



**The Nautilus Institute** *for Security and Sustainability*

## **The militarisation of Pine Gap: Organisations and Personnel**

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## Summary

Many Australians associate Pine Gap with the Central Intelligence Agency, and it probably remains the CIA's most important technical intelligence collection station in the world. Yet Pine Gap is much more thoroughly militarised than in the past, with units of all four branches of the US armed forces now present, with close involvement in operations of the US military worldwide, including in Iraq and Afghanistan. The US military personnel now comprise about 66 per cent of the US Government employees (not counting contractor personnel) at Pine Gap. US military Service elements form a Combined Support Group (CSG). Through the 1990s, the growing Service presence supported Pine Gap's primary (and during that period its sole) role, that of controlling and processing and analysing SIGINT collected by the NRO/CIA geosynchronous SIGINT satellites. Since then, the larger proportion of the CSG personnel have evidently been engaged in FORNSAT/COMSAT (Foreign Satellite/Communications Satellite) collection. Officially, they are engaged in Information Operations, Cyber Warfare and the achievement of Information Dominance. In practice, this involves monitoring Internet activities being transmitted via communications satellites, scouring e-mails, Web-sites and Chat Rooms for intelligence to support military operations, and particularly those involving Special Operations Forces, in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are undoubtedly key participants in NSA's X-Keyscore program at Pine Gap.

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**Cover image:** 'Welcome to NIOD Alice Springs', NIOD ALICE SPRINGS NT AS, US Navy, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niodas/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Glossary

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ADF	Australian Defence Force
AFB	Air Force Base
AFDET	Air Force Detachment
AFISRA	Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency
ARDET	Army Detachment
AS	Alice Springs
CENTCOM	Central Command
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CID	Center for Information Dominance
COMINT	Communications Intelligence
COMSAT	communications satellite
COMSEC	Communications Security
CPO	Chief Petty Officer
CSG	Combined Support Group
CTG	Commander, Task Group
CTRCS	Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection)
DNI	Director of Naval Intelligence
DoD	Department of Defense
DSRJ	Department of Defense (DoD) Special Representative Japan
ELINT	Electronic Intelligence
EUCOM	European Command
FLT CYBERCOM	Fleet Cyber Command
FORNSAT	Foreign Satellite
IA	Information Assurance
IDC	Information Dominance Corps
INSCOM	Intelligence and Security Command, US Army
IO	Information Operations
IOG	Intelligence Operations Group, USAF Air Intelligence Agency
IS	Intelligence Squadron
ISR	Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
ISRG	Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group
JDFPG	Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap
LDO	Limited Duty Officer
LPO	Leading Petty Officer
MCC TPT	Marine Component Commander Tactical PsyOps Team
MCPO	Master Chief Petty Officer
MHS	Menwith Hill Station
MI	Military Intelligence
MNF-I	Multi-National Forces Iraq
MUC	Meritorious Unit Citation
NAVDET	Naval Detachment
NAVIODET	Naval Information Operations Detachment
NAVNETWARCOM	Naval Network Warfare Command
NIOD	Naval Information Operations Detachment
NRO	National Reconnaissance Office

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NSA	National Security Agency
NSG	Naval Security Group
NSGA	Naval Security Group Activity
ODIN	Observe, Detect, Identify, and Neutralize
OSD	Office of the Secretary of Defense
PACOM	Pacific Command
PED	Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination
PO1	Petty Officer 1st Class
PO2	Petty Officer 2nd Class
SATCOM	Satellite Communications
SCA	Service Cryptologic Agency
SCE	Special Collection Element
SCPO	Senior Chief Petty Officer
SFC	Sergeant First Class
SIGINT	Signals Intelligence
SOCAFRICA	Special Operations Command Africa
SOCEN	Special Operations Command Central
SPC(P)	Specialist (Promotable)
TENCAP	Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities

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The Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap, located just outside the town of Alice Springs in Central Australia and managed by the US National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), is one of the largest US technical intelligence collection facilities in the world. Pine Gap today hosts three distinct functions and operational systems. Its original and still principal purpose is to serve as the ground control station for geosynchronous signals intelligence (SIGINT) satellites. Secondly, since late 1999 Pine Gap has hosted a Relay Ground Station (RGS), which relays data from US missile launch detection/early warning satellites to both US and Australian HQs and command centres. Finally, Pine Gap appears to have acquired a FORNSAT/COMSAT (foreign satellite/communications satellite) interception function in the early 2000s.

Many Australians associate Pine Gap with the Central Intelligence Agency, and it probably remains the CIA's most important technical intelligence collection station in the world. Yet Pine Gap is much more thoroughly militarised than in the past, with units of all four branches of the US armed forces now present, with close involvement in operations of the US military worldwide, including in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On 22 March 1967, at a meeting with Alice Springs residents, Richard Stallings, the first chief of the Pine Gap facility, said that there would be 'no serving military officers or men at the site'.<sup>1</sup> This remained the case for more than two decades, until late in 1990, when a small group composed of both US and Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel arrived at the facility in preparation for Operation *Desert Storm* in Kuwait and Iraq. According to David Rosenberg, who worked at Pine Gap as a civilian ELINT Analyst for the NSA from 1990 to 2008, the small military presence 'wasn't visually obvious because Pine Gap had (and still maintains) a No Uniforms policy. When the soldiers first arrived, they were asked to "blend in" with the local community'.<sup>2</sup>

However, there was a major increase in Service personnel, involving Navy, Air Force and Army personnel, around 1998-99. It amounted to about 100 personnel, or about a quarter of the total US personnel at the facility. These Service elements formed

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<sup>1</sup> 'Official Gives Facts on Space Base', *Centralian Advocate*, 23 March 1967, p. 1; and 'Alice Springs Centre

<sup>2</sup> David Rosenberg, *Inside Pine Gap: The Spy Who Came in From the Desert*, (Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, 2011), pp. 54-55.

a Combined Support Group (CSG). Through the 1990s, the growing Service presence supported Pine Gap's primary (and during that period its sole) role, that of controlling and processing and analysing SIGINT collected by the NRO/CIA geosynchronous SIGINT satellites, at that time being the *Magnum* satellites launched in January 1985 and November 1989. Some of those who arrived in 1998-99 and subsequently have undoubtedly also been involved with this program, garnering operational intelligence as the SIGINT satellites monitor ground-based emitters (including mobile phones) in areas of interest.

The larger proportion of the CSG personnel who arrived around 1999-2000, and those since, have evidently been engaged in FORNSAT/COMSAT collection, initially as part of NSA's *Echelon* program. This activity is strictly compartmentalised from the CIA and NSA civilian operators and analysts in the main Operations Room. Officially, they are engaged in Information Operations, Cyber Warfare and the achievement of Information Dominance. In practice, this involves monitoring Internet activities being transmitted via communications satellites, scouring e-mails, Web-sites and Chat Rooms for intelligence to support military operations, and particularly those involving Special Operations Forces, in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are undoubtedly key participants in NSA's *X-Keyscore* program at Pine Gap. The US military personnel now comprise about 66 per cent of the US Government employees (not counting contractor personnel) at Pine Gap.

**Table 1. US personnel at Pine Gap, 2015**

US Government: civilian (NRO, NSA, CIA)		US government: military		US contractor		Total	
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
55	14	105	26	240	60	400	100

**Table 2. US military personnel at Pine Gap, 2015, by service**

	No.	% (of all US personnel)
<b>Navy</b>	40	10
<b>Air Force</b>	30	7.5
<b>Army</b>	30	7.5
<b>Marines</b>	6	1

### **The beginnings, 1990-98**

The first US military contingent at Pine Gap arrived around September 1990, during the build-up for Operation *Desert Storm*. Rosenberg, who began working in the Operations Room on 5 October, has recorded that, just as he arrived, 'for the first time, Pine Gap was experiencing a long-term deployment of military personnel to supplement the previous 'civilian-only' Operations population'. He has also stated that 'the newly-arrived American and Australian military contingent (about five when I arrived) proved to be a capable, dedicated and useful resource that supplemented the civilians who historically occupied every billet within Operations'. He states that 'the military at Pine Gap' played an important role in providing the US forces with 'advance intelligence about Iraq's military posture', and that they 'had a different perspective from the civilians as they were trained in warfare'.<sup>3</sup>

Further Service personnel arrived in the mid-1990s, including members of the US Navy's then SIGINT organisation, the Naval Security Group (NSG). For example, Petty Officer Karen Bramell, a Navy Cryptologic Technician and Signals Analyst, arrived at Pine Gap in 1996, serving there until 1998.<sup>4</sup> Her last assignment in the Navy, from 2009 to 2011, was with the office of the Department of Defense (DoD) Special Representative Japan (DSRJ) at Yokota Air Base, formerly called the NSA Representative in Japan.

