



5292 Morning Star Loop, Finland MN



Once in a lifetime opportunity to own one of the highest points in MN. 360 degree views with unlimited potential. Property has 43 homes and RV pads for camping. Groomed trails throughout the 100 acres, all surveyed. Included are five parcels with central septic and one well servicing the Historical area. Must see to appreciate the beauty and potential. Groomed trails for snowmobile, 4 wheelers, hiking, unlimited.

\$799,000



Premier
REAL ESTATE SERVICES

Lynne Crandall, REALTOR

320-420-7144





100 Acres

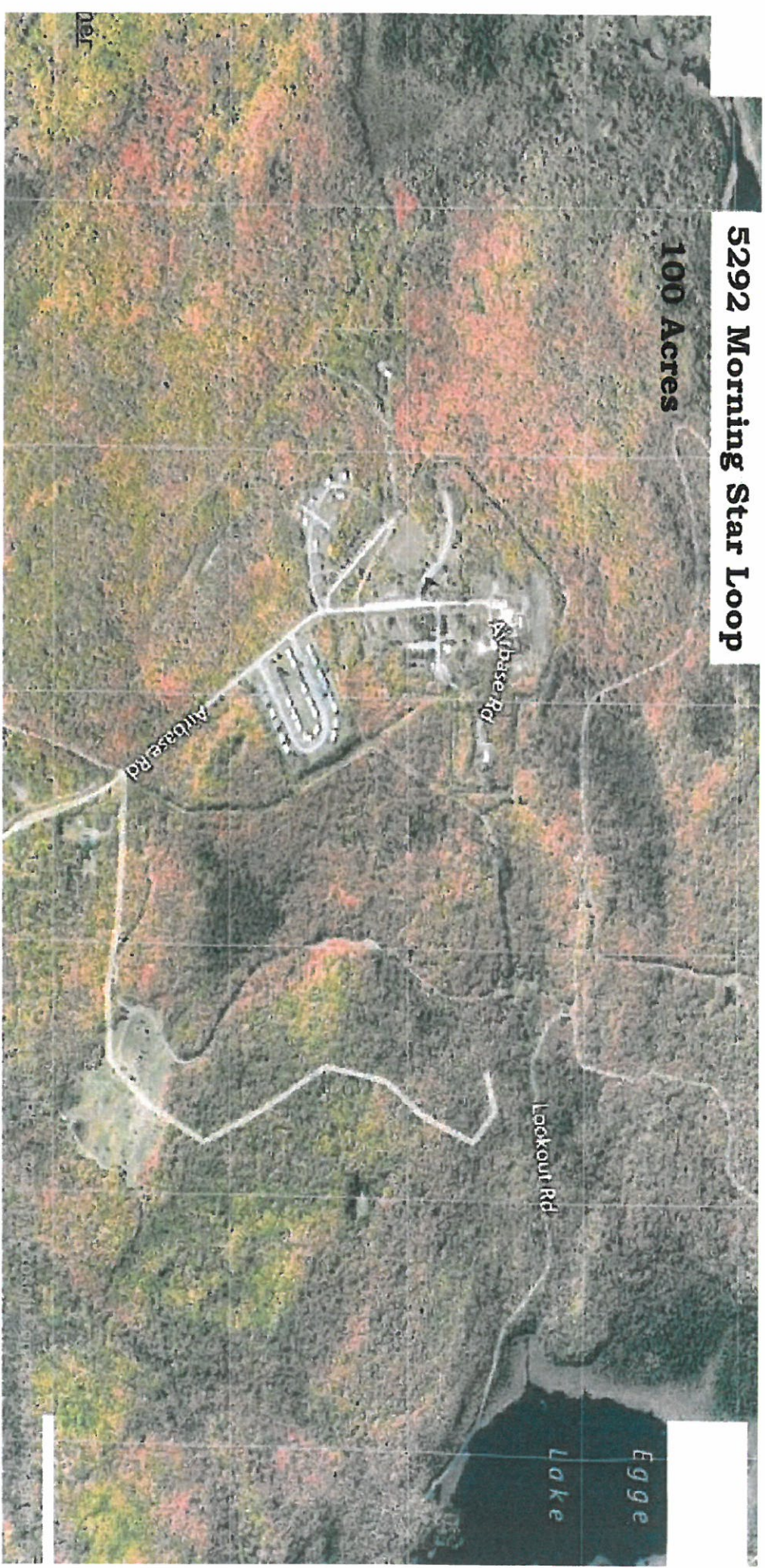
100.14 Acres

--Airbase Road

LEGEND
ALL 1/4 SECTION CORNERS SHOWN
LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS MUST
BE ON ALL 1/4 SECTION CORNERS
BEING BOUNDARY LINES
FOOTED 1/4 SECTION CORNERS
SECTION LINE
SECTION CORNER
PROPERTY BOUNDARY LINE

