

**THE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
DETACHMENT 13, 11th BOMB
SCORING SQUADRON,
1st COMBAT EVALUATION
GROUP**

**AT
FORT STEVENS, OREGON.**

1952-1962

**PREPARED BY
THE FORT STEVENS MILITARY MUSEUM
THE FRIENDS OF OLD FORT STEVENS**

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The U. S. Air Force continued a presence at Ft. Stevens on top of Battery Mishler. With the departure of the 759th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron from Ft. Stevens in December 1951 another U. S. Air Force unit arrived in early 1952.

By mid 1952 the U. S. Air Force Strategic Air Command (SAC) Detachment 13, 11th Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron, 1st Combat Evaluation Group was operational.

The mission of Detachment 13 was to provide SAC bomber aircraft from throughout the United States an "aiming point" or "target" for simulated bombing runs during their training flights. A radar set, like the SCR-584, (photograph attached) would track these aircraft and confirm with the bombardier among other things his simulated bomb release and target impact accuracy.

The radio call sign for Detachment 13 at Ft. Stevens was "Astoria Bomb Plot". As time progressed the radar bomb scoring unit at Ft. Stevens used more modern bomb scoring radar's and support equipment such as the AN/MSQ-2, AN/GPQ-T1A, AN/TPQ-8 and AN/TLQ-11 Unfortunately we have not been able to locate any photographs of these newer radar sets or ancillary equipment. Types of SAC aircraft that used the "Astoria Bomb Plot" facility were those such as; B-36, B-47, B-58 and B-52. Detachment 13 conducted this bomb scoring function until early 1962 when the unit was moved to Idaho.

The organization of the Bomb Scoring Group in the early 1960's was as follows:
Major Command: Strategic Air Command.

Organization: 11th Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron, March AFB, CA., included the following functions: Command, Unit Supply, Unit Administration, Operations and Detachments.

Mission: Provide Radar Bomb Scoring facilities in support of bombing operations training as may be required.

Capabilities: a. Radar Bomb Scoring Squadron. b. Support of Detachments: #1-La Junta; #2-Scenic Badlands; #4-Sacramento; #9-Winslow; #10-Bismark; #12-Glasgow; #13-Astoria.

Detachment 13, Astoria, was authorized the following personnel function titles: Command, Administration, Unit Supply, Ground Radar Operations, Electronic-Countermeasures (ECM) Radio/Radar Operations and Motor Vehicle Maintenance. Personnel grade authorization was as follows: 1-Maj., 1-Capt., 2-Lt., 1-CMS., 4-MSG., 5-TSG., 18-SSG., 23-A1C., 2-A2C., for a total of 57. Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC) for the Detachment included the following: 1416, 3044B, 70230, 70250, 70270, 64630, 64650, 64670, 30353A, 30373A, 30390, 30452, 30472, 34521A, 43271A, 42153, 47151, 56750.

70230, 70250, 70270, 64630, 64650, 64670, 30353A, 30373A, 30390, 30452, 30472, 34521A, 43271A, 42153, 47151, 56750.

Mission equipment utilization for Detachment 13 during a one month period late in 1961 showed the following performance: Total hours scheduled 268; Hours used for RBS bombing 125; RBS bombing attacks 439; Hours used for ECM 111; ECM attacks 571; AN/MSQ-2 scheduled hours in commission 268; AN/MSQ-2 % of scheduled hours available 100; AN/GPQ-T1A Scheduled hours in commission 268; AN/GPQ-T1A % of scheduled hours available 100; AN/TPQ-8 and AN/TLQ-11 scheduled hours in commission 52; AN/TPQ-8 and AN/TLQ-11 % of scheduled hours in commission 100.

Mission operational statistics for Detachment 13 during a one month period late in 1961 showed the following Radar Bomb Scoring Activity: Short Look attacks scored 59; Short Look Large Charge attacks scored 132; Long Look attacks scored 21; Long Look Large Charge attacks scored 54; Total Low Level attacks scored 266; Low Level Ground Aborts 3; Low Level Air Aborts 1; B-58 Subsonic attacks scored 0; B-58 Supersonic attacks scored 0; B-58 Ground aborts 0; B-58 Air aborts 0; B-58 Ground aborts 0; B-58 Short Look scored 0; Nav Leg scored 13; High Altitude Large Charge attacks scored 100; Big Bark & Fire Bird attacks scored 0; All other high altitude attacks scored 51; High altitude air aborts 4; Total Attacks scored 430.

