overseasautodin

Overseas AUTODIN

A Data Communication Historical Series

Overseas AUTODIN Activity:

Data Source: Historical documents & AUTODINERS (Jim Keenan & Ron Railing)

Note: Stateside (CONUS) sites were leased systems, from Western Union, and the overseas sites were Government owned. Hawaii was considered a Stateside site.

The overseas manual / automatic data relay (switching) centers were converted to ASCs (Automatic switching centers) by the end of 1968. The centers located overseas used Philco-Ford equipment, which is compatible with the CONUS leased system.

The first Overseas ASC (then called ADMSC) to go operational was at Clark AFB in the Philippines in July of 1967. The first European ASC became operational at Pirmasens, Germany in February 1968. Other sites were installed as rapidly as possible. The other Pacific sites were at Wildwood, on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska; Camp Drake, Japan; Ft. Buckner, Okinawa; Finegayan, Guam; Nha Trang and Phu Lam, both in South Vietnam; and Korat AFB in Thailand. Subsequently, the Wildwood site was moved to Taegu, Korea, with the Army taking over from the Air Force. Still later, the Camp Drake site was moved to Yokota AFB.

The other European sites were Croughton, North-Hamptonshire, England, and Coltano, near Pisa, in Italy. After DSSCS integration, the National Security Agency operated a fourth European site at Gablingen, near Augsburg, Germany, but that site was later closed.

The original and expanded AUTODIN system located at various stateside and overseas locations were under the management and operational control of DCA. It provided the DoD with a worldwide, highly efficient, computer-controlled system to meet the ever-increasing demand for faster, more accurate communications. In 1972 the Defense Special Security Communications System (DSSCS) was integrated into the AUTODIN system. The DSSCS provides communications support for the intelligence community of the DoD.

Government Owned ASC (Automatic Switching Center) Locations:

RUDO Croughton England US Air Force

RUFT Pirmasens Germany US Army

RUFL Coltano Italy US Army

RUAD Yokota Japan US Air Force

RUAK Taegu Korea US Army

RUHJ Finegayan Guam US Navy

RUAO Ft Buckner, Okinawa

RUHJ Finegayan, Guam

RUKK Wildwood, Alaska

RUAD Camp Drake, Japan

RUMM Clark AFB, Philippines

RUFF Gablingen, Germany

RUMO Korat AFB, Thailand

RUMU Phu Lam, Vietnam

Nha Trang, Vietnam

Activated--------Location--------RI Code Letter-------Deactivated

Oct 67------Clark AFB, RP-----------RUMM----C------------Sep 79

Dec 67-----Croughton, England---RUDO-----E------------Sep 98

Dec 67-----Pirmasens, Germany--RUFT------P

May 68-----Phu Lam, RVN-----------RUMU-----S-----------June 72

May 68-----Camp Drake, Japan----RUAD(1)--J----------- May 85

June 68----Nha Trang, RVN-----------------------------------July 72

June 68----Korat, Thailand----------RUMO-----K-----------June 75

July 68-----Wildwood, Alaska-------RUKK (2)-U----------Dec 71

Apr 68-----Ft. Buckner, Okinawa--RUAO-------X----------Jan 78

Apr 68-----Guam, Marianas Is.-----RUHJ--------F----------Sep 93

Feb 69-----Coltano, Italy--------------RUFL-------Q----------Dec 92

Jan 72-----Taegu, Korea--------------RUAK(2)---R---------June 96

Apr 73-----Gablingen, Germany----RUFF(3)----Y---------June 75

May 85----Yokota AFB, Japan------RUAD (1)---J----------Dec 98

1. The ASC at Camp Drake was moved to Yokota AFB in May 1985 due to the closure of Camp Drake. The ASC retained its RUAD routing indicator and code letter.
2. The ASC at Wildwood, Alaska, was moved to Taegu, Korea in Dec. 1971-Jan. 1972. Its RI was changed due to relocation to another geographical area.
3. The ASC at Gablingen, near Augsburg, was the only ASC operated by the National Security Agency (NSA). Its installation was part of the DSSCS integration program, but it proved redundant, as the other European ASC’s were able to easily handle the message traffic increase.

As of November 2000, the only ASC’s operational are Wahiawa, Ft. Detrick, and Pirmasens. These are technically no longer ASC’s as they have been re-designated as Defense Message System (DMS) Transition Hubs, or DTH’s and serve to interface the remaining AUTODIN terminals to the DMS.

Below is a map of the AUTODIN Switching Centers (Automatic Switching Centers; ASC), during the period of individual center phase-outs.