5292 Morning Star Loop

100 Acres



Finland Air Force Station personnel to gather for reunion

By [Lisa Kaczke](#) on Jul 9, 2015 at 10:00 p.m.



1 / 5 1st Lt. Raymond Crump walks through a nearly empty row of military housing at the Finland Air Force Station shortly before the base closed in May 1980. (News Tribune file photo)



From a hillside three miles northeast of Finland, for 30 years during the Cold War, the U.S. Air Force watched the skies for any unknown aircraft entering U.S. airspace.

The Finland Air Force Station in Lake County was a self-contained community that could continue to function if it was cut off from the outside world. Opening in November 1951, the 163-acre station operated radar surveillance until its technology became obsolete and the base closed on June 15, 1980.

In its final months of operation, the News Tribune reported at the time, names were listed on a 1980 calendar, marking when groups of service members were scheduled to leave.

"The last name, the only one under June 15, is base commander Maj. Richard Hughes. 'I'll turn out the lights,' he said," according to a 1980 News Tribune report.

Bird's eye

Click any parcel for parcel details.



met Disclaimer
ler
gend

nd 5000 results in 0.02 seconds.

N00°06'24"E 2619.11 N00°06'24"E 2623.04

Thirty-five years later, 756th Radar Squadron veterans who served at the Finland base are planning their first reunion. Saturday's event will be an informal gathering, organizer Marvin Crawford said. People can drive or walk around the former base in the morning; the reunion, open to anyone who served during the station's 30 years, is scheduled for 1-5 p.m. in the lower level at the Silver Bay Lounge.

Crawford's wife's high school reunion in Silver Bay prompted the idea of a squadron reunion.

"You know all these years, there's never really been one — so I called some people and they called some people and they called some people and they called some people," Crawford said.

About 250 people have been notified through word of mouth, Crawford said, although he expects about 50 to 100 people to attend the reunion.

In addition to military personnel stationed at the Finland installation during its existence, residents in nearby communities also worked at the station and 25 civilians lost their jobs when the facility closed in 1980. Crawford said he hopes residents who worked at the Air Force station stop by the reunion as well.

"I hope everyone has a good time, sees people they know and trades a lot of stories," Crawford said.

Crawford served in radar maintenance at the station from 1965 until 1968. A native of Kentucky, he had been serving in tropical climates before being assigned to the Finland Air Force Station.

"I really didn't know very much about Minnesota," he said. "It was a shock. Fortunately it was in July, but I came up — drove up — and I spent the night in Eau Claire, Wis., and I got about 40 miles out of Superior and I had to turn the car heater on. On July 1. I went, 'What is this?'"

During his time in Finland, he met his wife, who was the daughter of the Silver Bay police chief at the time. Crawford's time in Finland wrapped up eight years in the Air Force and he left the service, heading to the University of Minnesota to receive his engineering degree.

Not much changed over time at the Finland Air Force Station and many of the veterans had similar experiences, Crawford said.

"One thing about it, no matter when you were there, you pretty much got the same tales to tell," he said.

» Finland Air Force Station contained 26 military buildings and 44 homes for the service members' families.

To be self-sufficient, the station included gas pumps and a commissary. It had its own ski tow, bowling lanes, movie theater and library and was the only Air Force installation outside of Alaska with its own curling rink, according to a 1968 Duluth News Tribune series on the station.

The station's radar technology became obsolete in the late 1970s and the U.S. Department of Defense announced in 1978 that it was one of 40 radar sites that would be phased out in the next two years.

Although local residents working at the station — some of them close to receiving their pensions — were upset about losing their jobs, some military wives were happy to be leaving the Finland post, where they felt isolated.

