

70th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing History

The 70th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing's history began just prior to the United States entry into World War II. On 13 September 1941, the Army Air Forces established the 70th Observation Group (OG) at Gray Field, Washington. The new group initially used the assets of the existing 116th Observation Squadron (OS), a National Guard unit inducted into federal service a year earlier.



116th Observation Squadron O-38s at Gray Field, Washington

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the 70 OG utilized O-38, O-46, O-47, and O-49 aircraft to conduct anti-submarine operations in the eastern Pacific off the coasts of Washington and Canada through September 1942. On 20 February 1942, the 70 OG suffered its first casualties when Lieutenant Charles Clark lost control of his O-49 and crashed on takeoff into the waters off Hoquian, Washington. Both Clark and his observer, Lt. Rudy Binder, died in the accident.

From October 1942 through November 1943, the 70 OG, designated as the 70 Reconnaissance Group (RG) on 2 April 1943 and again as the 70 Tactical Reconnaissance Group (TRG) on 11 August 1943, conducted aerial observation and bombing training for Army ground forces at various bases on the United States West Coast. The 70 TRG inactivated at Will Rogers Field, OK on 30 November 1943.

In 1947, the group activated as the 70th Reconnaissance Group (RG) (Reserve). The 70 RG remained active under Air Defense Command at Hill Air Force Base, Utah until it inactivated on 27 June 1949.



**70th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing B-47 and Personnel
Little Rock AFB, Arkansas, 1950's**

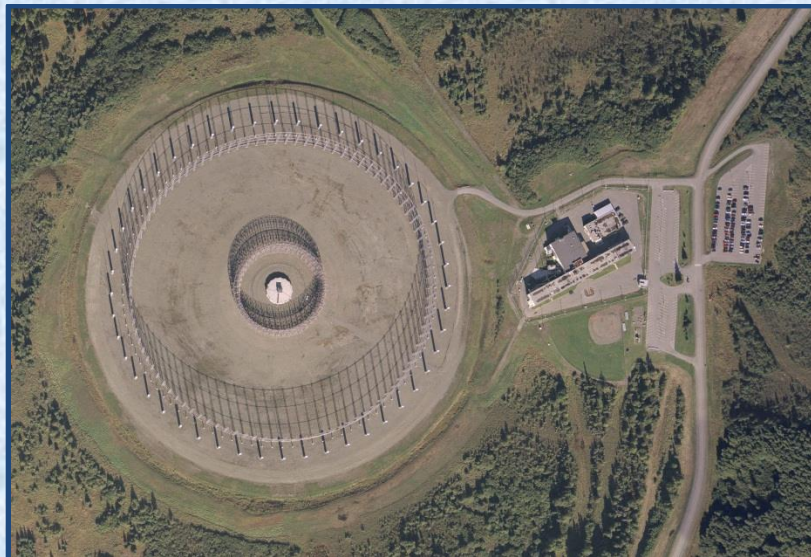
In 1955, the Air Force activated the 70th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (SRW) at Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas. As part of Strategic Air Command (SAC), the 70 SRW employed RB-47 and KC-97 aircraft to conduct strategic reconnaissance and air refueling. In October 1956, the 70 SRW deployed to Sidi Slimane Air Base, Morocco for training. While the 70 SRW was at Sidi Slimane, fighting between Egypt and Israel prompted Great Britain and France to land troops in Egypt to secure the Suez Canal. In response to the escalating situation, SAC ordered the 70 SRW to remain at Sidi Slimane. The conflict, known as the Suez Crisis, ended in November 1956 and the 70 SRW returned to Little Rock in December 1956.



B-47s at Sidi Slimane AB, Morocco - 1956

On 25 October 1961, the 70 SRW designated as the 70th Bombardment Wing (BW), Medium and began transitioning to the B-47. The 70th Bomb Wing, Medium inactivated on 25 June 1962 and reactivated as the 70th Bombardment Wing, Heavy on 15 November 1962. Beginning in February 1963, the 70th was assigned to Clinton-Sherman AFB, OK, where it conducted strategic bombardment training and air refueling using B-52 and KC-135 aircraft until its inactivation in 1969.

Activated as the 70th Air Base Wing in October 1994, the organization operated and maintained Brooks Air Force Base, Texas until it inactivated in September 1998. Since its 16 August 2000 activation under the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA), the 70th Intelligence Wing (designated Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing in January 2009) has managed the Air Force portion of the Department of Defense cryptology mission from its headquarters at Ft. Meade, Maryland. The 70 ISRW is currently subordinate to Air Combat Command.



AN FLR-9 Elmendorf AFB, Alaska

70 ISR Wing Emblem

(Approved 5 January 1943)



(1943)



(2010)

BLAZON

Azure, on a bend nebuli Or between six billets in bend three and three in bend of the like, two cocks Gules, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "70TH ISR WING" in Blue letters.

SIGNIFICANCE

Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The cock is a bird of great courage and fortitude, symbolic of watchfulness. He is always prepared for battle and is qualified to defend and protect his rights at all times. The nebuli line pattern represents clouds. The billets, symbols of vital information obtained when making air surveys and preliminary investigations vital in military strategic reconnaissance, reflect the Wing's parent unit.

