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Electronic Security Command Alert Center (U)

Introduction (U)

(U) The decision to establish a new major air command with broad responsibilities in Electronic Warfare support and an active role in Command, Control, and Communications Countermeasures (C³CM) was announced by the Chief of Staff, Air Force, on 30 April 1979. On 1 August the Electronic Security Command (ESC) was activated and charged with implementing this decision.

(U) The establishment of ESC was in response to the recognized need within the Air Force for a consolidated/major-command-level organization which could provide products, services, equipment, and personnel to assist Air Force commanders to exploit or disrupt opposing electronic and C³ systems and to prevent opposing systems from exploiting or disrupting Air Force electronic or C³ systems.

(U) As planning progressed, it became clear that, to satisfy these goals, ESC would have to create a centralized, yet flexible, point of control — a center that would have its finger on the pulse of worldwide C³CM activities regardless of source. This organization would have to react to rapidly changing military and political situations throughout the world and supply guidance for all consumers on a 24-hour basis.

(U) Access to key intelligence activities became a must. Existing ESC resources in the field of collection, analysis, and reporting would have to be used along with similar input from other national and allied intelligence activities. Staffing would come from a cross section of ESC disciplines. Communications would have to be rapid, broad in scope, and secure.

(U) On 17 July 1979, with all of these requirements in mind, ESC formally inaugurated its Alert Center.

Mission (U)

(U) The Alert Center provides centralized, integrated direction for ESC operations and C³CM support to ESC subordinate organizations, to various

Air Force commands, and to national defense agencies. It monitors relevant intelligence sources, and analyzes and correlates significant facts, reports, and events against existing C³CM strategies, concepts, and plans. And it maintains current status data on critical worldwide activities involving Sigint, Radint, Photint, Comsec, and Electronic Warfare (EW) operations of friendly and hostile military forces.

(U) As a subscriber to the Air Force Worldwide Command and Control System, the Center provides a centralized control point and the communications necessary for directing command activities. Its ability to deal with crisis situations is enhanced through data bases, displays, graphics and communications available on a 24-hour, full-time basis.

(U) "Nerve Center" aptly describes the Alert Center's function. It employs each of the major disciplines within ESC and can handle all categories of classification. The capability exists to provide tasking, guidance, and replies to requests for C³CM data—as they occur—from both within and outside ESC.

Alert Center Teams (U)

(U) One of ESC's most outstanding resources is its people. This resource was tapped to form a cross section of those most highly qualified in the respective fields.

~~(S)~~ Personnel skilled in the basic disciplines needed for the formation of the Center were already available.

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they were brought together to staff this 24-hour operation. A small staff element directs five Alert Center teams made up of seven handpicked individuals.

~~(S)~~ Each team is headed by a captain, who acts as senior duty officer (SDO) and has a background in either (b) (1) operations. The other six members of the team are NCOs ranging in rank from sergeant to senior master

sergeant with expertise in such areas as [redacted]

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[redacted] equipment usage.

(U) During non-duty hours, the SDOs have an especially vital function; they are the commander's personal representatives and ESC spokesmen. Key staff members and functional offices depend on the SDO for up-to-the-minute information in all areas of command interest.

Sigint NCO (U)

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Electronic Warfare NCO (U)

(U) Responsibility for identifying and following up on ECM/ECCM events for the purpose of

applying the C³CM action lies in the hands of the Electronic Warfare NCOs, who must be aware of friendly and enemy EW capabilities and vulnerabilities. As an extension of the Electronic Warfare Center, these NCOs must keep that organization fully apprised of late-breaking EW activities anywhere in the world.

Comsec NCO (U)

(U) The Alert Center's Comsec NCOs represent the new defensive C³CM mission within ESC. They must monitor and report on ESC Comsec resources and results, and work as an extension of the Air Force Cryptologic Support Center and the Defensive Operations Directorate of ESC, as well as the Comsec Operations Center at NSA.

(U) Each of these four team members briefs the command staff twice daily on worldwide military and political activities, while conducting once-daily briefings on [redacted]

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[redacted] which is disseminated throughout the headquarters, to subordinate units, and to other intelligence organizations.

[redacted]
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Command/control area with operations area in background.

(Figure is ~~SECRET~~ CCO)

Emergency Actions/Command and Control NCOs (U)

(U) Emergency Actions and Command and Control NCOs perform the more familiar command post function. They are ESC's interface with the Air Force Operations Center and, as such, they operate communications equipment of the Command Post Alerting Network (COPAN), monitor OPREP reports, keep track of ESC key personnel, initiate alert/readiness actions, and process incoming messages.