"When the search tower was shut down April 30, ending the station's main mission, the women said they climbed up into the tower and broke open bottles of champagne," the News Tribune reported at the time.

The station was sold to an developer in 1982, but no changes were made to the base. It was sold in 1983 to a Twin Cities family that owned it for more than two decades under the name Finlandia LLC, according to previous News Tribune stories.

A well used by housing on the site in the mid-1990s was found to be polluted by contaminants from the closed station, and the area is now monitored by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Today, most of the station's property is used as a prayer retreat center by Eagle Ministries.

More information

For more information about Saturday's Finland Air Force Station reunion, contact Marvin Crawford at mdcrawford@earthlink.net (<mailto:mdcrawford@earthlink.net>) or (402) 320-2980.

239

SPONSORED CONTENT



Discover Adventure at the Beaches in Puerto Rico

By SeePuertoRico.com

ADVERTISEMENT

Finland Air Force Station

From FortWiki

Finland Air Force Station (1950-1980) - A Cold War Air Force Radar Station first established in 1950 near Finland, Lake County, Minnesota. Named Finland Air Force Station. Initially assigned an ID of LP-69 and later a Permanent ID of P-69, and a Sage ID of Z-69. Abandoned in 1980.



Finland AFS Telco Bldg., Last Remaining Structure on Main Site.



Finland AFS Former Housing Area.



Finland AFS Operations/FST-2/BUIC II Building Foundations, Foundations are all that remains of the Main Site.

History

Established in 1950 and became operational on 30 Nov 1951 as Finland Air Force Station manned by the 756th AC&W Squadron. The initial equipment was a CPS-5 and the site was indicating that the site was permanent but the equipment was Lashup equipment. In July 1952 the site began operation as permanent radar site P-69 with a FPS-3 search radar and height-finder.

The permanent station initially had both a Ground-Control Intercept (GCI) and early warning mission. The early warning mission involved tracking and identifying all aircraft in the airspace while the GCI mission involved guiding Air Force interceptors to any identified enemy aircraft. Controllers at the station vectored fighter aircraft at the correct course to intercept enemy aircraft using voice commands via ground-to-air radio.

The equipment was upgraded in 1959 to include the FPS-20 search radar and two FPS-6 height-finder radars in preparation for SAGE System operation.

SAGE Transition

The transition of the manual GCI system to the automated SAGE system began with the installation of the FST-2 coordinate data transmitter and search radar upgrades. The digitized radar returns and transmitted the digital returns to the SAGE direction center. Under the SAGE System, interceptor aircraft were directed to their targets by the computers and controllers, greatly reducing the need for local controllers and equipment at every radar station.

The FST-2 was a very large digital system using vacuum tube technology. Over 6900 vacuum tubes were used in each FST-2 requiring 21 air-conditioned cabinets, 40 tons of prime power and usually a large new addition to the operations building. The FST-2B modification added two more cabinets but with newer solid state (transistor) process coded responses from aircraft transponders.

The site began operation as a SAGE site in November 1959 feeding the Duluth SAGE Direction Center DC-10. The search radar was upgraded to an FPS-27 in 1963 and the radars were changed out for an FPS-26A and an FPS-90 that same year.

Gap Fillers

Finland AFS was responsible for the maintenance of three remote unattended gap-filler radar sites. The unattended gap filler sites were placed in locations where the main site coverage was poor. These sites were equipped with short range FPS-14 or FPS-18 search radars and FST-1 Coordinate Data transmitters that sent digitized radar target data to a SAGE site and to the main radar site. Both the radar set and the FST-1 were dual channel to increase site up time. Maintenance teams were dispatched for regularly scheduled maintenance.

indicators on the FSW-1 remote monitoring equipment suggested the site had problems. The FSW-1 also allowed remote operation of specific functions such as channel char and for the FST-1, it also allowed remote operation of the diesel generators at the gap filler site. The Finland AFS gap-filler radars were located at Upson, WI; Askov, MN; a Three other gap-fillers were planned but not built.

