

DRAFT

DRAFT
June 2008

OKINAWA ADCC

An (Unofficial) Chronology of USAF
Command and Control Centers for Air Defense Operations
On Okinawa
1945 - 1973

Preface

This document is not a “history” of United States Air Defense Radar Operations in the Ryukyu Islands, but a chronology of the Command and Control Centers for those operations from their initial presence on Okinawa, in 1945, until their transfer to the control of the Japanese Air Self Defense Force in 1973.

This paper is not intended for publication. It is intended to clarify and simplify the seemingly complex relationship between the various organizations that controlled Okinawa’s Air Defense Operations and those that provided the personnel and facilities in support of those operations. If it is of some interest to others having served in, or otherwise been associated with, the various organizations or their operations, so much the better. I will leave the formal documentation of the “history”, both official and academic, to qualified experts in those fields. Most of the information contained herein is extracted, and in some cases directly quoted from the 623rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron Association’s Unit History and Member Directory Pamphlet, dated 1 September 2000, and the internet web sites about the pertinent units. Other sources include personal records of some former unit personnel and the personal accounts of others.

Although I have some knowledge of and certainly appreciate the role of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy in the Air Defense of Okinawa and the Ryukyus Islands, I have omitted them from this chronology. They each had their own unique missions, order of events and organizations worthy of proper documentation.

Notations that will clarify changes in the chronology, such as unit activation/deactivation, physical relocation, etc. are included where appropriate. Being an informal information paper, it is subject to change and editing at any time . Any and all suggestions for corrections, additions and/or deletions will be greatly appreciated and will contribute to the value of this paper.

The title, “ADCC”, an acronym for “Air Defense Control Center”, is a most common designation of a facility that performed command and control operations for the Commander having responsibility for air defense operations within a specific area of responsibility. As will be noted in the Chronology, other terms and acronyms were used at various times and under various circumstances. It is to be remembered that this paper concerns those control facilities and the specific units that manned them.

The Chronology is organized to show, by date, the Operational/ Command Organization (the mission) in the left column and the Administrative/Support Organization (the bunk and mess) in the right. Comments and notes for those dates are grouped in the center under the organizations.

Please forward any input to:

David D. Law
8820 N. Standard St.
Spokane, WA 99218
e-mail adcc5661@yahoo.com

DecSan 2007

DRAFT

Okinawa ADCC Chronology

REFERENCE DATE	<i>CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONAL ORGANIZATION</i>	<i>CONTROL CENTER MANNING UNIT</i>
----------------	--	------------------------------------

15Feb45	<i>Det #1 305th Flight Control Squadron (FCS)</i> US Army Air Corp	<i>305th FCS</i> <i>Bellows Field, HI</i>
---------	---	--

19Mar45	<u>318th Fighter Group</u> ∨ <i>Det #1 305th FCS *</i>	318th Fighter Group ∥ (attached) <i>Det #1 305th FCS*</i>
---------	--	--

* Unit moved to a combat zone.



Det #1 305th FCS must have been part of the early occupation force, but not the invasion itself, as it earned the Ryukyus Campaign Streamer. The unit was probably aboard ship when unit records ceased in Jun 45. No unit records Jul to Sep 45.

by Aug 45	<u>Seventh AF</u> ∨ <u>318th Fighter Group</u> ∨ <i>Det #1 305th FCS</i> <i>“Okinawa Air Control” Ie Shima</i>	318th Fighter Group ∨ <i>Det #1 305th FCS</i> <i>Ie Shima, Okinawa</i>
-----------	---	---

Famed news journalist, Ernie Pyle, was killed on Ie Shima in 1945 while reporting on the battle there.

It is believed that Det #1 305th FCS may have initially used USMC radar equipment, which had been deployed with the invading forces. Det #1 continued operations there, while their parent unit moved to and set up operations on Okinawa.

Apr - Aug 45	The airfield on Ie Shima had 3 runways and dozens of aircraft pads. Among the fighter squadrons stationed there were the 19th, 73rd, 333rd, all from the 318th Fighter Group, the 417th, 437th, from the 414th Fighter Group, 21st from the 413th Fighter Group, the 464th from the 506th Fighter Group, and the 34th Fighter Squad-
--------------	--

ron, among others. They all flew the P-47 Thunderbolt. The 19th FS flew the P38 Lightning from a base on Okinawa during Nov - Dec 45. The 34th Fighter Squadron flew it's P47's from a base on Okinawa (probably Yontan/Yomitan) until the unit was inactivated in Aug 46.

