

Fresno Air Terminal, Calif.
Air Defense Command Alert Detachment

Fresno Air Force Reserve Recovery Center was transferred from CONAC to ADC and redesignated Fresno Air Terminal (AF) as an auxiliary to Hamilton AFB on February 1, 1965, by DAF SO GA-6, February 1, 1965

These ADC alert detachments operated at Fresno Air Terminal:

Det 1, 456th FIS, F-106, January 1, 1963 to April 8, 1968; Det. 1, 78th FW, F-106s from the 84th FIS, April 18, 1968, to December 31, 1969; Det. 1, 1st FW, F-106s from the 84th FIS, December 31, 1969 to October 1, 1970; Det 1, 84th FIS, F-106, October 1, 1970 to April 15, 1971, when it was inactivated by ADC SO G-64 of March 30, 1971..

Ken de Russy, a former Security Police Officer, described the Det. 1, 78th FW Fresno alert site in the Hamilton AFB History website:

The det was located on north side of the Fresno Municipal Airport runway on the opposite side from the tower, air terminal, all other commercial civilian operations and a fairly large Air National Guard Unit equipped with F-102s. The "Cantonment Area" was comprised of two main buildings. This one was the barracks, chow hall, headquarters, all offices, dispensary, dentist, library, Security Police Central Security Control, Alert Quarters, and anything else that you can imagine that was not a "shop". The second building contained, all maintenance, AGE, POL, Parachute shop, motor pool, etc." He added that there were usually a total of three F-106s there at any one time with no more than two aircraft on alert. There were 50 to 75 nuclear weapons stored in a separate area about 1800 feet away. These were enough to "re-arm the entire wing in the event that Hamilton was not available for that purpose." Of the 150 personnel assigned, fifty were SPs from the 98th SPS.

The site was transferred to the ANG and became a part of Fresno ANG Base on September 11, 1971, by DAF SO GA-35, September 29, 1971.

Additional sources: research by Col Brian "Buck" Rogers, USAF (Ret.), and TSgt Marty Isham, USAF (Ret.) via TSgt Mark Morgan, Western ADS historian; The 456th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at <http://204.210.167.61/webx/History.htm>; Hamilton AFB History at hamiltonafbhistory@groups.msn.com also contains many photos of the Fresno site by Mr. de Russy; Directory of United States Air Force Organizations, July 31, 1964.