


SRH-251

HISTORY OF

COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY IN KOREA

SEPTEMBER 1950 to JULY 1953

DECLASSIFIED per Part 3, E. O. 12356  
by Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

 Date: 8 September 1983

REVIEWER'S NOTE:

The first review of this document was conducted by personnel of the U. S. Air Force.

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KEY PERSONNEL  
Concerned with Communications Security in Korea

Major Francis A Brant	Commander, 6971st CSF	Jul 50 to May 53
Major Jose Blondet	Commander, 6971st CSF	May 53 to date
Capt Shirley P Farmer	Crypto Inspector, 6971st	Mar 53 to date
Capt Cloyd T Pearce	Traffic Analysis Officer	Aug 51 to date
Capt Donald H Ratkie	Crypto Inspector, 6971st	Apr 53 to date
Capt Robert Reckner	Comdr, Det 6, 136th CSS	Jan 52 to date
Capt George Riddler	Comdr, Det 6, 136th CSS	Dec 48 to Dec 51
Capt Dean Vallery	Oprs Off, Det 6, 136th CSS	1950 1952
Capt Harry G Wells	OIC, SEC 1, Det 6, 136th CSS	1951
Capt Jack T Williams	Traffic Analysis Officer	Jul 52 to date
Capt Walter C Young	OIC, Crypto-scty, 6971st	Jun 52 to date
CWO John Marshall	Crypto Inspector, 6971st	May 51 to Jun 52
S/Sgt Donald Benton	Crypto Maint Tech, 6971st	1951 to 1952
T/Sgt Eugene Hayes	NCOIC, Sec 1, Det 6, 136th CSS	Feb 53 to Aug 53
M/Sgt Charles Johnson	NCOIC, Crypto-scty, 6971st	1951 to 1953
A/IC Anthony Lemons	NCOIC, Sec 1, Det 6, 136th CSS	Oct 51 to Dec 51
T/Sgt Paul Simpson	NCOIC, Sec 1, Det 6, 136th CSS	Mar 52 to Jan 53
S/Sgt Michael Weroniski	NCOIC, Sec 1, Det 6, 136th CSS	Dec 51 to Mar 52

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HISTORY OF  
COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY IN KOREA

September 1950 to July 1953

1. Communications Security effort in Korea was commenced by USAF Security Service during September 1950. At that time a mobile monitoring team from Detachment 6, 136th Communications Security Squadron, Nagoya Japan, was moved to Korea at the request of Headquarters, Fifth Air Force. This team, led by 1st Lt George Riddler and T/Sgt Heasley, was a completely self-supporting unit, providing its own mess and transportation, and consisted of  radio receiver positions capable of monitoring HF and VHF voice and continuous wave transmissions.

2. The monitoring team equipment, installed in three truck-mounted vans and a jeep and accompanied by three airmen, was moved by LST to Pusan, Korea, where the team assembled. The balance of the team personnel had been airlifted to K-9, an airfield on the perimeter of Pusan, by the Combat Cargo Command. The mobile team moved north along the battle line from Pusan to Taegu, and then to Seoul, monitoring tactical air communications. Approximately three weeks after the team commenced operations, Lt Riddler returned to Nagoya to resume his duties as Commander of Detachment 6, and 1st Lt Dean Valery, Detachment 6 Operations Officer, took charge of the team. During the middle of December 1950, advancing hostile forces caused the team to withdraw to Inchon Harbor and subsequently evacuate to Japan for relocation with Detachment 6. The pressure of the evacuation was such that much of the equipment of the team was left at Inchon and presumably captured.<sup>1</sup>

3. Cryptographic support of USAF units in Korea was commenced by

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USAF Security Service during the latter part of 1950. During the third quarter of 1950, Captain Francis A Brant and three airmen were transferred to Japan from Headquarters USAF Security Service and placed on temporary duty with Army Security Agency, Pacific, to assist in processing cryptographic materiel for USAF units. At that time all such functions for USAF Commands in the Far East were the responsibility of Army Security Agency. Captain Brant and his airmen formed an office locally known as the USAF Security Service Command Issuing Office, Far East, and rapidly absorbed USAF responsibilities from the Army.<sup>2</sup> On 20 December 1950, the Command Issuing Office was activated as the 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), by USAFSS General Order number 42, dated 19 December 1950. The new Flight was supported logistically and administratively by Headquarters Far East Air Forces and FEAF Base, and maintained its offices in the Sub-basement of the Meiji Building, Headquarters for the Far East Air Forces.<sup>3</sup>