The 421st and 547th Night Fighter Squadrons operated P-61 Black Widows from Ie Shima Aug - Oct 45.

The 419th NFS also had P-61's, but operated off of Okinawa (Yontan). That unit became the 4th Pursuit Squadron in Feb 1947.

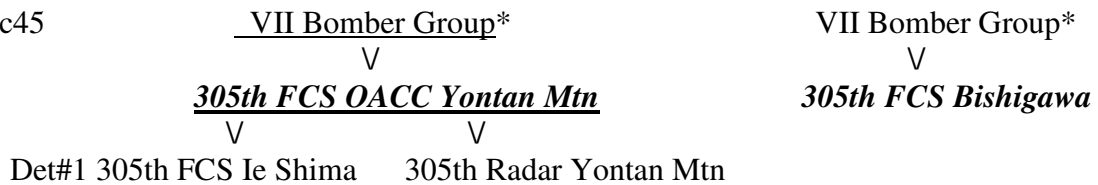
The terms Yontan and Yomitan are for the same location. Yontan is the older colloquial term.

Early Sep 45



*The 305th FCS parent organization arrived on Okinawa from Fort Shaftner, HI and began operation of the new Okinawa Air Control Center (OACC) on Yontan Mountain under the 318th Fighter Group. The unit had moved into Camp Makibaru, initially occupied by the USMC the day of the invasion and constructed by the Seabees. Located on the Bishi river, near Kadena Airfield, they renamed it Camp Bishigawa.

1Dec45



* 305th FCS reassigned from 318th Fighter Group to VII Bomber Group

2Jul46	<u>8th AF</u> √ <u>301st Fighter Wing</u> √ <u>623rd ACW OACC Yontan Mtn</u> √ √ 623 ACW Radar* Det #1 623 ACW* Yontan Mtn Point Tare	301st Fighter Wing √ 623rd AC&W Bishigawa
--------	---	--

*305th FCS re-designated **623rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron**

Oct 46	DF Station added at Aguni Shima, an island northwest of Okinawa.	NO CHANGE
--------	--	-----------

Feb 47 - 48	The 419th NFS at Yontan Air Base became the reactivated 4th Pursuit Squadron retaining the P61 Black Widow all weather interceptor.
-------------	---

Feb 47	Radar operator, Ray Walker, tells that Pt Tare (Moonshine Radar) and Yontan Mtn Radar (Walter Control) reported traffic to OACC (Okinawa Control). Yontan OACC and Yontan Radar were located in two separate Jamesway buildings on Yontan Mountain.
--------	---

May 47	The 25th FIS moved from Yontan to Naha Air Base and transitioned to the F-80 "Shooting Star".
--------	---

Jun 47	Aguni Shima DF Station Closed
--------	-------------------------------

18Sep47	The United States Air Force officially formed from the U.S. Army Air Corp
---------	---

Nov 47	<u>8th AF</u> √ <u>301st Fighter Wing</u> √ (3rd Operational Gp Prov)* <u>623rd ACW? OACC Yontan Mtn</u> √ √ 623 ACW Radar Det #1 623 ACW Yontan Mtn Pt. Tare	301st Fighter Wing √ (3rd Operational Gp)* (attached) 623rd AC&W Bishigawa
--------	--	---

* **3rd Operational Group (Provisional)**

623 AC&W attached to the 3rd Operational Group (Provisional) of the 301st Fighter Wing. It is unclear whether this was an operational (Command and Control) unit of the 301st, an administrative support unit, or both.

If operational, it could have operated the OACC or directed the 623rd's operation of the OACC for the 301st Wing Commander, with personnel provided by the 623rd AC&W in either case.

If administrative only, the 623rd AC&W would have continued to operate the OACC directly for the Wing Commander while being subordinate to the 3rd Opnl Grp (Prov) for administration.

