/USAREUR_709thMPBn.htm).

<sup>60</sup> Page 3, *Annual Historical Report, Fiscal Year 1964*, Volume I of II, 77<sup>th</sup> USASASOU, APO 757. Pioneer (Pionier Park) Kaserne that was previously discussed under preceding Chapter 1 endnote 21.