The following TWX is just one sample of the day to day activity and work required by the Radar Bomb Scoring personnel at Detachment 13:

RR RJEBKL
DE RJWBKN94

ZNR

R 082022Z

FM 15AF MARCH AFB CALIF

TO XRAY

ZULU

INFO RJWXBR/SAC

RJEBXL/1 CMBTEVALGP BARKSDALE AFB LA

RBWPKR/DET 13 11 RBSSQ ASTORIA ORE

ZEN/11 RBSSQ MARCH AFB CALIF

AFGRNC

BT

UNCLAS DOTFP 43913. FOR DCOTAP AT XRAY AND ZULU, DOTAD AT SAC, DO AT ICEG, DO AT 11RBS AND DET 13. LOCAL DEFENSE RUN TEST. THIS MSG IN THREE PARTS. PART I. EFFECTIVE 14 AUG 61, EACH ATION ADDRESSEE ACCOMPLISHING RBS/ECM ACTIVITY VIA THE BIG HEART ROUTE AT ASTORIA RBS WILL USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES FOR LOCAL DEFENSE RUN ACTIVITY ALFA. AFTER REACHING THE LDR VULNERABILITY POINT AND THE LOCK ON IS DETECTED, BOTH THE JAMMERS AND THE UHF TONE WILL BE ACTIVATED SIMULTANEOUSLY. BRAVO. THE RBS PERSONNEL WILL RECORD THE TIME LAPSE, IN SECONDS, BETWEEN THE FIRST INDICATION OF THE TONE AND THE FIRST INDICATION OF JAMMING. RECORDS WILL BE MAINTAINED SHOWING

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THE TIME LAPSE AND AZIMUTH FROM SITE. CHARLIE. THE TEST PERIOD WILL CONTINUE FOR THREE DAYS OR UNTIL A MINIMUM OF 20 RUNS

ARE RECORDED. IN NO CASE WILL THE TEST CONTINUE BEYOND 16 AUG 61.
PART II. REPRESENTATIVES FROM 15AF DOT WILL OBSERVE SOME PORTIONS
OF THE TEST. COORDINATION FOR THEIR CLEARANCE WILL BE MADE WITH
THE 11 RBS OPERATIONS OFFICER. PART III. ALL ACTIVITY PERFORMED
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIS TEST WILL BE RECORD ACTIVITY; I.E.E., LDR'S
WILL BE SENT TO 15AF (DOTFP) UPON COMPLETION OF THE TEST PERIOD.
15AF WILL PROVIDE HQ SAC AND 1VEG WITH A CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON
OVER-ALL RESULTS TOGETHER WITH SUITABLE RECOMMENDATIONS.
BT
08/2014Z AUG RJWBKN

This is the end of the historical report for this section.

Technical notes on the military "AN" system for communication-electronic equipment. Nomenclature consists of a name followed by a type number. The type number consists of indicator letters and an assigned number. The indicator "AN" does not mean that the Army, Navy and Air Force use the equipment, but simply that type number was assigned in the AN system. The first letter indicates the type of installation. The second letter indicates the type of equipment, while the third letter designates the purpose.

Examples of AN type numbers mentioned previously in this text:

AN/MSO-2.

- M= Ground, mobile (installed as an operating unit in a vehicle which has no function other than transporting the equipment).
- S= Special types, magnetic, etc., or combination of types.
- Q= Special, or combination of purposes.
- 2= Set production series number.

AN/GPO-T1A.

- G= Ground, general ground use.
- P= Radar.
- Q= Special, or combination of purpose.
- T= Training.
- 1= Set production series number
- A= Modification series of set.

AN/TPO-8.

- T= Ground, transportable.
- P= Radar.
- Q= Special, or combination of purpose.
- 8= Set production series number.