If both, the 623rd AC&W would have provided personnel for operation of the 3rd Opnl Gp OACC and also been subordinate to the 3rd Opnl Group for administration.

Without records, the correct operational and administrative chain of command from Nov 47 through Aug 48 cannot be determined. It is also unknown when or under what circumstances the 623rd ACW was relieved from attachment to the 3rd Opnl Gp - Prov. Most likely, the 3rd Opnl Gp was a temporary precursor to the 529th ACW Gp, replaced by that unit when activated. There are many possibilities, however, it is safe to assume that the 3rd Opnl Gp ceased to exist when the 51st FW assumed command from the 301st FW in Aug 48.

Feb 48 - May 49

Jim Murray was a plotter, then radar operator, at Yontan Mtn Radar (Walter Control). He reported "blips" to the OACC (Okinawa Control). The OACC had M&I function and would scramble F80 "Shooting Stars" during daylight and P61 "Black Widows" during darkness on any "Unknowns".

15 Apr - May 48

The newly formed 529th AC&W Group, with the new 624th AC&W Sqdn joined the 301st Fighter Wing, both without personnel. The 623rd AC&W Sqdn began manning both. Q? Again, did 529th replace or evolve from the 3rd Operational Group (Prov)?

18 Aug 48	<u>8th AF</u>		51st Fighter Wing**
	∨		∨
	<u>51st Fighter Wing**</u>		529th AC&W Gp
	∨		Bishigawa
	<u>*623rd AC&W Okinawa Air Defense Center (OADC)</u>		∨
	∨	∨	623 AC&W
	623 ACW TCC***	Det #1 623 ACW	<i>Bishigawa</i>
	<u>Yontan Mtn</u>	<u>Pt Tare</u>	

* OACC changed to OADC designation by this date.
The 623rd ACW continued to man it.

** 529th AC&W Gp, with the 623 AC&W and
624 AC&W, assigned to the 51st Fighter Wing.
Absorbed by the 51st Fighter Wing, the 301st Fighter Wing
was inactivated.

*** 623 AC&W Yontan Mtn Radar now a Tactical Control Center (TCC).

3-4Oct48 Det #1 623 AC&W, Pt Tare, an EW site, was damaged by Typhoon Libby, it never re-opened. The same typhoon badly damaged the Control Center (OADC, TCC or both?) and Yontan Mtn became inoperative for the remainder of Oct 48. Camp Bishigawa was severely damaged by the same typhoon.

Oct 48 Planning was initiated for a new *Air Defense Control Center (ADCC)* at Kadena Air Base to replace the OADC. The 623rd AC&W Yontan TCC functioned as the ADCC during the transition. Work was initiated on a second TCC (Yaetake) and two more EW sites (Kume and Miyako) during this time.

1 Apr49	<u>13th AF *</u>		13th AF *
	∨		∨
	<u>623 AC&W TCC/ADCC</u>		529th AC&W Gp
	Yontan Mtn		Bishigawa
			∨
			623 AC&W
			<i>Bishigawa</i>

* 529 AC&W Gp was reassigned from the 51st FW to 13th AF

16 May 49	<u>20th AF, Kadena*</u> √ <u>623 AC&W TCC/ADCC</u>	20th AF* √ 529th AC&W Gp Bishigawa √ 623 AC&W Bishigawa
-----------	--	---

* 529th AC&W Gp was reassigned from 13th AF to 20th AF

1950	Again re-named, the 4th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Naha AB replaced the P-61's with the F-82 all weather Twin Mustang. They were joined at Naha AB by the 26th Fighter Interceptor Squadron with their F-80 Shooting Stars. In Sep 50 the 25th FIS took their F-80's from Naha to Japan.
------	---

1950	Construction of the EW sites on Miyako Jima, Kume Jima and Yaetake continued.
------	---

15 Mar 50	<u>20th AF</u> √ <u>623 AC&W TCC/ADCC</u> √ √ 624 AC&W EW* 624 AC&W EW* <u>Yae Take Mtn</u> <u>Miyako Jima</u>	20th AF √ 529th AC&W Gp Bishigawa √ 623 AC&W Bishigawa
-----------	---	--

* The Yaetake and Miyako Jima, EW (Early Warning) sites of the 624th AC&W became operational. reporting to the 623rd TCC/ADCC Yontan Mtn.

