



By Authority of CG
AAF Center

Date 17 May 45 Initials [Signature]

HISTORICAL DATA

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903D AAF BASE UNIT (PAAF)
PINECASTLE ARMY AIR FIELD
PINECASTLE, FLORIDA

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AAF CENTER
Orlando, Florida

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1 June 1945 to 30 June 1945

P.R.C.

00176576

Roy C. Brown
ROY C. BROWN
Capt, AC
Historical Officer

by: *[Signature]*

SOURCE: *USA7HRA*

RG: *Unit History*

SERIES:

BOX: *287.56-13* *287.57-1*

FOLDER: *Jan 45* *Apr 42 - Mar 45*

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DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9-27 Sep 58


CHAPTER I

GENERAL

About the middle of the month of June 1945, a General Order was received which changed the name of the 903d AAF Base Unit (PAAF) to the 621st AAF Base Unit (PAAF)¹ and also the assignment of the base unit from the AAF Center to the Eglin Field Proving Ground, Florida. At the same time it was learned that a consolidation of Pinecastle Army Air Field and Kissimmee Army Air Field was to be accomplished with personnel of Kissimmee being assigned to this field. It is expected that this transfer will be accomplished about the 15th of July. Several days later it was learned that Squadron I, 903d AAF Base Unit was to be inactivated² and personnel of that squadron absorbed by the remaining squadrons on the field and by the squadrons coming in from Kissimmee. The reorganization of this base unit will become effective on the 1st of July.

Of all the reorganizations that have taken place within this unit in the past year this one will be the most far reaching of all.

As far as can be determined the only services of the AAF Center that will be utilized by this field will be hospitalization, finance and the use of the Signal Hill Stockade. It is anticipated that even these functions will only be of a temporary nature as the above mentioned facilities will be provided at this field in a short time.

Preparations for the transfer of the Kissimmee personnel are extensive.

1. Section IV, General Orders 3, Hq, AFCTR, Orlando, Fla, dated 12 June 1945. Appendix A-1.

2. VOCO, Hq, 903d AAF Base Unit (PAAF), AFCTR, Orlando, Fla.

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The area now occupied by Squadron G is to be vacated and this space will be occupied by the Kissimmee squadrons. Squadron G is moving to the far end of the field and will jointly occupy the area now being used by Squadron H for living space. They will occupy the operations building and area vacated by Squadron I.

Squadron I is to be officially inactivated as of 1 July 1945. Several days before the end of the month several sections of the squadron began the work of disbanding their sections. All projects work that could possibly be finished before the end of the month was pushed to completion. Under the new reorganization Pinecastle Army Air Field will be concerned mainly with a demonstration air force and projects work while most of the Radar projects will be sent to Eglin Field. Radar projects being the primary mission of Squadron I their services are no longer needed at this field.

Squadron I ends a long and varied career, during which it has experienced many reorganizations and changes in location. It has been assigned a multitude of missions. The squadron has flown everything from fighters to heavy bombers for purposes ranging from training to demonstrations and radar test flights. It can be said without exaggeration that the squadron has performed each of its missions with great credit.

In looking back over the more recent contributions of Squadron I in the field of radar-electronics several projects are highlighted. Probably one of the most important of these is the AN/APQ-46 "NCSMO", the electric hook-up between the Norden bombsight and the H2X equipment which allows the operator to synchronize for rate on the PPI scope.

The tactical evaluation of "NCSMO" was completed by the squadron

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