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**Subject:** ESS - ESS1364: Center for Cryptologic History

**Date:** Wed, 14 Aug 1996 19:08:53 GMT

**From:** [redacted]

**Newsgroups:** [pubs.history](#), [misc.ess.all](#)

**Classification:** ~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

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Message topic: ESS1364: Center for Cryptologic History (U)

Posted by: [redacted]

This article is classified ~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

CRYPTOLOGIC ALMANAC  
Rosman Tracks on to the End

(b) (1)  
(b) (3) - 50 USC 403  
(b) (3) - 18 USC 798  
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

~~(FOUO)~~ What can one say when a good thing comes to an end? Just that it was good while it lasted. Those who worked at the Rosman Research Station (RRS) in Transylvania County, North Carolina, agreed that this was true. The site recently closed its doors after thirty-two years of operation.

(S//SI).

~~(FOUO)~~ The remote Rosman Research Station, the size of a small industrial park and having four huge satellite dishes, was built on 202 acres of national forest land about 140 miles west of Charlotte. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) built the station in 1963 to track satellites. NASA originally chose the Rosman site because the mountains provided a "quiet zone" free of interference from unwanted radio signals. They planned two different operations: the first was a Multi-Mission Operation, established to record and/or transmit data to the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, from some thirty-six different orbiting spacecraft. The second operation was the Applications Technology Satellite, basically a collection of data for various technologies having wide applications in space and space flight, including manned space flight. NASA pulled out of Rosman in 1981, and in April of that year the [redacted] mission started with the Department of Defense's (DoD) official 1 July takeover.

(S//SI)

~~(FOUO)~~ Contractors from Bendix, Raytheon and Allied Signal, Inc., along with National Security Agency civilians

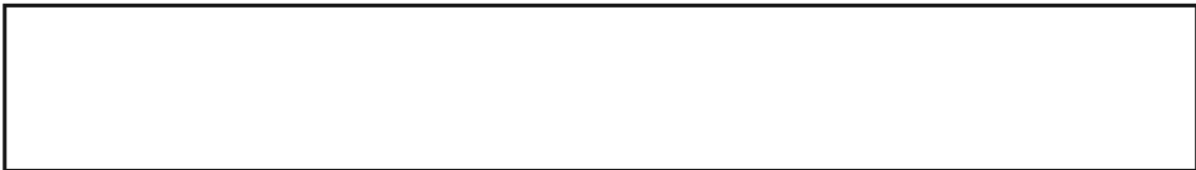
[redacted]

~~(S)~~ After the DoD takeover, the work at Rosman, even the number of employees, was a closely guarded secret. Budget cuts and the removal of the station's primary function forced the Agency to cease operations on 31 March 1995.

[redacted]

~~(TSC)~~ In spite of adversity, significant notoriety came to the RRS.

[redacted]



(FOUO) It had not been an easy task to find tenants for the RRS facility. The Forest Service did not want it and the cost of upkeep that would be a part of the takeover. They knew they would have to give it away since under federal law they could not sell it. So the trick was finding someone who would have an interest in the exchange. The Forest Service was eventually able to strike a deal with Texas Joint Ventures/Rosman Research Partners. When NSA was notified by Art Rowe, District Ranger, United States Department of Agriculture, that the station had acquired a new owner and was making a trade of \$10-\$15 million in buildings and land, it was a sad time for many who had worked at the station. Nevertheless, it was a windfall for the U.S. Forest Service. And, according to the former and last NSA Chief of Station, the new owners plan to "renovate the site for two-way communications and claim to have several "blue-chip" companies interested in using the facility. He goes on to say "any deal of a new owner would be a good deal for NSA since complete turnover prior to the end of our Care and Custody commitment on 30 September 1996 will result in significant savings for our agency."



Center for Cryptologic History, 972-2893s,

(b) (1)  
(b) (3)-50 USC 403  
(b) (3)-18 USC 798  
(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

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