Jun50	<u>20th AF</u> √ 623 AC&W ADCC * <u>Stillwell Park, Kadena AB</u> √ √ √ 623 ACW TCC** 624 ACW EW 624 ACW EW <u>Yontan Mtn</u> <u>Yaetake Mtn</u> <u>Miyako Jima</u>	20 th AF √ 529 th AC&W Gp √ Kadena Air Base √ 623rd AC&W
-------	--	---

* The new **Okinawa ADCC at Stillwell Park, Kadena AB** opened. There is a small hill in the center of the Stillwell Park housing area where the bunkered ADCC was located, it's radio antenna stood on the hilltop. ADCC personnel of the 623rd AC&W moved to quarters on Kadena AB. Personnel were in all probability assigned to Kadena AB for Quarters and Rations only, as their Administrative units (623rd and 529th) were nearby.

** The 623rd TCC/ADCC Yontan reverted to TCC only. The TCC would later revert to a GCI site.

1951 The 4th FIS at Naha phased in the F-94 Starfire, an all weather interceptor developed from the F-80. They retained the F-82 Twin Mustangs until sometime in 1952. The 4th FIS supported the air defense of Okinawa throughout the Korean War.

Mar51-Feb51 James (Larry) Hamilton, assigned to the 624th AC&W, Yae Take Mtn, Mar 50-Feb 51, tells how the Military Police at Nago blockaded access to northern Okinawa for military personnel during that time. He said that they were told that the only personnel allowed through were those working on a "Secret Housing Area" at Motobu, which was actually the 624th EW Station.

For the sake of clarity and simplification, from this point forward in the Narration, there will be no attempt to chart the constantly changing lines of Operational control between EW, GCI, TCC, ADDC's and the **ADCC**. All stations will be shown reporting (subordinate) to the ADCC, regardless of whether or not they did in fact do so at that time. A reminder: This is not a history of any one unit, but an outline of the command and support structure of the U.S Air Force Okinawa Air Defense Control Centers.

By Apr51

20th AF

NO CHANGE

∨

623 AC&W ADCC *

Kadena

∨	∨	∨	∨	∨
623 GCI	624 EW	624 EW	624EW	624EW
<u>Yontan Mtn</u>	<u>Yae Take Mtn</u>	<u>Miyako Jima</u>	<u>Kume Shima</u>	<u>Okino Erabu</u>

*By this date all four 624th AC&W EW stations were operational. Whether or not all EW stations reported directly to the ADCC or through the 623rd GCI station is not clear and was flexible anyway.

21May51

20th AF

NO CHANGE

∨

529th AC&W Gp ADCC*

Kadena

∨	∨	∨	∨	∨
623 GCI	624 EW	624 EW	624 EW	624 EW
<u>Yontan Mtn</u>	<u>Yae Take Mtn</u>	<u>Miyako Jima</u>	<u>Kume Jima</u>	<u>Okino Erabu</u>

*529th AC&W Gp Operations Section assumed operational control of the ADCC for 20th AF. 623rd AC&W personnel continued to man the ADCC. The 623rd AC&W Sq would not regain operational control of the Okinawa ADCC for another 20 years.

25Aug51

NO CHANGE

20th AF

∨

Kadena ABG

∨

529th AC&W Gp
Bishigawa

∨

851st AC&W*
Kadena AB.

The **851st AC&W Sq** activated to operate the 529th AC&W Gp ADCC. ADCC personnel were reassigned from the 623rd AC&W to the 851st AC&W. The 851st was attached to the 623rd for Administrative support only.

Apr-Jul52	<u>20th AF</u>		(Probably personnel from both the 623 TCC and the 851st AC&W, Bishigawa)		
	V				
	529th ACW Gp Alt ADCC*				
	<u>Yontan Mtn</u>				
	V	V	V	V	V
Det# 1 623	Det#2 623	Det#1 624	Det #2 624	Det #3 624	
GCI Yontan	EW Yae Take	EW Miyako	EW Kume	EW Okino	

* The Yontan GCI site served as the ADCC while the primary ADCC, 529th and 851st were in the process of moving from Kadena AB and Camp Bishigawa to Naha AB.