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<sup>3</sup> David Rosenberg, *Inside Pine Gap: The Spy Who Came in From the Desert*, (Hardie Grant Books, Melbourne, 2011), pp. 65-67.

<sup>4</sup> 'Bramell, Karen, SCPO', *TogetherWeServed.com*, at <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=AssignmentExt&ID=61370>.

On 6 February 1997, the Minister for Defence, Ian McLachlan, announced a substantial staff increase at Pine Gap. Whereas there were 725 personnel at the station in February 1997 (an increase of about 60 over the previous six years), it was anticipated that this number would grow to about 895 (420 Australians and 475 US personnel), an increase of 170 by 2000. The Minister stated that ‘the staff increases, to be phased in over a number of years, involve civilian and military personnel from both Australia and the United States’.<sup>5</sup> The Minister’s announcement reflected a major reorganisation of the NRO’s management structure at Pine Gap (as well as at other NRO facilities, such as those at Menwith Hill in Yorkshire and Buckley Air Force Base in Colorado) in 1997.

**Figure 1. Chief Petty Officer (CPO) Karen Bramell, NSG Det Alice Springs, 1996-98**



Source: ‘Brammel, Karen, SCPO’, *TogetherWeServed.com*, at [http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxPersonPhoto&type=PersonExt&filter=All&order=Sequence\\_desc&maxphoto=4&show\\_grid\\_View=0&ID=21077&selectedPhotoID=1182586](http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxPersonPhoto&type=PersonExt&filter=All&order=Sequence_desc&maxphoto=4&show_grid_View=0&ID=21077&selectedPhotoID=1182586).

## **The Service Cryptologic Agencies (SCAs) at Pine Gap**

The reorganisation of the management structure in 1997 involved the establishment of Special Collection Elements (SCEs), composed of personnel from not only the CIA but also the National Security Agency (NSA) and Service (Army, Navy and

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<sup>5</sup> Ian McLachlan (Minister for Defence), ‘Staff Increases at Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap’, Media Release MIN 34/97, 6 February 1997, at <http://www.defence.gov.au/media/1997/03497.html>.



Air Force) Cryptologic Agencies (SCAs). In the case of the US Navy, for example, a Naval Security Group (NSG) Detachment was established, with three officers and 40 enlisted sailors, in March 1998.<sup>6</sup> There is also a detachment of the US Army's 743<sup>rd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, a detachment of the US Air Force's 566<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron, and Sub-Unit 1 of the US Marines' Cryptologic Support Battalion. These Service personnel formed a Combined Support Group (CSG), which is officially designated RUHDSGA for cable routing purposes.<sup>7</sup>

**Table 3. Special Collection Elements resident at Pine Gap**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Branch</b>	<b>Unit</b>
US Navy	Navy Information Operations Command	US Naval Information Operations Detachment Alice Springs US Naval Detachment Combined Support Group
US Air Force	Twenty-Fifth Air Force	Detachment 1, 566 <sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron, 544 <sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group
US Army	Intelligence and Security Command	Detachment A, Headquarters and Operations Company, 743 <sup>rd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, 704 <sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade
US Marines	Marine Cryptologic Support Command	Sub-Unit 1, Alice Springs, Company A, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion

There have been around 105 US Service personnel at Pine Gap since 1999-2000, including 6-8 junior officers. The NAVDET had three officers and 33 enlisted sailors on 15 October 1999.<sup>8</sup> NIOD Alice Springs had 37 sailors, together with perhaps three officers, in June 2013.<sup>9</sup> The Air Force unit, then known as Detachment 2 of the 544<sup>th</sup> IOG, had 28 airmen, together with one or two officers, in 2005-07.<sup>10</sup> The

<sup>6</sup> Memorandum from Commander, Naval Security Group Command, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, to the Chief of Naval Operations, 'Request for the Establishment of U.S. Navy Detachment (NAVDET) Combined Support Group (CSG), Alice Springs, Australia (AUS)', 29 January 1998; and Cameron Stewart, 'Top US Spy Unit Sent to Pine Gap', *The Weekend Australian*, 26-27 January 2001, pp. 1-2.

<sup>7</sup> 'Allied Routing Indicator Book: Canada-United States Supplement 1(P)', May 2014, at [http://jcs.dtic.mil/j6/cceb/acps/canus-supp/A117\\_s1\\_021.pdf](http://jcs.dtic.mil/j6/cceb/acps/canus-supp/A117_s1_021.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> United States Department of the Navy, 'Navy DET Combined SUPGRUAUS', at <http://publicdirectory.smartlink.navy.gov.us>.

<sup>9</sup> 'CPO-365 Alice Springs Honor Our Shipmates', *Anchor Watch*, June-July 2013, p. 8, at [http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/AW\\_2013\\_06.pdf](http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/AW_2013_06.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> Jeff Ford, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeffreyford97>.

detachment of the 743<sup>rd</sup> MI Battalion had 30 soldiers at Pine Gap in 2007.<sup>11</sup> The Marine sub-unit presumably has around six members, in order to provide two per shift.

Scrutiny of the US military personnel deployed at Pine Gap illustrates the importance of a Pine Gap posting in careers in all four services, and pathways that link Pine Gap to postings in combat zones in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the rapidly developing Africa Command, as well as to other key SIGINT facilities and cryptological or cyber units in the US homeland and in Japan and South Korea.

NIOD Alice Springs commanders have gone on to senior positions or command at NIOC Hawaii, NIOC Sugar Grove, and NSG Command, as well as at the Center for Naval Cryptology and the Center for Information Dominance, both in Pensacola, Florida. A senior Enlisted Leader at Pine Gap in recent years had previously had postings at the White House, NIOC Maryland and NIOC Georgia. Commanders of the Air Force detachment at Pine Gap have gone to the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense, as well as to head ISR operations in Special Operations Command Africa. A commander of the Army detachment at Pine Gap, a space systems engineer, went to a major role in the creation of US Army Cyber Command, and as a civilian, as NRO representative to Africa Command for 'all satellite programs for the African continent', making a second direct Pine Gap career link to US special forces operations and drone operations in combat areas outside legally sanctioned war zones. (See Attachment 1.)

### **NSG Det/NIOD Alice Springs, US Navy**

The Navy element functioned as NSG Detachment Combined Support Group (CSG) Alice Springs from March 1998 to 29 December 2005, when the Naval Security Group (NSG) Command was integrated into the Naval Network Warfare Command (NAVNETWARCOM), based at Fort George G. Meade, and the NSG detachments were renamed Naval Information Operations Detachments (NIODs). The Pine Gap unit was officially renamed NIOD Alice Springs, or NAVIODET Alice Springs.<sup>12</sup> It is

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<sup>11</sup> *Buckley Air Force Base: 2007 Telephone Guide & Directory*, p. 22, at [http://ebooks.aqppublishing.com/archive/base\\_guides/Buckley.pdf](http://ebooks.aqppublishing.com/archive/base_guides/Buckley.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> Memorandum from Chief of Naval Operations, 'Disestablish Commander, Naval Security Group Command (COMNAVSECGRU), Fort George G. Meade, MD; Rename and Realign All Subordinate NAVSECGRU Commands and Detachments', 29 December 2005.

organisationally subordinate to NIOC HQ at Suitland in Maryland, the mission of which is 'to provide and deploy trained Information Warfare officers and cryptologic enlisted

**Figure 2.**  
**NAVDET CSG Alice Springs**



Source: 'Alice Springs, Australia', The Worldwide CT Community and Our Naval Security Group, at [http://www.navycthistory.com/images/navdet\\_alice\\_springs.jpg](http://www.navycthistory.com/images/navdet_alice_springs.jpg).

**Figure 3.**  
**NIOD Alice Springs NETWARCOM**



Source: 'Alice Springs, Australia', The Worldwide CT Community and Our Naval Security Group, at <http://www.navycthistory.com/images2/niodalicesprings.jpg>.

