



What Is The DEFSMAC?

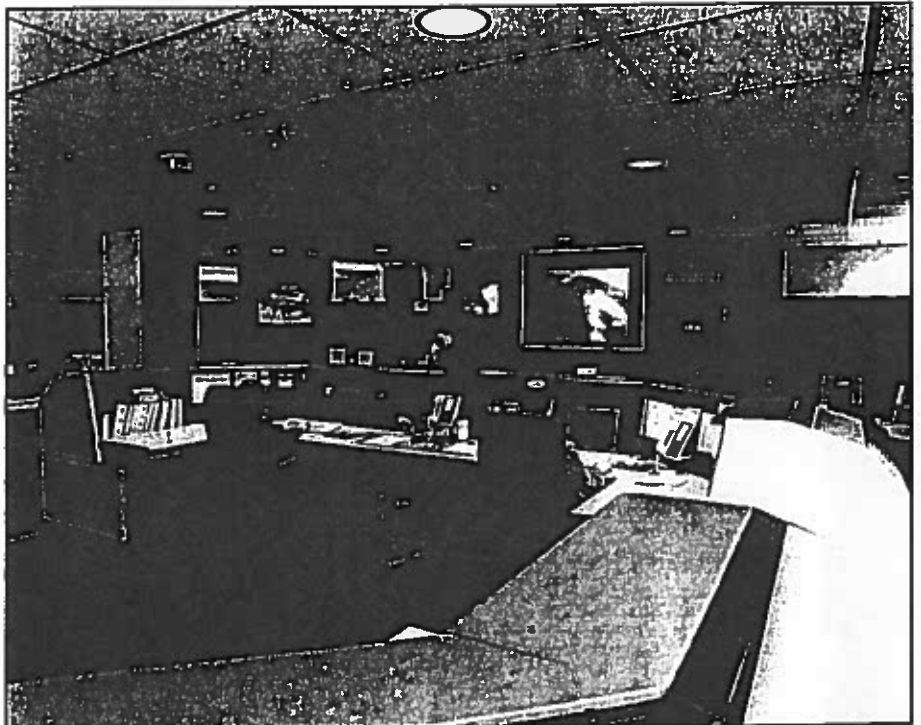
by Col Rosanne Greco, USAF

DEFSMAC (pronounced deaf-smack), Defense Special Missile and Astronautics Center, may be one of the most misunderstood acronyms in the Department of Defense (DoD). Although DEFSMAC has existed for 35 years, the name is still not commonly recognized. DEFSMAC is an all-source intelligence center jointly operated by DIA and the National Security Agency. Housed at Ft. Meade, Md., it is the DoD focal point for real-time mission operations, analysis, and reporting of specialized, worldwide, all-source, intelligence data. It provides time-sensitive alerts, initial event assessments, and mission support to national agencies, national command authorities, Unified Commands, and field-deployed sensor platforms and stations.

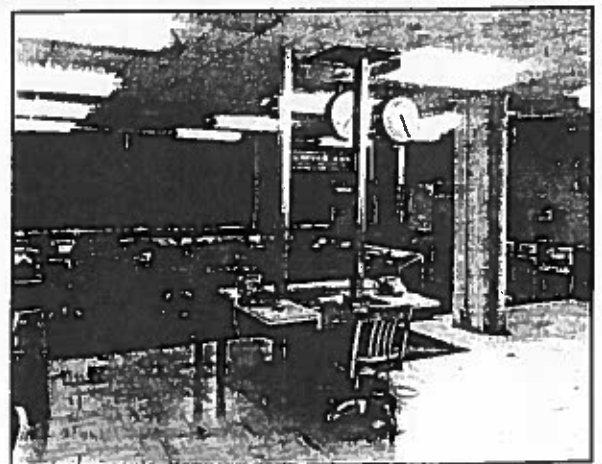
Before DEFSMAC, various organizations tasked and supported collection assets independently. Consequently, the Intelligence Community was susceptible to collection program duplication, reporting inconsistencies, and missed collection opportunities. The situation clearly necessitated a more efficient process and improved management procedures. DEFSMAC was created and quickly became the center of excellence in missile and space activities.

In the summer of 1997, after 33 years in one location, DEFSMAC finally moved into new spaces. The

organization went from 1960's vintage watch spaces to a state-of-the-art facility optimized for worldwide instantaneous connectivity. ■



View of the new, state-of-the-art spaces in the 1990s.



View of the watch spaces in the 1960s.