1Jul52	NO CHANGE	6351st Air Base* Wing, Naha AB
		V
	* 529th AC&W Gp and 851st AC&W Sq in transition during movement from Bishigawa and Kadena to Naha AB. They both came under control of the 6351st Air Base Wing, Naha. This was for administrative and logistic support on Naha and did not affect the operational control of the 20th AF air defense of Okinawa.	529th AC&W Gp*
		V
		851st AC&W Sq* Naha Air Base

1Aug52	<u>20th AF</u>		6351st AB Wing		
	V		V		
	<u>51st Fighter-Interceptor Wing**</u>				
	V				
	<u>529th AC&W Gp ADCC Naha**</u>				
	V	V	V	V	V
Det #1 623	Det #2 623	Det #1 624	Det #2 624	Det #3 624	851st AC&W*
GCI Yontan	EW Yae Take	EW Miyako	EW Kume	EW Okino	Naha AB

* Hq 529th AC&W Gp and the 851st AC&W Sq completed the relocation from Bishigawa and Kadena to Naha AB.

**The 51st FIW, located on Naha AB, assumed operational control of the new 529th AC&W Gp ADCC at Naha AB.

* Det #1, 20th AF, a Provisional Organization, assumed operational control of the 529th AC&W Gp from the 51st FIW. This was in preparation for a major reorganization of the Air Force on Okinawa that included a new Air Division on Okinawa that would replace the 20th Air Force, which was scheduled to be inactivated.

1Mar55	<u>313th Air Division*,Kadena</u>					6351st AB Wing
	V					Naha AB
	<u>313th ADiv Operations Division**</u>					V
	V					Detachment #1***
	<u>313th ADiv ADCC, Naha</u>					313th ADiv
	V	V	V	V	V	Naha AB
Det #1 623	Det #2 623	Det #1 624	Det #2 624	Det #3 624		
GCI Yontan	EW Yaetake	EW Miyako	EW Kume	EW Okino		

* 313th ADiv assumed command from 20th AF.

** The Operations Division of 313th ADiv assumed operational control of the air defense of the Ryukyus Islands, and operations of the ADCC from Det #1 20th AF, which was inactivated.

** The 529th AC& W Gp, relieved of operational control of air defenses, was inactivated on 15 Mar 1955.

*** Personnel operating the ADCC were assigned to the newly formed Det #1, Hq 313th ADiv and the 851st AC&W Sq was inactivated. This assignment remained the same for over 5 years. Detachment #1 personnel lived in Barracks 1201 and their Orderly Room was in the north half of Building 1200.

The 623rd AC&W Sq, still at Bishigawa, was reassigned to the 313th Air Division at this time.

Date ? 55

At some point 1955 the Naha AB ADCC relocated from the Quonset and cinder block building to a new building, **Building 602**, often referred to as the “blockhouse”. A windowless 3 story behemoth, surrounded by a security fence and located at the base of the bluff upon which sat the new Base Headquarters, Building 602 housed the USAF ADCC until 1973. It was just southeast of the

31Jul56	<u>313th ADiv</u>				NO CHANGE
	V				
	<u>313th ADiv Operations Div</u>				
	V				
	<u><i>313th ADiv ADCC</i></u>				
V	V	V	V	V	
623 ACW ADDC South Yoza Dake	624 ACW* ADDC North* Yae Take	Det#1 623ACW EW Miyako **	Det #2 623 ACW EW Kume***	Det #1 624 ACW EW Okino ****	

* The 623rd Det #2 at Yae Take was discontinued. The Yae Take GCI Station transferred to the 624th AC&W Sq. It became a second ADDC, directing Northern Sector operations of the 313th Air Division's Air Defense Identification Zone. (ADIZ)

The 623rd AC&W ADDC at Yoza Dake now directed only the Southern Sector operations of the 313th Air Division's Air Defense Identification Zone.

** The 623rd Det #1 at Yontan was discontinued. The 624th AC&W Sq Det #1, Miyako EW Station, became the new Det #1 of the 623rd AC&W Sq.