**Figure 4. NIOD Alice Springs U.S Tenth Fleet**

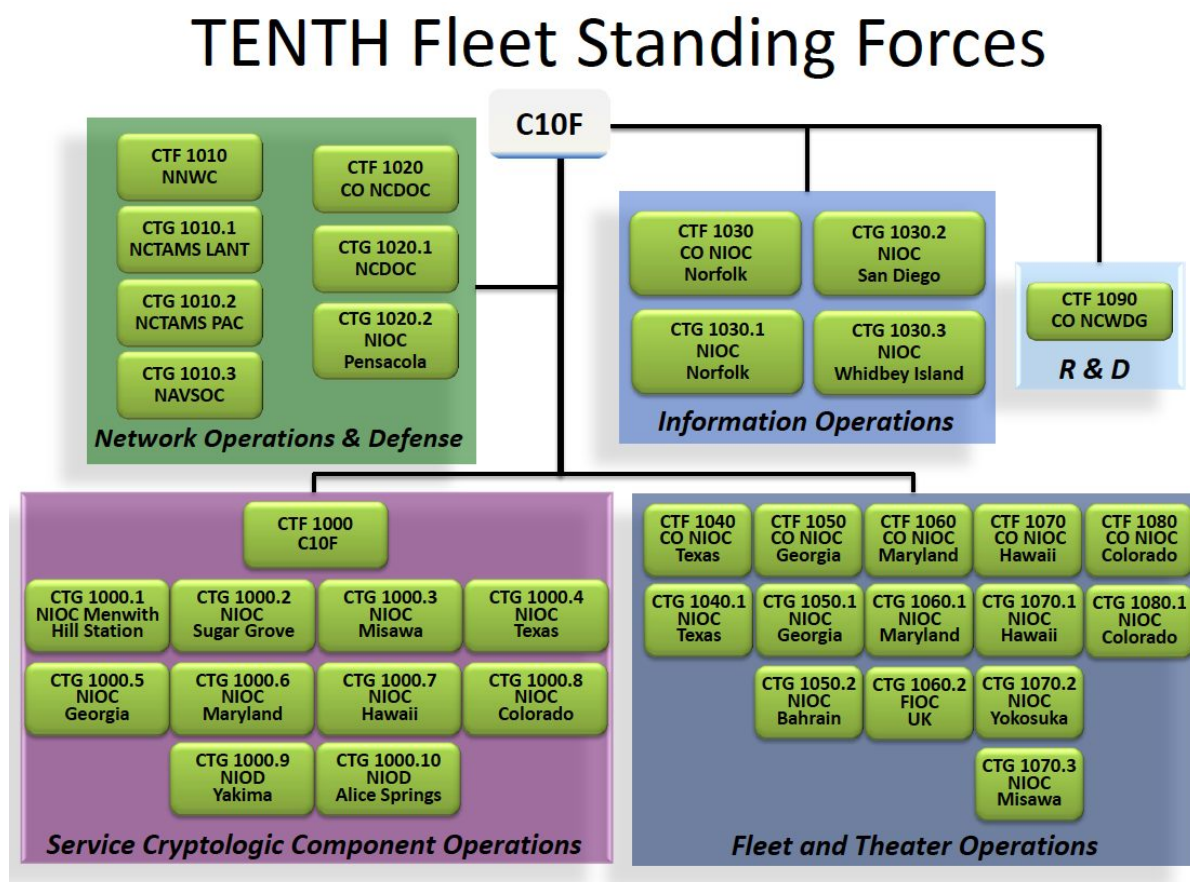


Source: 'Welcome to NIOD Alice Springs', NIOD ALICE SPRINGS NT AS, US Navy, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niodas/Pages/default.aspx>.

personnel, expertise, and equipment to support SIGINT, IO, and cyberspace operations for Naval surface, sub-surface, expeditionary, Joint, and DoD forces'.<sup>13</sup>

In 2009, the US Navy established an Information Dominance Corps (IDC), with the alignment of Intelligence, Communications Networks (N6), and elements of N3 (information and cyber operations) and N8 (unmanned systems programs and resources) into a unified organization. It is headed by the Deputy Chief of Operations for Information Dominance, who also serves as Director of Naval Intelligence (DNI), and is based at NIOC Suitland (CTG 1000.6) in Maryland. It has two operational components, the Fleet Cyber Command/Tenth Fleet and Navy Information Dominance

Figure 5. Tenth Fleet Standing Forces



Source: US Fleet Cyber Command/US Tenth Fleet, updated 22 April 2014, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> 'NIOC Md Book 3 Flash Cards', September 2013, at <http://www.cram.com/flashcards/nioc-md-book-3-flash-cards-3443653>.

Forces (which includes cryptology/SIGINT, cyber, electronic warfare, information operations, intelligence, networks, and space disciplines). It also manages the Center for Information Dominance (CID) at NIOC Pensacola (CTG 1020.2) at Corry Station in Pensacola, Florida, the mission of which is 'to deliver full-spectrum Cyber Warfare and Information Warfare training to achieve decision superiority'. NIOD Alice Springs effectively became a functional detachment of the IDC and the Center for Information Dominance.<sup>14</sup>

On 29 January 2010, the US Tenth Fleet was recommissioned as Fleet Cyber Command (FLTCYBERCOM), located at NSA HQ at Fort Meade, with the mission 'to serve as central operational authority for networks, cryptologic/signals intelligence, information operations, cyber, electromagnetic and space domains'.<sup>15</sup> NIOD Alice Springs was then also designated CTG 1000.10, a Service Cryptologic Component responsible for higher-level cyber-warfare operations, subordinate to the Commander of the Tenth Fleet at Fort Meade (and organisationally comparable to CTG 1000.1 at Menwith Hill, CTG 1000.2 at Sugar Grove, CTG 1000.3 at Misawa, and CTG 1000.9 at Yakima).<sup>16</sup> NIOD Alice Springs is officially designated RUHDSGN for cable routing.<sup>17</sup>

There were two Lieutenant Commanders at NSG Det Alice Springs in 1999. One of these, Lieutenant Commander David William Stender, served as Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment and commander of the CSG. The other, Lieutenant Commander Vincent Demetreo Traeye, was an Operations Specialist.<sup>18</sup>

Captain James Hagy commanded the detachment from 2000 to 2002. He had previously been assigned to the Commander, Amphibious Task Force, as the Cryptologic Resource Coordinator. Later, as a Captain (July 2008 to July 2010), Hagy served as commander of NIOC Hawaii, located at Kunia, Hawaii. He then served as

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<sup>14</sup> Captain Bill Mauser, 'SNA USS Constitution Chapter Presents 12<sup>th</sup> Annual George Sirian Meritorious Service Award', *Surface Sitrep*, October 2014, p. 10, at <http://media.navysna.org/surface-sitrep/October2014.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> 'U.S. Fleet Cyber Command, U.S. Tenth Fleet', US Navy, at <http://www.fcc.navy.mil/>.

<sup>16</sup> 'Tenth Fleet Standing Forces', US Navy, at <http://www.fcc.navy.mil/>.

<sup>17</sup> 'Allied Routing Indicator Book: Canada-United States Supplement 1(P)', May 2014.

<sup>18</sup> United States Department of the Navy, 'Navy DET Combined SUPGRUAUS', at <http://publicdirectory.smartlink.navy.gov.us>.

Director for Intelligence and Information Operations at Pacific Command (PACOM), before retiring in August 2014.<sup>19</sup>

Lieutenant Commander Thomas Botulinski was commander in 2003. He was later promoted to Captain and retired as Deputy Commander of the NSG Command.<sup>20</sup>

**Figure 6.**  
**Captain James Hagy,**  
**NIOD AS Commander, 2000-02**



Source: *The Real Navy - I Like The Cut Of His Jib !!*, 27 August 2014, at <http://navycaptain-therealnavy.blogspot.com.au/2014/08/sorry-i-missed-this-important-event-on.html>

**Figure 7.**  
**Captain Thomas Botulinski,**  
**NIOD AS Commander, circa 2003**



Source: Thomas Botulinski, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/thomas-botulinski/5/741/ab7>.

<sup>19</sup> Melissa Ocasio, 'Cole Relieves Hagy at NIOC Hawaii Change of Command', *Pearl Harbor-Hickam News*, 24 July 2010, at <http://www.hookelenews.com/cole-relieves-hagy-at-nioc-hawaii-change-of-command/>; and 'Sorry I Missed This Important Event on 15 August Aboard USS MISSOURI in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii', *The Real Navy - I Like The Cut Of His Jib !!* 27 August 2014, at <http://navycaptain-therealnavy.blogspot.com/2014/08/sorry-i-missed-this-important-event-on.html>.

<sup>20</sup> 'Det Alice Springs', *TogetherWeServed*, at <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=PublicUnitProfile&type=Unit&ID=8716>; and Thomas Botulinski, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/thomas-botulinski/5/741/ab7>.