Finland AFS Gap Filler Radar Sites (edit list) (<http://www.fortwiki.com/index.php?title=Template:FinlandAFSGFS&action=edit>)

ADC	NORAD	Location	State	Type	From	To	GPS	Notes
P-69B P-16B	Z-69B	Upson	WI	FPS-18, FST-1	1959-11	1964-06	46.41946, -90.38508 (http://wikimapia.org/#lat=46.41946&lon=-90.38508&z=18&l=0&m=b)	Bldg still exists
P-69C	Z-69C	Askov	MN	FPS-14, FST-1	1957-11	1964-06	46.23674, -92.74235 (http://wikimapia.org/#lat=46.23674&lon=-92.74235&z=18&l=0&m=b)	Bldg still exists
P-69D	Z-69D	Aurora	MN	FPS-18, FST-1	1960-12	1968-06	47.59792, -92.2242 (http://wikimapia.org/#lat=47.59792&lon=-92.2242&z=18&l=0&m=b)	Bldg still exists

BUIC System

Finland AFS became a BUIC I GCI site on 8 Apr 1963 and went operational as a BUIC II site in December 1966. The BUIC II system provided a backup for a SAGE directi GSA-51 computer system and provided the ability to display sector wide radar data on consoles for local weapons controllers. The system duplicated the functionality of the direction center computers with the more up-to-date GSA-51 computer system. The site was not selected as a BUIC III site and reverted to a surveillance role in 1969.

Closure

Finland AFS ceased operation and the 756th Radar Squadron was deactivated on 15 Aug 1980. The base was declared excess on 23 Jan 1981 and disposed of on 2 Dec 1982 when its mission was transferred to JSS and FAA. The Air Force maintained GATR operation on the 5.33 acre GATR site until 30 Sep 1984 as GATR Site R-69. All leased a prior to declaration of excess in 1981.

Physical Plant



Finland AFS Looking Down the Main Road through the Cantonment Area, no Remains.

The physical plant of the site was divided into the main site, a cantonment area, a housing area and a radio site. The main operations buildings, the radar towers, and the backup generators. The cantonment area housed the enlisted barracks, the quarters, the orderly room, the dining hall, the motor pool and other support buildings. Apart from the main site was a 44 for married personnel, a relocatable housing area and a 18 site trailer park. A separate Ground to Air Transmitter/Receive housed the radio equipment for directing aircraft intercepts. Like most AC&W sites, there were originally separate radio radio receiver sites and buildings. With the coming of the SAGE System these separate sites were combined into one, cor the GATR site.

Finland AFS Major Equipment List

Search Radar	HF Radar	Data Systems
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CPS-5 ■ FPS-3 ■ FPS-20 ■ FPS-64 ■ FPS-27 ■ FPS-14 Gap Filler ■ FPS-18 Gap Filler 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ FPS-5 ■ FPS-6 ■ FPS-6A ■ FPS-90 ■ FPS-26A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ FST-2/A/B ■ FST-1 Gap Filler ■ GSA-51

Unit Designations

- 756th Aircraft Control & Warning (AC&W) Squadron (1950-1959)
- 756th Radar Squadron (SAGE) (1959-1974)
- 756th Radar Squadron (1974-1980)