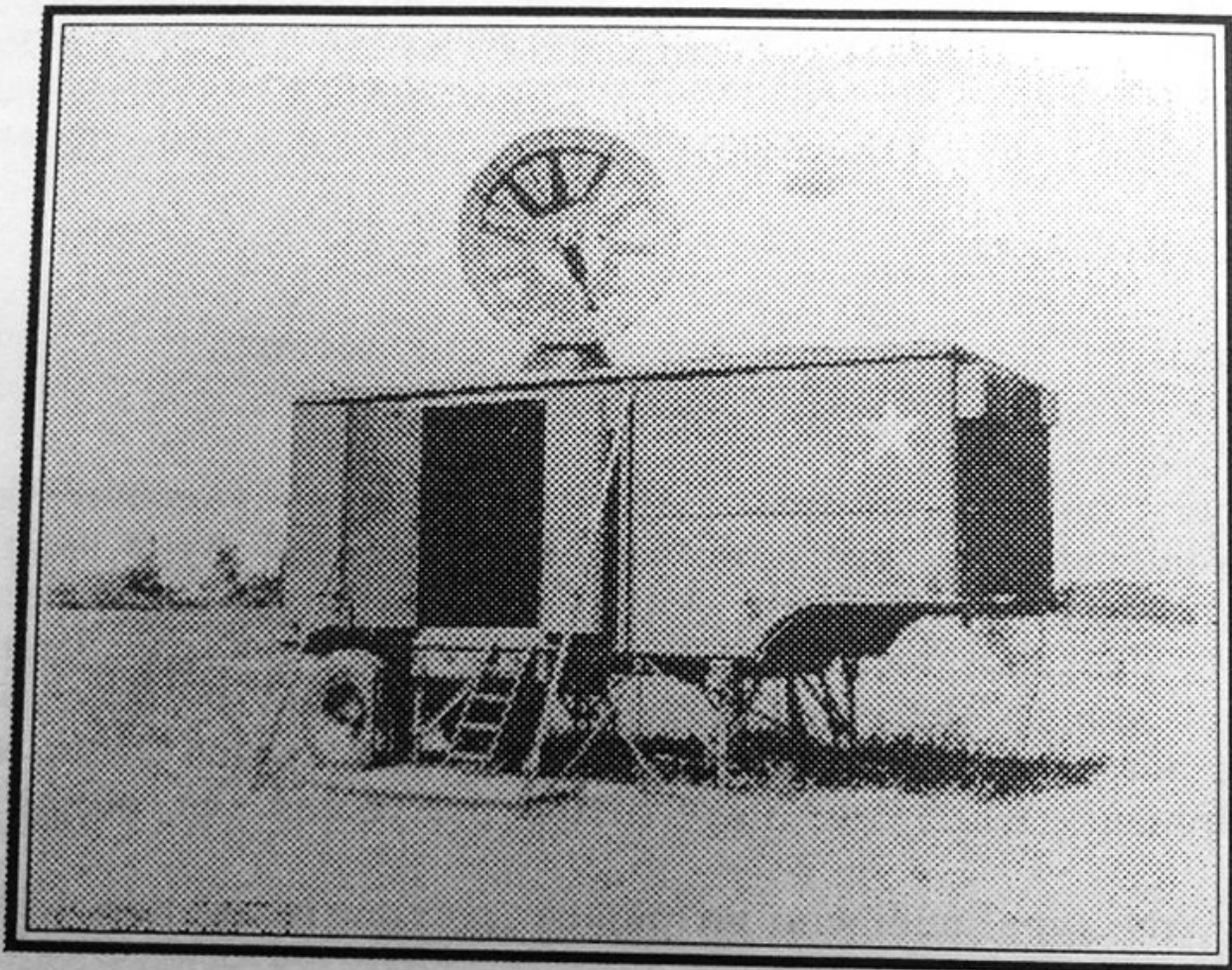
AN/TLO-11.

- T= Ground transportable.
- L= Countermeasures.
- Q= Special, or combination of purpose.
- 11= Set production series number.

Non "AN" equipment-US Army Signal Corps.

SCR-584.

- SCR= Signal Corps Radio.
- 584= Equipment/set number assigned.



SCR-584 Radar Set. This Equipment was used during World War II as a gun direction fire control radar. This set was modified in the late 1950's and was used as an early vintage bomb scoring radar. (*Photo courtesy Historical Electronics Museum Baltimore MD.*)