Communications Support NCO (U)

(U) The Communications Support NCO processes all OPSCOMM traffic, including traffic between ESC headquarters and NSOC, and field units. This NCO also monitors the news circuits and operates a Harris COPE 1200 computer.

Timely Support (U)

(U) The Alert Center receives a copy of every message sent to, or transmitted from ESC headquarters. From this traffic and from data gathered from headquarters analysts and outside agencies, the teams build briefings and coordinate with the headquarters staff. Administrative reading files compiled by the teams are submitted to the Command Section and DCS/Operations several times each day.

(U) The key to the success of the Alert Center operations is the timely support of Air Force C³CM activity and monitoring of intelligence, Blue Force¹ activity, and subordinate unit operations. Teams take immediate action on many items and ensure that the responsible office is fully informed at the earliest possible moment. With only a limited analytical capability, the team must rely on day-shift analysts for in-depth research and background reports. To accomplish its mission, the Alert Center teams are served by a small, but growing, number of support systems.

Communications (U)

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¹(U) Blue and Red denote friendly and hostile forces respectively.

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(U) Two MOD-40 teleprinters, remoted from the communications center equipment, provide the Alert Center continuous, real-time message receipt of all incoming and outgoing traffic. Computer Resources specialists are working on the software which will provide the capability to transmit messages directly from the Alert Center via a third MOD-40 unit.

~~(S)~~ The heart of the Alert Center's command-and-control communications capability is the Western Electric 306 Console. It acts as the switching unit for the terminals of the Command Post Alerting Network (COPAN) and the Command Post Record Capability (COPREC), which tie the Alert Center directly to the Air Force Operations Center in the Pentagon and the Air Force Emergency Operations Center at Fort Ritchie, Maryland. The 99-button COPAN console provides a direct-dial access to worldwide AUTOVON, a conferencing capability, and the ability to relay and bridge local phone calls.

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(U) A DACOM secure facsimile system provides the capability for the transmission and receipt of all-source graphic, written, and printed materials from other DACOM-equipped organizations worldwide.

(U) To keep fully abreast of world events, the Alert Center subscribes to two news services — Reuters and the Associated Press. A Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) terminal will be installed soon.

Looking to the Future (U)

~~(S)~~ ADP support is limited at the present time, but will grow rapidly.

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This unit will soon be replaced with a [redacted] and will supply on-line access to various administrative files.

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~~(S)~~ The Alert Center has only very limited access to intelligence data bases. In early 1980, it began to use a [redacted] (b) (1)



OPSCOMM circuits provide secure communications with NSOC and ESC units throughout the world.

(Figure is ~~SECRET-CCO~~)

(b) (1)

computers, to provide real-time access to locally maintained files. These include the Command and Control Communications Network Analysis (C³NA) effort; the AFEWC Interactive Research System; the Meaconing², Intrusion, Jamming, and Interference (MIJI) data base; and the Camouflage, Concealment, and Deception (CC&D) effort. Red threat information derived from (b) (1) and Blue Air Force Communication data base will also be available. Additionally, in mid-1980, the Center will have access to the (b) (1)

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(U) In the longer term, plans include the acquisition of message-handling system using U1652 terminals and AN/GYQ-21(V) computers. This system will make the Alert Center a "paperless" environment and allow rapid distribution of message traffic via CRTs. Message retrieval will be done on the basis of a variety of indices: subject, date/time, originator, keyword, et cetera.

(U) The basic role of the Electronic Security Command is set. The next step is the acquisition

of equipment and expertise to satisfy ESC goals in the realm of C³CM warfare. The founding of the ESC Alert Center is a giant step toward that end.

(U) **General Larson, first Commander of the Electronic Security Command, has served in the United States Air Force since 1951. His first assignment took him to the Army Language School in Monterey, where he studied Russian. In 1953, after training as an aviation cadet, he earned his wings and a commission as a second lieutenant. His experience in the intelligence field goes back to October 1956 when he began his first tour of duty with the Air Force Security Agency in the Communications Intelligence Course at March Air Force Base, California. Since then General Larson has held a number of executive positions in that field including senior NSA military representative at the Pentagon; Director for Intelligence, Headquarters United States Pacific Command; and Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Headquarters Strategic Air Command. He assumed command of USAFSS on 19 January 1979 and of ESC on 1 August 1979. General Larson, who holds a bachelor's degree in English from Hardin-Simmons University and a master's degree in political science from Auburn University, is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Air War College.**

²(U) Sending of a false signal.