

68th IS brimming with excellence

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68th IS
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The Headquarters Air Intelligence Agency Inspector General's office recently conducted a Mission Effectiveness Inspection of the 68th Intelligence Squadron: the result ... "Excellent!"

The 68th is a subordinate unit of the 67th Intelligence Group and 67th Intelligence Wing, both headquartered at Kelly Air Force Base, Texas. The 68th has been located at Brooks AFB since 1949 and is Brooks' oldest unit.

The 68th's mission is to monitor and assess Air Force and Joint communications and provide operations security support to commanders.

The AIA/IG evaluated mission accomplishment, unit readiness, program sustainment, and resource management. The inspection report stated the commander, his first sergeant, as well as the senior leadership of the squadron, are well organized, mission focused, and meet the challenges of the Defensive Information Operations mission.

"I'm obviously proud of the men and women of the 68th," said Lt. Col. David Ripley, 68th IS commander.

"Despite some significant con-

straints in facilities and resources, the inspection validated our ability to do our mission in an outstanding manner ... both in garrison and deployed," said Ripley.

A key element of the inspection, Readiness Exercise SENSOR CONDOR 98-6 assessed the squadron's ability to respond to a deployment scenario, as well as an emergency situation. The evaluation focused on Unit Control Center operations, command and control, deployment procedures, response to a self-aid, buddy care event, and the unit Exercise Evaluation Team's ability to accurately assess the unit's performance.

The AIA/IG stated, "UCC operations, command and control, information flow, and SABC response met or exceeded standards ... overall, the 68th IS performed well and demonstrated its ability to fulfill its mission to deploy and operate."

In his comments at the IG outbrief, Ripley praised "the superb support the 68th received from our host wing and air base group here at Brooks. "Without the full cooperation of numerous base organizations we would have been unable to demonstrate our readiness to deploy."

Throughout the unit, the inspection validated across-the-board improvement. In December 1996, the 68th received a 'satisfactory' rating with 14 findings. At the conclusion of this recent



Staff Sgt. Carlton Green has his shot records checked at the medical station during the Mission Effectiveness Inspection.

inspection, that number was cut in half to only seven findings, of those, none were critical and there were no repeat items.

Clearly, recognition for the most improved team within the 68th goes to the entire Logistic Systems Flight, where ratings were substantially improved and findings were reduced by more than 78 percent.

The commander's programs also deserve recognition for receiving an "excellent" rating, rarely achieved according to the AIA/IG Director of Inspections, Lt. Col. Mike Reide.

Finally, the Operations Flight maintained the same "excellent" ratings it earned during the previous inspection.

As a critical mission area in AIA, the DO rating carried a great deal of weight in the overall unit rating.

The 67th Intelligence Wing Vice Commander, Col. Larry Daniel, commented at the outbrief, "the 68th's superb performance reminded him of a lesson he's learned well over his 29 years.

"When it comes to mission accomplishment, it's not the facility or resources that ultimately make the difference. It's the spirit and determination of the people doing the mission." Hats off to the 68th! ■



Members of the 68th IS prepare to load on a bus for deployment during an exercise.