756th Assignments

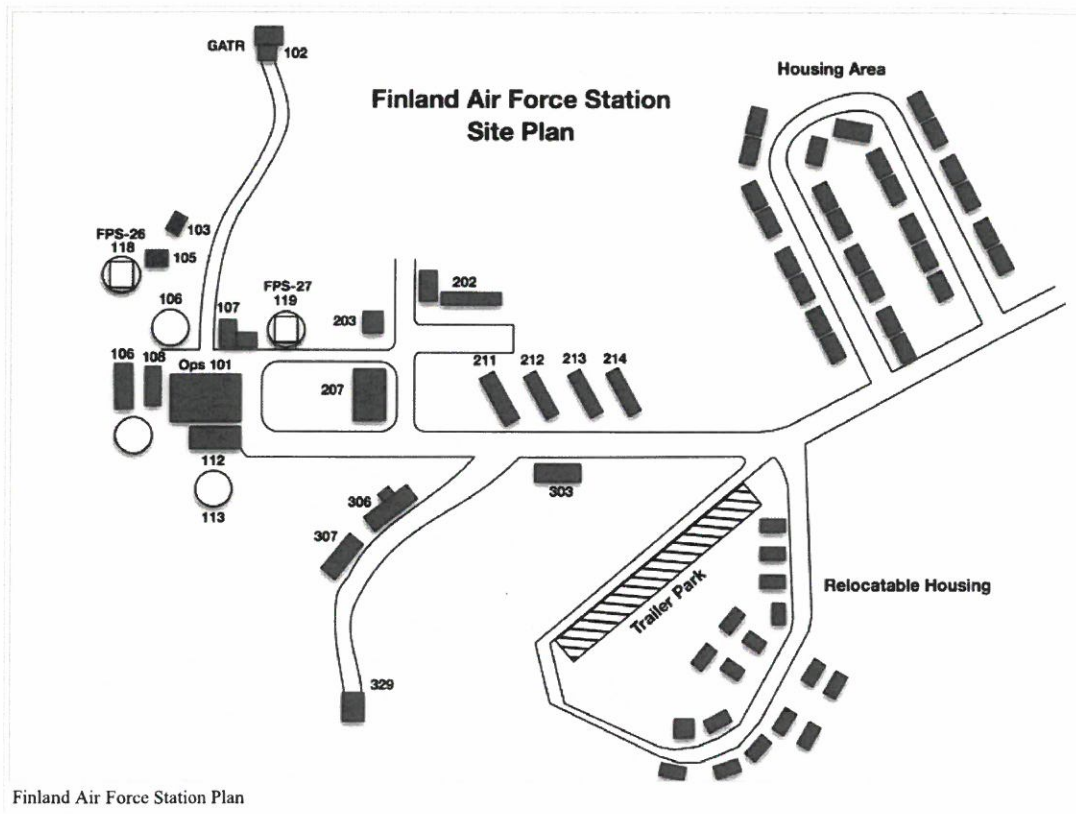
- 1 Jan 1951 - Assigned at Finland AFS, MN, assigned to 543rd AC&W Gp.
- 6 Feb 1952 - Transferred to 31st AD.
- 1 Jan 1959 - Transferred to 37th AD.
- 1 Apr 1959 - Transferred to 30th AD.
- 1 Jul 1959 - Transferred to Duluth ADS.
- 15 Dec 1959 - Redesignated from 756th AC&W Sq to 756th Radar Sq (SAGE).
- 1 Apr 1966 - Transferred to 29th AD.
- 15 Sep 1969 - Reassigned to 54th AD.
- 14 Nov 1969 - Reassigned to 29th AD.
- 19 Nov 1969 - Reassigned to 23rd AD.
- 1 Feb 1974 - Redesignated 756 Radar Sq.
- 1 Oct 1979 - Reassigned to TAC.
- 15 Aug 1980 - Deactivated.

Finland Air Force Station Partial Commanders List (edit list) (<http://www.fortwiki.com/index.php?title=Template:FinlandAFSCmdrs&action=edit>)

Assumed	Relieved	Rank	Name	Cullum
1957~		Ltc	Trimble, Garvel R.	N/A
1963~		Ltc	Donnelly, G.	N/A
1964	1966	Ltc	Hoffacker, Victor	N/A
1966	1967	Ltc	Shadeck, Jack C.	N/A
1968	1969	Ltc	Grymonprez, Frank R.	N/A

Current Status

The main site and the cantonment area have been mostly reduced to foundations and building outlines. The two housing areas are in civilian private ownership. The trailer site remains of the GATR site.



Finland AFS Structures (edit list) (<http://www.fortwiki.com/index.php?title=Template:FinlandAFSStructures&action=edit>)

Number	Building	Exists	Notes
101	Operations	No	
102	GATR Site	No	
103	ARMCO, DC, Supply	No	
105	Carpenter Shop	No	
106	Fallout Shelter	No	
107	Motor Pool	No	
108	Unit Supply	No	
112	Power Plant	No	
113	Old Search Tower	No	
116	Special Services	No	
117	Wood Hobby Shop	No	
118	FPS-26 Tower	No	
119	FPS-27 Tower	No	
202	Civil Engineer	No	
203	Heating Plant	No	
207	Dining Hall	No	
208	Telco	No	
211	NCO Club	No	
212	Dorm 3	No	
213	Dorm 2	No	
214	Dorm 1	No	
303	Multipurpose Building	No	Theater
304	Commissary/Exchange	No	
307	Headquarters/BOQ	No	
309	Storage	No	
	Curling Rink	No	Below Bldg. 202
	Housing Area	Yes	
	Relocatable Housing Area	Yes	
	Trailer Sites	No	



Location: Finland in Lake County, Minnesota.