4. The 6971st Communications Security Flight assumed responsibility for cryptographic support of all USAF Commands in the Far East including Korea, thus commencing a new phase of Communications Security operations during the Korean conflict. At the time the Flight took over its new responsibilities, a total of thirty cryptographic accounts were maintained, of which eight were in Korea, and certain of the functions were shared jointly with Army Security Agency Pacific. Cryptographic Inspections had been conducted by Army personnel, and the bulk of emergency cryptographic maintenance was also performed by the Army. At this time there was no official relationship between the Detachments of the 136th Communications Security Squadron and the 6971st Communications Security Flight.

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5. Emergency maintenance of cryptographic devices in Korea was initiated by this organization on 20 February 1951, when Staff Sergeant Donald Benton was placed on temporary duty with Headquarters Fifth Air Force for a twenty day period. Prior to that time all emergency maintenance had been performed by personnel from ASAPAC who were stationed in Korea or who had been sent from the Headquarters in Tokyo.<sup>4</sup>

6. An inspection party consisting of Chief Warrant Officer John Marshall and Master Sergeant Charles Johnson opened the first cycle of cryptocenter inspections in Korea when they inspected the account of the 6147th Tactical Control Group at K-6 on 23 May 1951. During the following ten day period twelve accounts were inspected, involving travel to seven different airbases ranging from Pusan to Seoul. After this trip it was determined that cryptocenter inspections made in Korea under the provisions of AFR 205-7 should be conducted semi-annually rather than yearly. This decision was based on conditions under which the centers operated and the rapid turnover of cryptographic operating personnel.<sup>5</sup>

7. The next significant phase of COMSEC operations began with the assignment of the Protective Analysis function to the 6971st Communications Security Flight. On 13 August 1951, Captain Cloyd T Pearce and three airmen were assigned for traffic analysis duties. This section was responsible for assigning monitor missions to Detachments of the 136th Communications Security Squadron in the Far East, and for applying communications intelligence techniques to monitored USAF communications to determine the extent to which valuable military information was being revealed. On 3 December 1951, the 6971st Communications Security Flight assumed

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operational control of the monitoring Detachments in the Far East.<sup>6</sup>

8. The primary effort of the Protective Analysis Branch was devoted to a study of communications in Korea, and while monitoring could be performed from Japan, it soon became apparent that a monitoring team should be permanently located in Korea. To that end, in October 1951 a mobile team was again moved from Detachment 6 to the vicinity of Seoul. Captain Harry G Wells, on TDY from Headquarters 136th Communications Security Squadron, was in charge of the team during the movement, installation, and original operation, following which he returned to the United States. The team established billets and operations in an abandoned faculty building of the Ewha University outside Seoul, and was attached for rations to the 440th Signal Construction Battalion. Communications Security operations in Korea now included a [REDACTED] HF and VHF monitoring unit devoted to tactical communications. While operational control of the unit was retained at the 6971st, constant contact was maintained with the Communications Security Officer at Headquarters Fifth Air Force for coordination of emergency missions. After departure of Captain Wells the new monitoring unit, which had been designated Section 1, Detachment 6, was under the supervision of Technical Sergeant Paul Simpson.<sup>7</sup>

9. The first Communications Security Analysis to be produced in the Far East (CSA No 9, 6971st CSF), was distributed to Headquarters Fifth Air Force during the second week of November, 1951. This report was subsequently upgraded to Top Secret, due primarily to a request from the Strategic Air Command, and later information indicated that one item pertaining to ground controlled radar bombing in Korea was also Top Secret at the time.

