

279th US Army Security Agency Company Background and History

318th US Army Security Agency Battalion

On 15 Oct 1957, the 302nd United States Army Security Agency Battalion was inactivated in Herzogenaurach, West Germany. The Battalion's personnel and mission were transferred to the concurrently organized 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion, a Tables of Distribution and Allowances (TDA) unit. In addition to manning Herzogenaurach Base, the 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion also maintained several outstations at Schneeberg, West Germany (Detachment J-1), Mähring, West Germany (Detachment L-1), and Hoherbogen, West Germany (Detachment K). (Detachment K-1 at Coburg, West Germany needs to be added. The detachment was in Coburg from the 1951 to the early 1960s. It was still there in 1962.) In the latter years, the Battalion was designed to keep all of the tactical equipment and during hostilities, get personnel from the Field Station at Herzogenaurach as fillers. The battalion would exercise this aspect several times a year.

The 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion was discontinued on 3 May 1971 as a result of an effort to centralize Army Security Agency operations in West Germany at a new station at Augsburg, West Germany. When Field Station Herzogenaurach was discontinued on 30 June 1972, it also marked the end of Army Security Agency's presence at Herzogenaurach Base. Herzogenaurach Base was turned over to a US artillery unit and subsequently became known as Herzogenaurach Artillery Base.

In the early 1960's, a detachment of the 279th ASA Company, with HQs in Frankfurt am Main, was located at Schneeberg. That detachment was transferred to the 318th USASA Battalion and re-designated as Detachment J-1 of HQ/HQ and Svc Company, 318th ASA Battalion. The detachment operated a fixed field site using the AN/ALR-8 and the AN/TLR-1

Personnel and mission of Detachment L, 180th United States Army Security Agency Company at Nottau, West Germany near the Czechoslovakian/Austrian, were transferred to the 318th USASA Battalion in April or May of 1958. The unit became Detachment K-2; Company "A", 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion.

On 15 May 1960, the 182nd United States Army Security Agency Company was relieved from assignment to the 319th United States Army Security Agency Battalion and reassigned to the 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion.

- Detachment A, "A" Company⁽¹⁾, 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion in Göppingen, West Germany provided COMSEC support to the 4th United States Armored Division.
- Detachment B, "A" Company, 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion in Würzburg, West Germany provided COMSEC support to 3rd United States Army Infantry Division.

CORRECTION: ⁽¹⁾ An error concerning the 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion: Detachment A, located in Goeppingen, West Germany (in support of the 4th United States Armored Division) was a part of "A" Company, not "B" Company.

Source: Web site at http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#318th

183rd US Army Security Agency Company

On 15 October 1957, the 183rd United States Army Security Agency Company was formed. It held the Operators and T/A's from other units around Germany, including from the 339th United States Army Security Agency Company. Initially, the main operations (intercept) work at Herzogenaurach, West Germany was done by the 6th United States Army Security Agency Field Station. But, it appears that in March 1959, 6th United States Army Security Agency Field Station merged into the 183rd United States Army Security Agency Company, 318th United States Army Security Agency Battalion.

In 1960 there were two remote detachments operated by the 183rd United States Army Security Agency Operations Company located at Giebelstadt Air Base and Straubing, West Germany. They performed the Radio Direction Finding (RDF) missions. The Straubing detachment was later moved to Memmingen, West Germany. (Note: It appears that the Detachment at Giebelstadt Air Base might have been moved to Sinzig, West Germany in late 1963,

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but only for a short period. It then returned to Giebelstadt Air Base.)

The 183rd United States Army Security Agency Company was one of three United States Army Security Agency operations companies moved to Augsburg, West Germany to help set up the consolidated Field Station there in 1968.

Source: Web site at http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#318th

319th US Army Security Agency Battalion

During early 1958, a rest team was dispatched from Rothwesten Air Base to determine the feasibility of opening an operational site in the Eschwege, West Germany area. 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 2nd Operations Platoon of the 279th USASA Company, which was attached to Headquarters Company of this battalion, moved to the present location at Mount Meissner. On 24 March 1959, the 2nd Operations Platoon of the 279th was assigned to Headquarters Company and the site at Mount Meissner came under the control of Headquarters Company. This control was later assumed by Company C. (Webmaster Note: The 2nd Platoon of the 279th was an ELINT outfit [probably re-designated at some point as ELINT Platoon, C Co, 319th USASA Battalion (Corps)] - equipped with the ESGX-3, later designated as AN/MLQ-24, that traveled the 5K zone to perform "threat" radar intercept and analysis.)

Reassignments during the spring of 1960 saw the 279th USASA Detachment attached to the 319th Battalion on 7 April 1960. On 7 April 1961, the 279th USASA Detachment was detached from the battalion, but remained in Rothwesten Air Base until July when it moved to Offenbach Kaserne.

Source: Web site at http://www.usarmygermany.com/Units/ASA%20Europe/USAREUR_ASAE.htm#319th