Lieutenant Commander Craig Rudy, an Information Warfare Officer, was Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment from February 2006 to June 2008. During this time he also 'performed duties as the Chief of Customer Outreach for the station and site Mission Director'. Rudy had served from February 2005 to February 2006 as Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment. During that period he 'also served as the station's Chief of Military Support, leading an operations team which provided collection support to over 25 combatant units'. He was transferred to the Center for Information Dominance in Pensacola, Florida, in June 2008, and in September 2011 he was assigned to the COMSAT collection facility at NIOC Sugar Grove, West Virginia, as head of Department N6.<sup>21</sup>

Lieutenant Commander Scott Cone was Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment in 2010-11. He had previously served, as a Lieutenant, as the Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the Detachment. In 2010, the Detachment organised the Joint Military Ball for the Service personnel at Pine Gap. It was attended by Major General Nathan Martin, US Army; Major General Jeremy Hutchins, US Air Force; Command Master Chief J. Scott Drenning from NIOC Maryland; and Lieutenant Timothy Springer, NIOC Maryland's Chaplain. It was mainly organised by Senior Chief Petty Officer Lauren Lynn, Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Joshua Moyer, and Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Matthew Kilby. Kilby said that 'it was an amazing opportunity for our services to unite and strengthen the bonds between them'.<sup>22</sup>

Lieutenant Commander Ken St. Germain was commander of NIOD Alice Springs in 2011-13. In November 2011, he addressed a group of Australian soldiers and US soldiers, sailors and airmen to commemorate Australia's Remembrance Day.<sup>23</sup> On 4 June 2013, he participated in a Battle of Midway commemoration ceremony at the station. (He was accompanied by Leading Petty Officer PO1 Justin Clark, PO2 Wayne Collins, CPO Brian Udycz and PO1 Andre Elliott).<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Craig Rudy, *LinkedIn*, at <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/craig-rudy/59/3a9/ab5>.

<sup>22</sup> Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Matt Kilby, 'Alice Springs 2010 Joint Military Ball', *Anchor Watch*, July-August 2010, p. 16, at [http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/anchorwatch/anchorwatch\\_2010-07\\_2010-08.pdf](http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/anchorwatch/anchorwatch_2010-07_2010-08.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> Lieutenant Commander Ken St. Germain, 'Remembrance Day Down Under', *Anchor Watch*, November-December 2011, p. 6, at [http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/anchorwatch/aw\\_2012\\_01-12.pdf](http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/anchorwatch/aw_2012_01-12.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> 'CPO-365 Alice Springs Honor Our Shipmates', *Anchor Watch*, June-July 2013, p. 8.

**Figure 8. Senior Chief Petty Officer Lauren Lynn (second from left) and Lieutenant Commander Scott Cone (right), NIOD AS Commander, 2010**



Source: Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Matt Kilby, 'Alice Springs 2010 Joint Military Ball', *Anchor Watch*, July-August 2010, p. 16, at [http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/anchorwatch/anchorwatch\\_2010-07\\_2010-08.pdf](http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/anchorwatch/anchorwatch_2010-07_2010-08.pdf).

**Figure 9. Lieutenant Commander Ken St. Germain, NIOD AS Commander, 2011-13**



Source: 'CPO-365 Alice Springs Honor Our Shipmates', *Anchor Watch*, June-July 2013, p. 8, at [http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/AW\\_2013\\_06.pdf](http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/AW_2013_06.pdf)



The present NIOD Alice Springs commander is Lieutenant Commander Toriano A. Murphy, an Information Warfare specialist, who took command in June 2014. He had previously served, from June 2010 to January 2012 as an Operations Officer at NIOC Yokosuka in Japan, and from March 2012 to April 2014 as the Cryptologic Resource Coordinator for the Commander of the Seventh Fleet at Yokosuka.<sup>25</sup> In 2008, he wrote a Master's thesis at the Naval Postgraduate School on 'statistical debugging' of software programs.<sup>26</sup>

**Figure 10. CPO Daniel Devlin, NIOD Alice Springs, 1999-2004**



Source: 'Devlin, Daniel, CPO', TogetherWeServed.com, at <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApps?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=6713>.

One of the first CPOs at Pine Gap was William B. Mullis, a Cryptographic Technician, Signals Analyst, and Analysis and Reporting Specialist, who arrived in

<sup>25</sup> Toriano Murphy, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/toriano-murphy/36/992/91>.

<sup>26</sup> Toriano A. Murphy, 'Statistical Debugging', (Master's Thesis, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, March 2008), at [www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA479960](http://www.dtic.mil/cgi-bin/GetTRDoc?AD=ADA479960).

November 1998 and left in January 2003.<sup>27</sup> Another was Daniel Devlin, who arrived in 1999 and stayed until 2004. He was a Cryptologic Technician and a Russian linguist.<sup>28</sup> CPO Donney Broussard, who served at NAVDET Alice Springs in 1999-2001, was an ELINT Senior Analyst and an Electronic Warfare Officer, who says he was responsible for ‘collection and analysis of electronic signals’, and ‘in-depth analysis and report writing’. He subsequently served as an Instructor at the Center for Naval Cryptology at Pensacola in Florida (2001-03).<sup>29</sup>

**Figure 11. Ensign Regina Frazier and Lieutenant Scott Cone, 2009**



Source: ‘Navy Detachment Alice Springs: From LPO to LDO’, *Anchor Watch*, January-February 2010, p. 16, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/Anchor%20Watch%20January-February%202010.pdf>.

In late 2009, Ensign Regina Frazier was promoted from PO First Class and Leading Petty Officer (LPO), the senior CPO at the facility, to Limited Duty Officer (LDO), becoming a commissioned officer. She was the first sailor attached to the Detachment to become an LDO. The oath of office was administered at Pine Gap by

<sup>27</sup> ‘Mullis, William, CPO’, *TogetherWeServed.com*, at <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=AssignmentExt&ID=39859>.

<sup>28</sup> ‘Devlin, Daniel, CPO’, *TogetherWeServed.com*, at <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApps?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=6713>.

<sup>29</sup> Donney Broussard, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/donney-broussard/8a/805/23>.

Lieutenant Scott Cone, the Assistant Officer-in-Charge of the NIOD, who also presented Frazier with a Joint Service Commendation Medal.<sup>30</sup>

**Figure 12.**  
**Ensign Regina Frazier**  
**and**  
**Lieutenant Scott Cone, 2009**



**Figure 13.**  
**Senior Chief Petty Officer Lauren Lynn,**  
**Senior Enlisted Leader,**  
**Pine Gap, 2010-14**



Source: Petty Officer 2nd Class Matt Kilby, 'Alice Springs Welcomes New Senior Enlisted Advisor', *Anchor Watch*, April 2010, <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/Anchor%20Watch%20April%202010.pdf>.

Source: 'Navy Detachment Alice Springs: From LPO to LDO', *Anchor Watch*, January-February 2010, p. 16, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/Anchor%20Watch%20January-February%202010.pdf>.

Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) Lawrence Foys, a Cryptologic Technician (Collection) specialist, served as the Senior Enlisted Leader at the NIOD in 2007-10, in which capacity he was primarily responsible for liaising between the Service elements

<sup>30</sup> 'Navy Detachment Alice Springs: From LPO to LDO', *Anchor Watch*, January-February 2010, p. 16, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/Anchor%20Watch%20January-February%202010.pdf>.

and the civilian management at the facility. He was succeeded as the Senior Enlisted Leader by Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO) Lauren Lynn in early 2010. She had previously had assignments at the White House, NIOC Maryland, and NIOC Georgia at Fort Gordon, and served as Senior Enlisted Leader for the Joint COMSEC Monitoring Activity from 2005 to 2010.<sup>31</sup>

**Figure 14.**  
**CTRCS Phillip E. Pena, receiving the**  
**George Sirian Meritorious Service Award,**  
**22 August 2014**



Source: Captain Bill Mauser, 'SNA USS Constitution Chapter Presents 12<sup>th</sup> Annual George Sirian Meritorious Service Award', *Surface Sitrep*, October 2014, p. 10, at <http://media.navysna.org/surface-sitrep/October2014.pdf>.

**Figure 15.**  
**Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO) Manuel**  
**Ramirez, JDFPG,**  
**Alice Springs, 30 May 2015**



Source: 'Sounds of Starlight Theatre, Alice Springs', *Facebook*, at <https://www.facebook.com/SoundsOfStarlight>.