*** The 624th AC&W Sq Det #2, Kume EW Station, became the new Det # 2 of the 623rd AC&W Sq.

**** The 624th AC&W Sq Det #3, Okino EW Station, became Det #1 of the 624th AC&W Sq.

13Aug56 The 623rd AC&W headquarters officially relocated to Yozadake Air Station.

mid-56 The 623rd, now located at Yozadake, and the 624th had a Transient barracks, mail, and supply operations from Naha AB with billets located in Bldg 1202, and an office in the south side of Building 1200.

Jul 57 The 16th Fighter Interceptor Squadron F86D's joined the 51st FIW at Naha AB. F86F's of the 18th TFW on Kadena AB were available for day intercepts.

1957 During a major Exercise conducted in 1957, airmen from the ADCC (Det #1 Hq 313th Adiv) were tasked to pull flight line guard duty on the F86F's at Kadena AB, requiring them to travel from Naha AB to Kadena AB for duty.

9-19 Dec57 313th Air Division NO CHANGE

∨
Operations Division 313th ADiv

∨
313th ADiv ADCC

∨	∨	∨	∨	∨
623 ACW* ADDC Yoza Dake	624 ACW* Alt ADDC Yae Take	Det #1 623 EW Miyako	Det #2 623 EW Kume	Det #1 624 ACW EW Okino

* The separate Northern and Southern Sectors of Air Defense operations were eliminated. This made the 623rd GCI site at Yozadake the ADDC responsible for the entire Okinawa Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) and reduced the 624th AC&W site on Yaetake to Alternate ADDC.

16Jan58 313th Air Division NO CHANGE

∨
313th ADiv Operations Division

∨
313th ADiv ADCC

∨	∨	∨	∨	∨
623 ACW ADDC Yozadake	623 ACW* Alt ADDC Yaetake	Det #1 623 EW Miyako	Det #2 623 EW Kume	623 ACW* EW Okino

* The 624th AC&W Sq Alt ADDC at Yaetake and EW Station on Okino Erabu came under the operational control of the 623rd AC&W Sq, but continued to be manned by the 624th AC&W and it's Det #1, respectively.

6Mar58 The 623rd AC&W Sq Headquarters completed relocation from Yozadake Air Station to Naha Air Base, and shared offices with the Base Personnel and Finance in Building 603.

** 623 AC&W Det #5 at Yaetake was virtually discontinued. Its radar dismantled, the Station became a communications relay site until August 1960 when it was transferred to the US Army. The USAF maintained a Communications site at the station while the station became a Communications site (Site 18) of the 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade.

** 623 Det #2 at Kume became the Alternate ADDC.

1959 The 16th FIS and the 25th FIS began transition from the F86D to the F102 .

Nov59 -
Jun 60 ?

NO CHANGE

6351st Air Base
Wing, Naha AB

∨

Hq 623rd ACW*

Naha AB

* At some point, known to be between Nov 59 and Jun 60, Detachment #1 313th Air Division was discontinued as an organization and the ADCC operating personnel were assigned to Headquarters 623rd AC&W Sq. The time period is known from former unit personnel's old dated documents. The date is believed to be 30 Jun or 1 July 1960. The assignment did not involve any physical relocation. The enlisted billets remained the same (1201) and their operational organization (duty assignments, manning, hours, etc.) remained the same. Indeed, except for a change in their mailing address and a new unit name tag on their fatigue uniform, most enlisted personnel noticed little difference.

Hq 623rd AC&W moved into the Det # 1 313th Adiv Orderly Room in Building 1200, while maintaining their Transient Billets in 1202 and its operation in the other half of 1200.

Jun 60 The 25th FIS F102's and the last of the F86D's left Naha AB for Clark AB, Phillipines, leaving only the 16th FIS with its F102's.

1964 The Army's 30th Air Defense Artillery Brigade on Okinawa had grown extensively during the period 1960-1962 and had 16 missile firing units (8 Hawk and 8 Nike Hercules) scattered about. Their Army Air Defense Command Post (AADCP) was initially located in the "Mole Hole", a bunker behind their Headquarters on Camp Sukiran, and they had maintained a liaison element to

coordinate operations at the ADCC for many years. It was decided that the AADCP should operate jointly with the USAF in the ADCC and a Master Radar Tracking System (MRTS) was installed there, with scopes and positions inside the ADCC.