COLOR CONVERSION FOR DESIGN ELEMENTS ON SHIELD

<u>FULL</u>	<u>CABLE</u>	<u>PMS</u>	<u>SUBDUED</u>	<u>CABLE</u>
Ultramarine Blue	67118	Reflex	Flag Blue	67124
Air Force Yellow	67103	116	Olive Drab	67133
Scarlet	67111	200	Garnet	67158

Units of the 70 ISR Wing

70th Operational Support Squadron

(Activated: 24 Jan 1943; Assigned to Wing: 14 Jan 2009)

373rd Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group

(Activated: 5 Feb 1943; Assigned to Wing: 7 Sept 2000)

301st Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 7 Feb 1942; Assigned to Group: 7 Sept 2000)

381st Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 23 Jul 1942; Assigned to Group: 1 Jun 1989)

543rd Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group

(Activated: 9 Jun 1942; Assigned to Wing: 16 Aug 2000)

93rd Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 1 Apr 1967; Assigned to Group: 1 Mar 1997)

531st Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 15 Oct 1946; Assigned to Group: 1 Jul 2015)

668th Alteration and Installation Squadron

(Activated: 15 Jul 2009; Assigned to Group: 22 Jun 2011)

544th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group

(Activated: 16 Nov 1950; Assigned to Wing: 31 Jan 2000)

18th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 20 Oct 1943; Assigned to Group: 7 Sept 1993)

566th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 5 Nov 1944; Assigned to Group: 1 Oct 1995)

659th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group

(Activated: 8 Sept 2010; Assigned to Wing: 8 Sept 2010)

5th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 1 Aug 1942; Assigned to Group: 26 Sep 2014)

7th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 15 Oct 1942; Assigned to Group: 8 Sept 2010)

35th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 15 Apr 2008; Assigned to Group: 8 Sept 2010)

37th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 3 Aug 1951; Assigned to Group: 26 Sep 2014)

41st Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 1 Jun 1951; Assigned to Group: 26 Sep 2014)

75th Intelligence Squadron

(Activated: 20 Jun 1953; Assigned to Group: 20 Aug 2015)

707th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group

(Activated: 1 Jul 1974; Assigned to Wing: 7 Oct 2009)

22nd Intelligence Squadron

(Act: 16 Jun 1917; Assigned to Group: 7 Oct 2009)

29th Intelligence Squadron

(Act: 25 Sept 1944; Assigned to Group: 7 Oct 2009)

32nd Intelligence Squadron

(Act: 25 Jun 1943; Assigned to Group: 7 Oct 2009)

34th Intelligence Squadron

(Act: 8 Sept 2010; Assigned to Group: 8 Sept 2010)

94th Intelligence Squadron

(Act: 9 Oct 1943; Assigned to Group: 7 Oct 2009)

707th Communications Squadron

(Act: 1 Oct 1979; Assigned to Group: 7 Oct 2009)

707th Force Support Squadron

(Act: 1 Jun 1989 Assigned to Group: 7 Oct 2009)

70th Commanders 1941 – Present

Sep 1941 – Apr 1942	Maj Hillford R. Wallace
Apr 1942 – May 1942	Maj Wallace J. O'Daniels
May 1942	Maj G. Robert Dodson
May 1942 – Nov 1942	Col Don W. Mayhue
Nov 1942 – Dec 1942	Lt Col G. Robert Dodson
Dec 1942 – Jan 1943	Lt Col Stanley R. Stewart
Jan 1943 – Nov 1943	Lt Col G. Robert Dodson
Apr 1947 – Jun 1949	Unknown
Jan 1955 – Feb 1955	Col Lester C. Hess
Feb 1955 – Apr 1955	Maj Lewis P. Gaby
Apr 1955 – May 1955	Lt Col Albert S. Harwell Jr
May 1955 – Jun 1955	Col Lester C. Hess
Jun 1955 – May 1958	Col William Burke
May 1958 – Aug 1958	Col Donald O. Tower
Aug 1958 – Apr 1960	Col John H. Kunkel Jr.
Apr 1960	Col Irby V. Tedder
Apr 1960 – May 1961	Col James O. Britt
May 1961 – Feb 1963	Col George E. Globber
Feb 1963 – Jun 1964	Col Paul N. Bacalis
Jun 1964 – Nov 1965	Col Ori O. Schurter
Nov 1965 – Apr 1968	Col William R. Brown
Apr 1968 – Oct 1968	Col Therwin S. Walters
Oct 1968 – Nov 1968	Col William R. Brown

Nov 1968 – Mar 1969	Col Raymond P. Lowman
Mar 1969 – Sep 1969	Col Robert T. Calhoun
Sep – Dec 1969	Col Raymond P. Lowman
Oct 1994 – Jun 1996	Col Robert M. Hudson
Jun 1996 – Sep 1997	Col Klaus Bartels
Oct 1997 – Oct 1998	Unknown
Aug 2000 – Jul 2002	Col Harold J. Beatty
Jul 2002 – Jan 2004	Col James O. Poss
Jan 2004 – Sep 2005	Col Fred W. Gortler III
Sep 2005 – Dec 2007	Col Jim H. Keffer
Dec 2007 – May 2009	Col John D. Stauffer
May 2009 – Jun 2011	Col John D. Bansemer
Jun 2011 – Jul 2013	Col Mary F. O'Brien
Jul 2013 – Jul 2015	Col Kevin D. Dixon
Jul 2015 - Present	Col Thomas K. Hensley