

# CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE DEDICATION OF THE RADAR SITES OF ICELAND PLAQUE—1952-2003

TO THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE MUSEUM  
WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, OHIO

25 APRIL 2003



This plaque honors all those that served at the remote radar sites of Iceland in the following United States Air Force units: the 667<sup>th</sup>, 932<sup>nd</sup>, 933<sup>rd</sup>, and 934<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadrons and the 932<sup>nd</sup> Air Control Squadron, during the years 1952 to 2003. They distinguished themselves by meritorious service for the successful accomplishment of a defense mission of vital interest to our Nation. The following summary highlights their contributions:

They helped to prevent potential Soviet aggression during the Cold War. A study of military history will show that the Soviet Air Forces were constantly thwarted in their attempts to penetrate the skies over Iceland as they headed toward the USA. The Soviets kept trying for 40 long years – but to no avail.

They demonstrated outstanding proficiency and professional skills. What place in the world was called the “Intercept Capital of the World?” The answer is the radar sites of Iceland. In fact, more intercepts of Soviet bombers were made over Iceland – more than 3,000 in all -- than all other radar sites in the world combined. They were truly the “Bear Eaters.” Yet all of this was accomplished while they were subject to possible enemy attack.

They inhibited the Soviet Strategic Air Forces’ ability to fly into US territory. They made life a little easier for the AC&W squadrons located in the Continental United States because they detected and intercepted all westbound Soviet bombers 2,000 miles before they could approach the shores of America.

They exhibited steadfast devotion to duty. Imagine what it cost in the way of Russian rubles to send all those bombers, all those years, over Iceland. We know that one of the main reasons for the collapse of the Soviet Empire was the excessive costs she bore in her military programs -- the forces operating the radar sites in Iceland contributed to that downfall. In the process, the radar squadrons collectively won a total of 22 USAF Outstanding Unit Awards.

They showed dynamic situational awareness. The Soviet Union’s “First Strike” concept was designed to cripple the ability of the United States to retaliate in kind. With this understanding, the radar men and women, while serving on the front lines, prevented the Russian Bear’s efforts to threaten our way of life. The Soviets could not get past Iceland without being detected or intercepted -- finally, almost all overflights were curtailed by 1991.

In sum, the veterans of the Radar Sites of Iceland were the Paul Revere’s of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the Silent Sentinels of modern warfare, and the point men and women who braved the elements and served on the far edges of the defensive front. They helped insure that our nation, our families, and the entire world could live in peace and safety. They reflect great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.



USAF Emblem

ADC Patch

IDF NATO Patch

IADF & 85<sup>th</sup> Group

AFI Patch

H-1 Patch

H-2 Patch

H-3 Patch, 1956-60

H-3 Patch, 1961-88

H-4 patch

932<sup>nd</sup> ACS Patch