In July 2014, NIOD Alice Springs welcomed SCPO Phillip E. Pena, CPO Lance Reeder, and PO2 Steve Wilkerson, who arrived around the same time as Lieutenant Commander Murphy. In August, Pena, a Senior Chief Cryptologic Technician (Collection), returned briefly to the US to receive a Meritorious Service Award. An account of the ceremony noted that CTRCS Pena had 'recently reported to the Center for Information Dominance detachment in Alice Springs', and that, following the ceremony, Pena returned 'to his new role as Senior Enlisted Leader at NIOD Alice

<sup>31</sup> Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Matt Kilby, 'Alice Springs Welcomes New Senior Enlisted Advisor', *Anchor Watch*, April 2010, p. 16, at <http://www.public.navy.mil/fcc-c10f/niocmd/AnchorWatch/Anchor%20Watch%20April%202010.pdf>.

Springs, Australia'.<sup>32</sup> Another SCPO, Manuel Ramirez, was also serving at Pine Gap in mid-2015.<sup>33</sup>

A US Navy SIGINT Analyst who served with NAVDET CSG Alice Springs from August 1999 to February 2001 has said that she was 'a member of a multi-service, multi-agency watch team to conduct signal intelligence and collection concerning CENTCOM (Central Command), EUCOM (European Command) and PACOM (Pacific Command) for National level customers'. She 'performed day-to-day analysis of special signals utilizing numerous computer peripherals and software applications, including Vector Spectrum Analyzers, Oscilloscopes, AM/FM Demodulation and Amplifiers', and 'analyzed 80,000 real-time signals of interest using an automatic search system and forwarded reports regarding combat, strategic, and tactical intelligence'. Before going to Pine Gap, she had been a SATCOM *Echelon* operator at Fort Meade (1996-99). After leaving Pine Gap, she served for three years as a Tactical Reconnaissance Analyst in Okinawa, and was then posted to NIOC Georgia (CTG 1000.5) at Fort Gordon in Georgia, where she worked as a SIGINT Geospatial Analyst and later (2012-13) as a Cyber Planner Analyst.<sup>34</sup>

A US Navy Cryptographic Technician (Collection) who worked as a SIGINT Analyst at Pine Gap around 2003 to 2007, initially for NAVDET CSG Alice Springs and then for NIOD Alice Springs, has said that he had a 'heavy IT focus'.<sup>35</sup> Charles Kauwell, a PO1 at Pine Gap around 2007, subsequently went to work at the Navy Cyber Warfare Development Group at NIOC Suitland, Maryland.<sup>36</sup> CPO Troy Nicholson, who worked at the NSGA at Fort Meade from 2002 to 2005, served at Pine Gap as an Advanced Signals Analyst from 2005 to 2007, for which he received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal; he subsequently worked at the Center for Information Dominance at NIOC

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<sup>32</sup> Captain Bill Mauser, 'SNA USS Constitution Chapter Presents 12<sup>th</sup> Annual George Sirian Meritorious Service Award', *Surface Sitrep*, October 2014, p. 10, at <http://media.navysna.org/surface-sitrep/October2014.pdf>.

<sup>33</sup> 'Sounds of Starlight Theatre, Alice Springs', *Facebook*, at <https://www.facebook.com/SoundsOfStarlight>.

<sup>34</sup> Miriam Samuels, *Welcome Home Resumes*, at <http://welcomehomerestumes.org/resume/miriamsamuels/>.

<sup>35</sup> Sean Docken, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/sean-docken/1/7ab/971>.

<sup>36</sup> 'Det Alice Springs', *TogetherWeServed*; and Charles Kauwell, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/charles-kauwell/47/964/90b>.

Pensacola.<sup>37</sup> Jon Babiak, who has been a Chief Warrant Officer at Pine Gap since June 2012, is an Information Warfare specialist.<sup>38</sup>

NIOD Alice Springs has its own Ombudsman, who says on *Facebook* that 'our job is to help you in any way we can'. She organises social activities such as barbeques at the picnic ground at the station, dinners at Alice Springs restaurants, games, 'Hail and Farewell' sessions for arriving and departing sailors, and Thanksgiving and 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations; and provides advice on 'domestic' matters such as car registration, health care and schools in Alice Springs.<sup>39</sup>

### **Detachment 1, 544<sup>th</sup> ISRG, US Air Force**

In the case of the US Air Force's detachment, personnel from several units arrived at Pine Gap in 1999-2000. For example, at least one member of Detachment 3 of the 544<sup>th</sup> IOG at the COMSAT collection/*Echelon* station at Sugar Grove moved to Pine Gap around 1999.<sup>40</sup> A member of the 694<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Group, based at Osan Air Base in South Korea, served at Pine Gap in 1999-2001.<sup>41</sup>

In December 2006, the Air Intelligence Agency (AIA) acknowledged in its official organisational chart that Detachment 2 of the 544<sup>th</sup> IOG, based at Peterson Air Force Base near Colorado Springs, was stationed at Pine Gap.<sup>42</sup> The previous version of this chart (dated July 2005) had listed the detachment as being at a 'classified' location. Detachment 2 had certainly been at Pine Gap by 2005, indicating that this was the classified location. Indeed, it seems that Detachment 2, which had previously been located at the US FORNSAT station at Sabana Seca in Puerto Rico, was transferred to Pine Gap around 2000. At Sabana Seca, where the FORNSAT program was code-named *Coraline*, it had intercepted satellite communications as part of the *Echelon* program.

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<sup>37</sup> 'CPO Troy Nicholson: Military Timeline', at <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=SBVTimeLine&type=Person&ID=6638>.

<sup>38</sup> Jon Babiak, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/jon-babiak/b/602/419>.

<sup>39</sup> 'Ombudsman NIOD Alice Springs', *Facebook*, at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ombudsman-Niod-Alice-Springs/293482237409513>.

<sup>40</sup> 'Woodalls Open Roads Forum: Military Retirees', at <http://forums.woodalls.com/index.cfm/fuseaction/thread/tid/16278870/print/true/pging/true/page/6.cfm>.

<sup>41</sup> 'Susan (Zilka) Swartz', *Deer Lakes High School Alumni*, at <https://www.alumni.class.com/deerlakes/military-alumni-view>.

<sup>42</sup> 'AIA Organizational Chart', December 2006, copy provided by Jeffrey Richelson.

Detachment 2 was in Sabana Seca from 8 December 1995 until 21 July 2000.<sup>43</sup> However, plans to close the *Coraline* project were evidently prepared soon after it had arrived at the station. The *Coraline* project had also involved a US Navy element, Division 51 of the Naval Security Group Activity at Sabana Seca, and, in 1994, the NSGA reported that '1 to 3 new 18 meter antennas' would be constructed in FY 1995-FY 1997, and that 'this would allow expansion of our unique, geographically-dependent CORALINE mission to accommodate future mission growth'. It was expected that its new capabilities would 'effectively triple CORALINE mission capability and will increase both our accuracy and our volume'.<sup>44</sup> However, these 18-metre dishes were never built. Detachment 2 ceased operations at Sabana Seca in July 2000, the SIGINT station was officially disestablished on 31 January 2003, and the original *Coraline* COMSAT interception dishes/radomes were dismantled in 2004. It might be presumed that the transfer of Detachment 2 also signified that Pine Gap had become a participant in the *Echelon* program.<sup>45</sup>

From August 2005 to July 2007, Detachment 2 of the 544<sup>th</sup> IOG at Pine Gap was commanded by Major Jeff Ford, at which time it comprised 28 personnel. According to Ford, he 'provided mission ready forces to execute national-level intelligence operations' and 'directed multi-national teams in providing threat-warning and intelligence to customers worldwide'. He says that he 'increased deployment readiness rate from 17 per cent to 88 per cent', suggesting that at least some of the Service personnel working at Pine Gap are supposed to be ready for expeditious deployment to contingent theatres. Ford later served (2008-11) as Action Officer in the Joint Staff in the Pentagon, advising the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) on ISR matters.<sup>46</sup>

Major Mark Bass was Commander of Detachment 2 of the 544<sup>th</sup> ISR Group from June 2007 to July 2009. He later (2009-11) commanded a Joint PED [Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination] Squadron, was commander of the 93<sup>rd</sup> Intelligence Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio in Texas (2011-13), and from July

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<sup>43</sup> 'Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico', at <http://www.navycthistory.com/pr.html>.

<sup>44</sup> 'Data Call 66, Installation Resources: Sabana Seca', *BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure]-95*, at [http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc26582/m2/1/high\\_res\\_d/BRAC-1995\\_00204.pdf](http://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc26582/m2/1/high_res_d/BRAC-1995_00204.pdf).