Dec64 -
Feb66

The 16th FIS left Okinawa and the 51st FIW. The 555th TFS with F4's was assigned to the 51st FIW at Naha AB from Dec 64 until Mar 65. The 558th TFS, with F4's, was assigned from Mar 65 until Jun 65, followed by the 559th TFS from Jun 65 until Nov 65. The 555th TFS returned to Naha and the 51 FIW during Nov 65 and remained until Feb 66.

Feb66

The 82d FIS joined the 51st FIW at Naha AB with their F-102's. They remained until May of 1971.

22Aug67

According to the 623rd AC&W Association's brief unit history, published in the member's handbook, the 51st FIW Deputy Commander for Operations (DCO) assumed direct operational control over the four Detachments (Radar Stations) of the 623rd AC&W Sq on this date. It also states that this action left the 623rd AC&W Squadron Commander with only "administrative command and support responsibilities". (sic)

Feb68

The F106's of the 318th FIS were briefly attached to the 51st FIW at Naha AB.

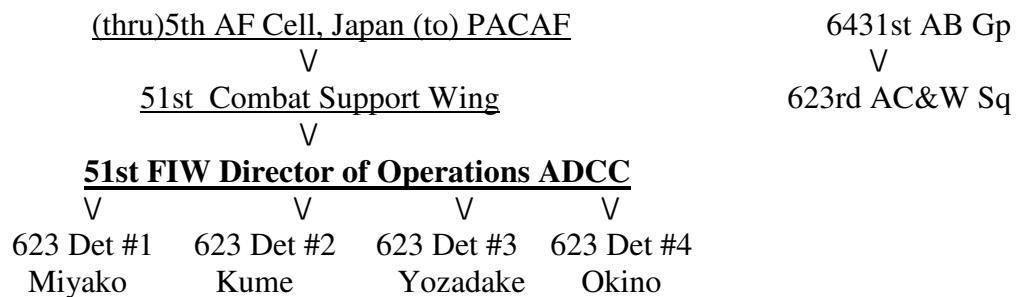
?68-Mar70

WHEN?

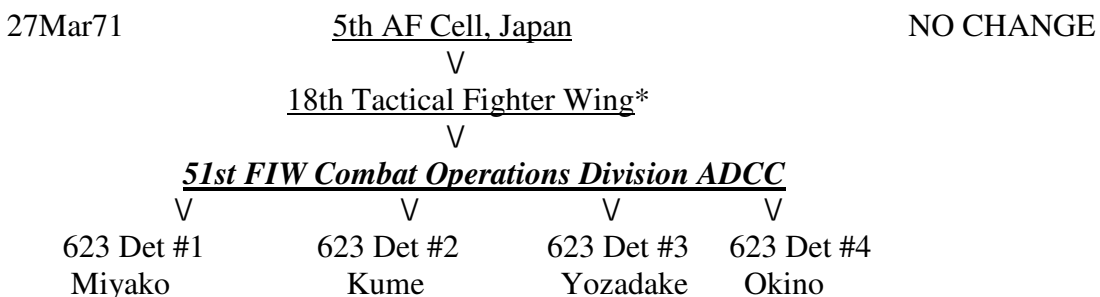
At some unknown point in time, known to be before Mar 70, the 623rd AC&W ADCC enlisted personnel were moved out of "their" barracks, 1201, and into 1203. 1203, located near the back gate, was further from the ADCC where they worked and the Dining Hall where they ate. They occupied the 1st floor of the north wing of the barracks. The unit had previously required all 8 bays in the 4 wings of a barracks to accommodate all personnel, so there must have been a significant reduction in the ADCC function and personnel required to operate it by the time of the move. The 51st Security Police, who had occupied the billets since at least 1955, still lived there. It was not a happy union!

The ADCC personnel moved out of 1203 into the South Wing of 1202 during the spring/summer of 71. Need data on this.