Maps & Images

Lat: 47.45361 Long: -91.2375

- Street map from Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=47.45361,-91.2375&sj>)
- Yahoo! Maps (http://maps.yahoo.com/maps_result?lat=47.45361&lon=-91.2375&mag=
- Topographic map from ACME ([http://mapper.acme.com/?ll=47.45361,-91.2375&z=16&t=T&marker0=47.45361,-91.2375,{{{3}}}\)](http://mapper.acme.com/?ll=47.45361,-91.2375&z=16&t=T&marker0=47.45361,-91.2375,{{{3}}})))
- Satellite image from Google Maps (<http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=47.45361,-91.2375&spn=0.11,0.18&t=h>) or Microsoft Virtual Earth (<http://virtualearth.msn.com/default.aspx?cp=47.45361%7C-91.2375&style=h&lvl=13/>)
- Wiki Mapping from WikiMapia (<http://wikimapia.org/#lat=47.45361&lon=-91.2375&z>
- Mapping from Bing (http://www.bing.com/maps/default.aspx?v=2&cp=47.45361~-91.2375&style=r&lvl=15&sp=Point.47.45361_-91.2375_Finland_
- Mapping from Bing Birdseye (http://www.bing.com/maps/default.aspx?v=2&cp=47.45361~-91.2375&style=o&lvl=15&sp=Point.47.45361_-91.2375_Finland_
- Elevation: 1,916'

See Also:

- SAGE System
- BUIC System
- Permanent System Radar Sites
- US Radar Sets
- Duluth SAGE Direction Center DC-10

Sources:

- Cornett, Lloyd H. & Johnson, Mildred W., **A Handbook of Aerospace Defense Organization (1946-1980)**, Office of History ADC, Peterson AFB, Colorado, 31 Dec Pdf (<http://www.usafpatches.com/pubs/handbookofadcorg.pdf>) , page 164.

- Winkler, David F., **Searching the skies: the legacy of the United States Cold War defense radar program**, USAF Hq Air Combat Command, 1997, 192 pages, Pdf (<https://fas.org/nuke/guide/usa/airdef/1997-06-01955.pdf>) , page 126.
- **NORAD/CONAD Historical Summary Jan-Dec 1966**, dated 1 May 1967, Command History Division, HQ NORAD/CONAD, Unclassified (originally classified Secret) ([http://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/afhistory/norad/\(U\)%201966%20NORAD-CONAD%20History.pdf](http://documents.theblackvault.com/documents/afhistory/norad/(U)%201966%20NORAD-CONAD%20History.pdf)) , pages 28-31, Backup Intercept Control System:
- **USGS Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) Database Entry: 2087611** (http://geonames.usgs.gov/apex/f?p=gnispq:3:::NO::P3_FID:2087611)

Links:

- Radomes - Finland Air Force Station (<http://www.radomes.org/cgi-bin/museum/acwinfo2x.cgi?site=%22Finland+AFS,+MN%22&key=FinlandAFSMN&pic=FinlandAFSMN&doc=FinlandAFSMN&www=FinlandAFSMN>)
- Wikipedia - Finland Air Force Station (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland_Air_Force_Station)
- Finland AFS Web Site (<http://www.8thwood.com/finlandmn.htm>)

Visited: 16 Jul 2016

Retrieved from "http://www.fortwiki.com/index.php?title=Finland_Air_Force_Station&oldid=120108"

Categories: FST-2 | SAGE Radar Sites | FSW-1 | Visited | All | Minnesota All | Minnesota Radar Sites | Minnesota Lake County | Finland Air Force Station
| 2016 Research Trip | Starter Page | USAF Radar Sites | BUIC Sites | SAGE Sites | CPS-5 | FPS-3 | FPS-5 | FPS-20 | FPS-64 | FPS-27 | FPS-6 | FPS-90 | FPS-26
| FST-1 | GSA-51 | FPS-14 | FPS-18

-
- This page has been accessed 2,696 times.
 - This page was last modified 09:36, 25 February 2018 by John Stanton. Based on work by Bill Thayer.
 - Content is available under Creative Commons Attribution Share Alike.