<sup>45</sup> Jeffrey T. Richelson, *The US Intelligence Community*, (Westview Press, Boulder, Colorado, Sixth edition, 2012), pp. 223-224.

<sup>46</sup> Jeff Ford, *LinkedIn*.

**Figure 16.**  
**Major Jeff Ford, Commander,**  
**Detachment 2,**  
**544<sup>th</sup> IOG, 2005-07**



Source: 'Jeff Ford', *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jeffreyford97>.

**Figure 17.**  
**Sergeant Jim Aicher,**  
**Detachment 2, 544<sup>th</sup> IOG,**  
**Pine Gap, c. 2008**



Source: 'Media Gallery', Twenty Fifth Air Force, USAF, at <http://www.25af.af.mil/photos/mediagallery.asp?galleryID=2390&page=13>.

2013 to mid-2015 was the Deputy Commander of the 694<sup>th</sup> ISR Group at Osan Air Base in South Korea. In July 2015 Bass became Chief, ISR Operations, Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA).<sup>47</sup>

The detachment includes a Geospatial Metadata Analysis unit which 'optimizes information flow to the warfighter', and especially Special Operations Forces teams. A Geospatial Metadata Analyst who worked at Pine Gap from November 2005 to May 2008 says that he 'analysed 53,000 threat reports', 'directed 700 hours of analysis to 250 Special Operations Forces missions', 'provided data to military operations in Afghanistan', and 'sustained support to Personnel Recovery events [including evacuation of US wounded and rescue of downed pilots]'. He later (2008-12) worked as a Computer Forensics Analyst with the 324<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron at Joint Base

<sup>47</sup> Mark Bass, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/mark-bass/7/53/b57>



Pearl Harbor Hickam in Hawaii, and then (2012-13) a Tactics Integration Analyst with the 33<sup>rd</sup> Network Warfare Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base.<sup>48</sup>

The unit was still designated Detachment 2 of the 544<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG) at Peterson AFB in an official Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency organisational chart dated January 2010.<sup>49</sup> However, it was evidently reorganised around early 2012, becoming Detachment 1 of the 566<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron at Buckley AFB, under the 544<sup>th</sup> ISRG at Peterson AFB. The new structure is depicted in an Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency (AFISRA) organisational chart dated 11 April 2012;<sup>50</sup> although the location of the detachment at Alice Springs has been redacted in this chart, subsequent charts showing this structure have included this location. The new designation was first disclosed incidentally in US Air Force public affairs media in September 2012.<sup>51</sup> The unit is shown as Detachment 1 of the 566<sup>th</sup> IS, 544<sup>th</sup> ISRG, in an official organisational chart dated 29 September 2014,<sup>52</sup> the day AFISRA was redesignated the 25th Air Force. According to a Buckley Air Force Base *Factsheet*, 'the primary mission of the 566<sup>th</sup> IS is force provider to the Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado [NRO-Colorado], providing leading-edge information superiority and technical support in the performance of joint national system missions'.<sup>53</sup> The Pine Gap unit is officially called AFDET CSG and designated RUHDSGF for cable routing.<sup>54</sup>

In August 2012, Master Sergeant Danekia Leshon Wells, who was acting as first sergeant with Detachment 1, 566<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron, at Pine Gap, attended a symposium at Shaw AFB in South Carolina on the duties and responsibilities of being a first sergeant. She said that the symposium had been very useful because 'my actual unit first sergeant is located at Buckley AFB, Colo. and the time difference between

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<sup>48</sup> Robert Donaldson, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/robert-donaldson/91/57b/2b8>.

<sup>49</sup> 'Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency Organization Chart', January 2010, copy provided by Jeffrey Richelson.

<sup>50</sup> 'Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Agency Organization Chart', 11 April 2012, copy provided by Jeffrey Richelson.

<sup>51</sup> Master Sergeant Cohen Young, 'Shaw Hosts First Sergeant Symposium', *DVIDS: Defence Video and Imagery Distribution System*, 4 September 2012, at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/94298/shaw-hosts-first-sergeant-symposium#.VXZ2NII7vB>.

<sup>52</sup> '25 Air Force Organization Chart', 29 September 2014, copy provided by Jeffrey Richelson.

<sup>53</sup> Buckley Air Force Base, 'Factsheet: Major Tenant Organizations', at <http://www.buckley.af.mil/library/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=4455>.

<sup>54</sup> 'Allied Routing Indicator Book: Canada-United States Supplement 1(P)', May 2014.

there and Australia makes it much more difficult to gain the information that I need for the job'.<sup>55</sup>

There continues to be some movement of personnel to Pine Gap from the 694<sup>th</sup> Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG) at Osan Air Base. For example, a USAF Signals Analyst who served with the 694<sup>th</sup> ISRG in 2009-10 was posted to Pine Gap in 2013.<sup>56</sup>

### **743<sup>rd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, INSCOM, US Army**

In the case of the US Army, the 743<sup>rd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion maintains a 'remote detachment' at Pine Gap known as Detachment A (Det A, or Alpha Det). The battalion is part of the 704<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade, based at Buckley Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, which 'conducts synchronized full-spectrum signals intelligence, computer network and information assurance operations directly and through the National Security Agency to satisfy national, joint, combined and Army information superiority requirements'; and which is in turn part of the Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), headquartered at Fort Belvoir in Virginia.<sup>57</sup>

The recent history of the 743<sup>rd</sup> MI Battalion dates from July 1998, when its HQ was moved from Fort Meade to Fort Carson near Colorado Springs and its mission was changed to support the NRO and NSA activities at Buckley. According to a Buckley Air Force Base *Factsheet*, the 743<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 'supports a multitude of DoD information processing and analysis operations', and 'strives to be the foremost military intelligence battalion in the U. S. Army, providing leading-edge information superiority and technical support to Combatant Commands, the U.S. Government and its allies'.<sup>58</sup> An official Guide to Buckley Air Force Base stated in 2007 that the Battalion 'provides continuous worldwide signals and technically derived intelligence operations to satisfy

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<sup>55</sup> Master Sergeant Cohen Young, 'Shaw Hosts First Sergeant Symposium', *DVIDS: Defence Video and Imagery Distribution System*, 4 September 2012, at <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/94298/shaw-hosts-first-sergeant-symposium#.VXZ2NII7vB>.

<sup>56</sup> Brooke Mellors, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/pub/brooke-mellors/4b/5a5/560>.

<sup>57</sup> 'U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command', at <http://www.army.mil/inscom>.

<sup>58</sup> Buckley Air Force Base, 'Factsheet: Major Tenant Organizations'.

National, Joint, Combined, and Army information superiority requirements for the President of the United States, the Secretary of Defense and the war-fighter'.<sup>59</sup>

The unit at Pine Gap is a detachment of the Headquarters and Operations Company, located at Buckley.<sup>60</sup> It is called ARDET CSG Alice Springs and designated RUHDSGR for cable routing purposes.<sup>61</sup>

Members of the 743<sup>rd</sup> MI Battalion began arriving at Pine Gap around 1999. Mark Dunham, the unit's first S3 (Operations and Training) officer, served in that capacity in 1999-2001, before being promoted to Detachment Commander in January 2002. As commander, he provided 'real-time signals intelligence (SIGINT) and communications support to Army war-fighters from the most technologically advanced joint and combined site in the world', 'planned budgeting and execution of INSCOM space initiatives to support military operations and Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (TENCAP) operations', and 'coordinated' with the NSA, INSCOM and the Department of the Army 'to implement the Army's future space policy and provide an operational perspective on space-oriented initiatives'. Dunham left Pine Gap in January 2003 to become Intelligence Advisor to Special Operations Command Central (SOCCEN) in Baghdad, Iraq.<sup>62</sup>

The commander of the 743<sup>rd</sup> Battalion's detachment at Pine Gap in 2004-06 was Major Jameson Riley Johnson, a space systems engineer.<sup>63</sup> From August 2007 to January 2009, as a Lieutenant Colonel, Johnson served as the first NRO Senior Field Representative on the staff of Multi-National Forces Iraq (MNF-I), where he was responsible for establishing an NRO 'field office' to provide 'on-the ground NRO support' to the Command.<sup>64</sup> Johnson then went on to be Chief Operations Officer for the Army CYBER Task Force, where

I created the Army's newest command and soldier force. Assigned to the Army Staff at the Pentagon doing the Campaign Plan decision cycle to make

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<sup>59</sup> *Buckley Air Force Base: 2007 Telephone Guide & Directory*, p. 22.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>61</sup> 'Allied Routing Indicator Book: Canada-United States Supplement 1(P)', May 2014.