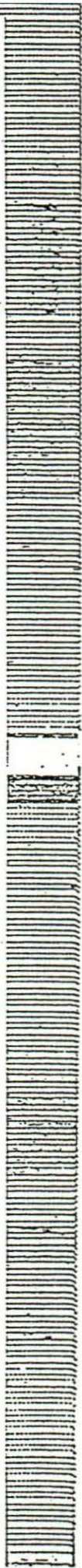
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11. During the first week of January 1953, a special mission was assigned to associate tactical Communications Security monitoring and Communications Intelligence intercept. A [REDACTED] VHF monitoring unit under the direction of Captain Robert D Reckner, then Commander of Detachment 6, was airlifted to Cho-do Island (38 30N/124 50E), a point 120 miles north west of Seoul and behind enemy lines. The mission of this unit was to monitor communications between Ground Controlled Intercept Centers and F-86 aircraft operating in the vicinity of the Yalu River. Traffic resulting from this mission was analyzed within the Protective Analysis Branch of the 6971st and collated with parallel intercept traffic [REDACTED]. A report outlining the results of this study was submitted to Headquarters Fifth Air Force, together with a personal briefing of the Deputies for Operations and Intelligence of that Headquarters, by Captain Pearce, Officer in Charge of the Analysis Branch.<sup>12</sup>

12. Section 1, Detachment 6, was relocated from Seoul to Osen Ni (K-55) on 6 April 1953. This move was made at the request of Headquarters Fifth Air Force and was based on an impending move of the Headquarters itself to that area. Section 1 was operational on 9 April and has remained at that location until the present date.<sup>13</sup>

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13. On 9 May 1953, a major personnel change occurred among Communications Security Personnel, when Major Jose Blondet assumed command of the 6971st Communications Security Flight, vice Major Francis A Brant. On that date Major Blondet assumed responsibility for the Communications Security mission of USAF Security Service in the Far East.<sup>14</sup>

14. On 25 July 1953, in anticipation of difficulties resulting from the Cease-fire agreement in Korea, Section 1 Detachment 6, was made a permanent operating location with a normal duty strength of 29 airmen and two officers. This provided for the planned strength of Flight B, 32nd Communications Security Squadron, and eliminated any problems which might have arisen from attempts to expand after the Cease-fire.<sup>15</sup>

15. During the period encompassed by this report Communications Security facilities and programs in Korea have undergone significant changes. The present full fledged program, involving continuous monitoring of radio communications; technical advice to command communications security activities; a cryptocenter survey schedule which performs forty-two surveys in Korea each year; cryptomateriel shipments to twenty-one administrative and operational accounts; and a comprehensive analysis program engaged in detecting and sealing leaks in USAF communications security, developed from the first exploratory activities in 1950. It may be said that the efforts of Communications Security Personnel, both of USAF Security Service and Far East Air Forces, contributed materially to the security of USAF operations during the Korean conflict.

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REFERENCES  
AND  
SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Personal interview with Capt Robert D Reckner, Commander, Flight A, 32nd Communications Security Squadron (Formerly Det 6, 136th CSS).
2. Personal interview with Major Francis A Brant, Commander, 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO).
3. This location is still occupied by the Cryptomateriel division of the 32nd Communications Security Squadron (Formerly the 6971st CSF (CIO).
4. Personal interview with Major Francis A Brant, Commander, 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO).
5. Personal interview with M/Sgt Charles R Johnson, NCOIC Crypto-Inspections, 6971st Communications Security Squadron (CIO).
6. Headquarters, USAF Security Service General Order Number 2, dated 15 January 1953.
7. Headquarters, 6920th Security Group, General Order Number 18, dated 25 July 1953.
8. Communications Security Analysis Number 9, published by 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), dated 5 November 1951 (SECRET) and upgraded to TOP SECRET 31 December 1951.
9. 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), Letter Report to Commander, Far East Air Forces, TAB 311.59, subject: Security of the F-86 Net, dated 16 May 1953 and classified CONFIDENTIAL.
10. 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), Letter Report to Commander, Far East Air Forces, TAB 311.55, subject: Special Communications Security Report Number 1, dated 8 April 1952 and classified CONFIDENTIAL.
11. Communications Security Analysis Number 22, published by 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), for the period 1 December 1952 thru 15 January 1953 and classified CONFIDENTIAL.
12. Communications Security Analysis Number 17, published by 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), for the period 1 June thru 30 June 1953, and classified CONFIDENTIAL.
13. Headquarters, 5th Air Force (Advance), moved from Seoul City to Osan Ni, (X-55) Korea on 25 January 1954.
14. 6971st Communications Security Flight (CIO), General Order Number 3, dated 7 May 1953.
15. Flight B, 32nd Communications Security Squadron was activated on 8 December 1953 by HQ, USAFSS General Order 87, dated 17 November 1953.

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