11Jun70 – 12 May71 Major Nathan L. Walker commanded the 623rd AC&W Sq at Naha. During a visit with him in 2000, he stated that his Hq Office was located upstairs in Bldg 602, which housed the ADCC. His duties did not involve ADCC or the four 623rd Detachment's air defense operations. He was responsible for the administration, training and logistics of the entire 623rd AC&W Sq, which included the three off-island Detachments, and the units on Okinawa itself. Hq 623rd itself functioned in the southernmost building located on the hill with the 51 FIW Hq building. The Hq personnel Orderly Room was located in one of the Quonsets located just northwest of and across 7th St. from the ADCC. He did not know where the ADCC personnel billets were located. He stated that air defense from May 70 - Jun 71 was organized as follows:



Mar70-Oct71 Joe McCall, in recounting the changes at Naha AB during this period, noted that he saw Naha AB go from more than 8000 personnel to less than 500. ADCC enlisted lived in one wing of one floor in barracks 1203, the Security Police barracks. They managed to move into one wing of 1202, after painting and cleaning it themselves. The Airmans Club closed and the NCO Club became an "All Ranks" club. Dining Hall #1 closed and they were eating combat rations in Dining Hall #2. The 623rd AC&WSq and the 51st Comm Sq were the last active units on Naha AB.



Apr 73 Gary Mayer (Yozadake 72-73) and Don Morris (Yozadake 69-72) were among the last contingent of radar folks out the door after turning the site(s) over to the JASDF in Apr 73. It was a clear case of “Turn out the lights - the party’s over”.

Jim Setters, one of the last in the Naha ADCC, said the duty at the end consisted of a couple of USAF types sitting in the very top glassed in level of operations (the old Command Suite) with a safe as their only equipment while the JASDF conducted all Air Defense Operations.

15May73 Detachment #2, 623 AC&W Sq on Kume Shima was discontinued.

31Jun73 The *623rd AC&W ADCC* at Naha AB was transferred to the JASDF. The *623rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron* was inactivated on 8 July 1973.

The major USAF Command on Okinawa remained the 313th Air Division until 30 Sep 91, at which time the Air Division was deactivated.
The 18th TFW became the 18th Wing replacing the 313th Air Division on 1 Oct 91.

Sometime between 1973 and 2000 the JASDF built a modern underground Control Center on Naha AB, instead of an ADCC it is called a Direction Center (DC). Maintaining manual operations as a back-up, they placed the old two story ADCC plotting board within the modern DC. It was still there in 2004.

And that was: **THE END**

SUMMARY of Okinawa Air Defense Centers

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Operations Controlled By:</u>	<u>Manned By:</u>
Aug 45 - Sep 45	Det #1 305th FCS Ie Shima Okinawa Control	Det #1 305th FCS Ie Shima

Sep 45 - Jul 46	305th FCS Yontan Mtn OACC	305th FCS Bishigawa
Jul 46 - Aug 48	623rd AC&W Yontan Mtn OACC	623rd AC&W Bishigawa
Aug 48 - 1 Apr 49	623rd AC&W Yontan Mtn OADC	623rd AC&W Bishigawa
1 Apr 49 - Jun 50	623rd AC&W TCC/ADCC Yontan Mtn	623rd AC&W Bishigawa
Jun 50 - May 51	623rd AC&W ADCC Stillwell Park, Kadena AB	633rd AC&W Bishigawa
May 51 - Aug 51	529th AC&W Gp ADCC Stillwell Park, Kadena AB	623rd AC&W Bishigawa
Aug 51 - Apr 52	529th AC&W Gp ADCC Stillwell Park, Kadena AB	851st AC&W Bishigawa
Apr 52 - Aug 52	529th AC&W Gp Alt ADCC Yontan Mtn	851st & 623rd AC&W Bishigawa
Aug 52 - Mar 55	529th AC&W Gp ADCC Bldg #?, Naha AB	851st AC&W Naha AB
Mar 55 - 27Mar58	313 ADiv ADCC Bldg 602, Naha AB	Det #1 313th ADiv Naha AB
27 Mar 58 - 1 Jul 60?	51st FIW ADCC Bldg 602, Naha AB	Det #1 313th ADiv Naha AB
1 Jul 60? 27 May 71	51st FIW ADCC Bldg 602, Naha AB	623rd AC&W Naha AB
27 May 71 31 Jun 73	623rd AC&W ADCC Bldg 602, Naha AB	623rd AC&W Naha AB

deesan -2004