<sup>62</sup> Mark Dunham, 'BN S3 Profiles Board', at <http://www.yatedo.com/s/jobtitle%3A%28JDFPG+%26+BN+S3%29>; and Mark Dunham, 'Infographic: Career Portfolio', at <http://www.beyond.com/3E9A87F5-BEE2-4D70-9569-CA79BA94270E>.

<sup>63</sup> Jameson Riley Johnson, *Yatedo*, at <http://www.yatedo.com/p/Jameson+Riley+Johnson/normal/5c9de70cbc3566f0d289dfa4adbf354e>.

<sup>64</sup> Jayson Sawyer, 'In Harm's Way: NRO Field Representatives Support Operation Iraqi Freedom', *Space Sentinel*, (Vol. 1, No. 1), 2009, at <http://www.nro.gov/news/sss/2009/sss-2009-01.pdf>.

ARFORCYBER Fully Operation Capable (FOC) 1 OCT 2010. Wrote establishment orders, secured funding, personnel, developed training, and successfully negotiated the complex process of establishing a new command- Army Cyber/ 2nd Army (ARCYBER).<sup>65</sup>

After a three year assignment as a systems engineering program manager in EUCOM, Johnson retired from the Army, but stayed in Germany as a contractor, working as 'Representative to AFRICOM' – presumably for the NRO. As an engineer at Africa Command, Johnson acted as 'Regional manager and executive level representative for all satellite programs for the African continent'.<sup>66</sup>

A SIGINT Analyst with the 743<sup>rd</sup> MI Battalion who served with the detachment at Pine Gap in 2007-10 has said that he worked as 'a member of a 24/7 operations floor', that he was 'accountable for processing and producing intelligence vital to national security related to geographic regions located within the United States and Allied areas of interest'; that he 'operated complex collection and analysis subsystems across multiple different platforms'; that he 'conducted search and analysis of low-capacity communications, digital push-to-talk emitters, SIGINT support to Combat Search and Rescue and Near Real-time signals of interest for additional follow-on processing'; and that he 'issued reports providing situational awareness to United States and Allied policy makers and armor forces worldwide'. As a Team Leader, he was also 'accountable for the health and welfare of three personnel'. Before going to Pine Gap, he had worked as a SIGINT Analyst with the 741<sup>st</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Meade (2006-07); after leaving Pine Gap, he worked as a COMINT specialist for Task Force ODIN (Observe, Detect, Identify, and Neutralize) in Afghanistan.<sup>67</sup>

In mid-2015, the Army's Human Resources Command advertised that the 743<sup>rd</sup> Battalion needed soldiers with 35S speciality, or Military Intelligence Officer Signals Collector/Analyst, for posting to Pine Gap. It said that 'this is a unique assignment

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<sup>65</sup> 'Jameson Riley Johnson', *Yatedo*.

<sup>66</sup> 'Jameson Riley Johnson', *LinkedIn*, at

[https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=78620833&authType=NAME\\_SEARCH&authToken=PYPj&locale=en\\_US&srchid=338795201439018262279&srchindex=5&srchtotol=18&trk=v srp\\_people\\_res\\_name&trkInfo=VSRPsearchId%3A338795201439018262279%2CVSRPtargetId%3A78620833%2CVSRPcmpt%3Aprimary%2CVSRPnm%3Atrue%2CauthType%3ANAME\\_SEARCH](https://www.linkedin.com/profile/view?id=78620833&authType=NAME_SEARCH&authToken=PYPj&locale=en_US&srchid=338795201439018262279&srchindex=5&srchtotol=18&trk=v srp_people_res_name&trkInfo=VSRPsearchId%3A338795201439018262279%2CVSRPtargetId%3A78620833%2CVSRPcmpt%3Aprimary%2CVSRPnm%3Atrue%2CauthType%3ANAME_SEARCH).

<sup>67</sup> Greg Hess, *LinkedIn*, at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ghess>.

opportunity for 35S SPC(P)s [Specialists (Promotable)] and SFCs [Sergeants First Class] in Australia’, and that ‘this is a three year overseas tour’.<sup>68</sup>

In August-September 2014, a group from the 743<sup>rd</sup> Battalion’s Headquarters and Operations Company visited the detachment ‘in order to enhance both individual and unit resiliency’. The group was led by the Battalion Chaplain, Captain Jared Vineyard, and 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Michael Grimes, the lead sergeant of Headquarters and Operations Company.<sup>69</sup>

**Figure 18.**  
**Jameson Riley Johnson, commander of the 743<sup>rd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion’s detachment at Pine Gap, 2004-06**



Source: Jayson Sawyer, ‘In Harm’s Way: NRO Field Representatives Support Operation Iraqi Freedom’, *Space Sentinel*, (Vol. 1, No. 1), 2009, at <http://www.nro.gov/news/sss/2009/sss-2009-01.pdf>.

**Figure 19.**  
**Sergeant Roger Dover, US Army, and Parker Dover, US Navy, Alice Springs, Remembrance Day, November 2012**



Source: ‘Social’, *Centralian Advocate*, 13 November 2012, p. 23.

<sup>68</sup> United States Army Human Resources Command, ‘What’s Hot for CMF35’, at <https://www.hrc.army.mil/Enlisted/Whats%20Hot%20for%20CMF35>.

<sup>69</sup> Captain Jared Vineyard, ‘Outback Resiliency’, *The Voice: 704<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade*, (Vol. 2, No. 1), Fall 2014, pp. 20-21, at [https://static.dvidshub.net/media/pubs/pdf\\_23515.pdf](https://static.dvidshub.net/media/pubs/pdf_23515.pdf).

The Army detachment provides a Joint Senior Enlisted Advisor to support the NIOC/CSG commander. Since 2012, this has been Sergeant First Class (SFC) Roger Dover. He has been involved in several ceremonial events, including the ceremony commemorating the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Midway, held at Pine Gap on 4 June 2013, at which he read out a statement released by the Chief of Naval Operations concerning the victory at Midway.<sup>70</sup> He attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies on ANZAC Hill in Alice Springs in November 2012 and November 2014. On the last occasion, US Service men and women ‘formed a guard of honour at the summit of Anzac Hill, in respect to their ally’s fallen soldiers’.<sup>71</sup>

A Staff Sergeant, SSG Matthew Mattice Gardner, who was already serving at Pine Gap in August 2012, was still at the facility in June 2015.<sup>72</sup>

### **Sub-Unit 1, Company A, Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion**

The small Marine Corps element at Pine Gap is Sub-Unit 1 of Company A of the Marine Cryptologic Support Battalion.<sup>73</sup> Based at Buckley Air Force Base, Company A’s mission is ‘to provide trained, deployable Marines to support operations at the Aerospace Data Facility [the NRO station at Buckley]’. It ‘maintains personnel readiness to augment operational deployments as required’.<sup>74</sup> The Sub-Unit is also called MCC TPT, presumably an acronym for Marine Component Commander Tactical PsyOps [Psychological Operations] Team, whose mission is to employ Information Operations to influence, disrupt, corrupt, or take control of an enemy’s decision-

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<sup>70</sup> ‘CPO-365 Alice Springs Honor Our Shipmates’, *Anchor Watch*, June-July 2013, p. 8.

<sup>71</sup> ‘Social’, *Centralian Advocate*, 13 November 2012, p. 23; and Robert Herrick, ‘Alice Springs Pauses for Remembrance Day’, *ABC News*, 11 November 2014, at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-11/alice-springs-pauses-for-remembrance-day/5882770>.

<sup>72</sup> US Army HRC Enlisted Soldier Support Branch, ‘Immediate Assignment Alert’, *Facebook*, 14 August 2012 and 30 October 2012, at [https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=250925308290619&story\\_fbid=396000387116443](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?id=250925308290619&story_fbid=396000387116443); and ‘Sounds of Starlight Theatre, Alice Springs’, *Facebook*, at <https://www.facebook.com/SoundsOfStarlight>.

<sup>73</sup> ‘United States Marine Corps Unit Awards Manual’, (NAVMC 2922), 10 January 2012, at <http://www.officialmilitaryribbons.com/pdf/NAVMC%202922%20with%20Promo.pdf>; and ‘Awards Update’, (MARADMINS 260/07.), 17 April 2007, at <http://cuttingscores.com/maradmins.php?id=13286/Article/117233/awards-update.aspx>.

<sup>74</sup> Buckley Air Force Base, ‘Factsheet: Major Tenant Organizations’.

making process. The Sub-Unit received a Meritorious Unit Citation (MUC) for the period from 1 May 2002 to 1 April 2004.<sup>75</sup>

## Community activities

The US military personnel at Pine Gap are active participants in community activities in Alice Springs. According to Rosenberg, they 'were particularly keen to show off their physical prowess'.<sup>76</sup> Representatives from the Navy, Air Force and Army detachments are 'fierce competitors' in the annual Henley-on-Todd Regatta, involving 'boat races' on the dry sandy bed of the Todd River. In August 2008, the Regatta team entered by the 544<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Group's Detachment 2, which won the main competition, consisted of Major Mark Bass, Detachment Commander; Master Sergeant Jim Aicher, Detachment Superintendent; Technical Sergeant Thomas Towers, non-commissioned officer in charge, Joint Medical Readiness; and Technical Sergeant James Howey, a senior weapons systems analyst. 'More importantly', as far as the Air Force unit was concerned, it 'finished ahead of the U.S. Navy detachment in their only head-to-head matchup in the Four-Man Rowing event'.<sup>77</sup> In August 2011, there were several Australian and US men's and women's teams from the base, who 'compete against each other for the honour of their respective countries'.<sup>78</sup> The 'US Army team did well' in the 2011 races.<sup>79</sup> In 2009, Master Sergeant Thomas Towers, Staff Sergeant Bertram Garcia and Jackie Ammerman, members of Detachment 2, participated in camel races in Alice Springs.<sup>80</sup>

Some of the US military personnel have behaved outrageously during their sojourns at the outback facility. According to Rosenberg, a US Army soldier who arrived at Pine Gap around 2000-01 organised a 'swingers club' in Alice Springs which held wild sex parties. Drunken behaviour in bars and nightclubs in the town was fairly common. Security breaches were also relatively frequent. In one case, an American

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<sup>75</sup> 'United States Marine Corps Unit Awards Manual', (NAVMC 2922), 10 January 2012.

<sup>76</sup> David Rosenberg, *Inside Pine Gap*, p. 130.

<sup>77</sup> Master Sergeant Jim Aicher, 'Detachment 2, 544<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Group "Sails" in Aussie Regatta', *Peterson Air Force Base*, 14 November 2008, at <http://www.peterson.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123124212>.

<sup>78</sup> 'Roaring and Raring to Go: Message from 2011 Henley-on-Todd Commodore Eleanor Dennis', *Centralian Advocate*, 19 August 2011, p. 22, at

<http://cstest1.communitystories.net/bitstream/10070/235012/22/cadv19aug11022x.pdf>.

<sup>79</sup> 'Australia: Tales from a Canadian Nomad. Henley-on-Todd Regatta 2011', 20 August 2011, at <http://talesfromaustralia.blogspot.com/2011/08/henley-on-todd-regatta-2011.html>.

<sup>80</sup> '544<sup>th</sup> ISRG Airmen Win Big During Australia's 2009 Camel Cup', *Targeted News Service*, at [http://targetednews.com/nl\\_disp.php?nl\\_date\\_id=99607](http://targetednews.com/nl_disp.php?nl_date_id=99607).

soldier who was gambling in one of the nightclubs ‘thought he might also get lucky with the ladies by divulging some of the secret work that was done at Pine Gap’. He was soon quietened by other Pine Gap employees at the club, but was ‘immediately sent back to the US to face disciplinary action’.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>81</sup> David Rosenberg, *Inside Pine Gap*, p. 135-136, 140.



**Figure 20. USAF team, Henley-on-Todd boat races,  
Alice Springs, 18 August 2012**



Source: Tasha, 'USAF, Henley on Todd Regatta', *Flickr*, 18 August 2012, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/storm1920/sets/72157631136155864/detail/?page=2>.

**Figure 21. US Army team, Henley-on-Todd boat races,  
Alice Springs, 18 August 2012**



Source: Tasha, 'US Army, Henley on Todd Regatta', *Flickr*, 18 August 2012, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/storm1920/7812525244/in/album-72157631136155864/>.

**Figure 22. US Navy team, Henley-on-Todd boat races,  
Alice Springs, 18 August 2012**



Source: Tasha, 'US Navy, Henley on Todd Regatta', *Flickr*, 18 August 2012, at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/storm1920/7812674670/in/album-72157631136155864/>.

**Attachment 1.**  
**Movements of US military personnel, before and after**  
**Pine Gap assignment**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Pine Gap position</b>	<b>Before Pine Gap</b>	<b>After Pine Gap</b>
Petty Officer Karen Bramell	Navy Cryptologic Technician and Signals Analyst		Department of Defense (DoD) Special Representative Japan (DSRJ), Yokota Air Base
Captain James Hagy	Commander, NIOD Alice Springs	Commander, Amphibious Task Force, as the Cryptologic Resource Coordinator.	Commander, NIOC Hawaii  Cyber planning and operations for Joint Task Force 519. Principal Technical Adviser to US Pacific Fleet for Cyber policy and planning. Concurrently served as Deputy Director for Intelligence and Information Operations.  Director for Intelligence and Information Operations at Pacific Command (PACOM)
Lieutenant Commander Thomas Botulinski	Commander, NIOD Alice Springs		Deputy Commander, NSG Command
Lieutenant Commander Craig Rudy	Information Warfare Officer, Officer-in-Charge, NIOD Alice Springs		Center for Information Dominance, Pensacola, Florida  NIOC Sugar Grove, West Virginia, Head of Department N6
Lieutenant Commander Scott Cone	Officer-in-Charge, NIOD Alice Springs		
Lieutenant Commander Ken St. Germain	Commander, NIOD Alice Springs		
Lieutenant Commander Toriano A. Murphy		Operations Officer, NIOC Yokosuka  Cryptologic Resource Coordinator for the Commander of the Seventh Fleet, Yokosuka	

CPO Donney Broussard	ELINT Senior Analyst and Electronic Warfare Officer		Instructor at the Center for Naval Cryptology, Pensacola
Ensign Regina Frazier	Limited Duty Officer		
Senior Chief Petty Officer (SCPO) Lauren Lynn	Senior Enlisted Leader	Assignments at: White House NIOC Maryland NIOC Georgia.  Senior Enlisted Leader for the Joint COMSEC Monitoring Activity.	
Miriam Samuels	US Navy SIGINT Analyst	Fort Meade (SATCOM Echelon operator)	Okinawa (Tactical Reconnaissance Analyst)  NIOC Georgia (CTG 1000.5) (SIGINT Geospatial Analyst and later Cyber Planner Analyst)
PO1 Charles Kauwell			Navy Cyber Warfare Development Group, NIOC Suitland, Maryland
CPO Troy Nicholson	Advanced Signals Analyst	NSGA, Fort Meade	Center for Information Dominance, NIOC Pensacola
<i>Almo5</i>		Fort Meade, MD  Detachment 3, 544th IOG at the COMSAT collection/Echelon station at Sugar Grove	The Pentagon
Susan Zilka Schwartz			694th Intelligence Group, Osan Air Base
Major Jeff Ford	Commander, Detachment 2, 544th IOG		Action Officer, Joint Staff, advising the Joint Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) on ISR matters

Major Mark Bass			Joint PED [Processing, Exploitation and Dissemination] Squadron  Commander, 93rd Intelligence Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base  Deputy Commander, 694th ISR Group, Osan Air Base  Chief, ISR Operations, Special Operations Command Africa (SOCAFRICA)
Robert Donaldson	Geospatial Metadata Analyst		324th Intelligence Squadron, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam (Computer Forensics Analyst)  33rd Network Warfare Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base (Tactics Integration Analyst)
Master Sergeant Danekia Leshon Wells	Detachment 1, 566th Intelligence Squadron		
Brooke Mellors	Signals Analyst		694th Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Group (ISRG), Osan Air Base
Major Jameson Riley Johnson	Commander, Detachment A, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion		NRO Senior Field Representative on the staff of Multi-National Forces Iraq (MNF-I)  Chief Operations Officer, Army CYBER Task Force  Representative [NRO?] to AFRICOM. 'Regional manager and executive level representative for all satellite programs for the African continent'
Mark Dunham	S3 (Operations and Training) officer. Commander, Detachment A, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion		Intelligence Advisor to Special Operations Command Central (SOCCEN), Baghdad, Iraq
Greg Hess	SIGINT Analyst	SIGINT Analyst, 741st Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Meade	Task Force ODIN, Afghanistan (COMINT specialist)

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