Historical Context:

This document is a DD Form 214 (Report of Transfer or Discharge) issued by the Armed Forces of the United States.

- **Purpose:** It is a vital military record provided to service members upon their release, discharge, or retirement from active duty. It serves as definitive proof of your ancestor's military service, detailing their dates of service, rank, specialty, and the character of their discharge (in this case, Honorable).
- **Historical Context:** Created in December 1969, this document reflects service during the Vietnam War era. Lewis Mihalich served in the Air Force Security Service (USAFSS), a branch responsible for communications intelligence and cryptography, which explains his specialty as a Radio Intercept Analyst.
- **Terminology:**
    - **AFRes:** Air Force Reserve.
    - **USAFSS:** United States Air Force Security Service.
    - **SAEMR, NDSM, AFGCM:** Military decorations (Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal).

Details Mentioned:

You can extract the following details from this document:

Principal Individual:

- **Name:** Lewis Mihalich
- **Role in Document:** Subject of Discharge (Enlistee)
- **Biographical Details:**
    - **Birth:** June 26, 1946, in Alton, Illinois.
    - **Residence:** 121 E 1st, Hartford, IL 62048 (at time of entry and permanent address after discharge).
    - **Military Service:** US Air Force (RegAF), Service Number AF17728798. Entered active service on December 14, 1965, in St. Louis, MO. Released from active duty on December 10, 1969, at McChord AFB, Tacoma, WA.
    - **Rank:** Sergeant (SGT), Pay Grade E4 (Date of Rank: February 1, 1968).
    - **Specialty:** R20250 Radio Intercept Analysis Specialist.
    - **Education:** High School graduate. Completed Basic Military Training (1966), Radio Intercept Analysis Preparatory (1966), and Radio Intercept Analysis Specialist (1966).
    - **Decorations:** Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR), National Defense Service Medal (NDSM), Air Force Good Conduct Medal (AFGCM).

Associated Individual:

- **Name:** Gerald Grossberg
- **Role in Document:** Authorizing Officer (1st Lieutenant, USAF, Chief Port Separation Section)
- **Relationship to Principal:** Official who authorized Lewis Mihalich's discharge.

Key Findings:

- **Military Service:** You have found a record proving Lewis Mihalich served honorably in the US Air Force from December 14, 1965, to December 10, 1969.
- **Rank and Role:** He achieved the rank of Sergeant and worked in communications intelligence as a Radio Intercept Analysis Specialist.
- **Foreign Service:** The document reveals he completed over 3 years of foreign and/or sea service, a significant detail for tracing his deployment history during the Vietnam War era.
- **Post-Service:** Upon his release from active duty at McChord AFB, he was transferred to the Air Force Reserve with an obligation lasting until December 13, 1971.

Suggested Next Steps:

Based on the information in this document, you should consider the following research steps:

- **Military Records:** You should search MyHeritage's military record collections for additional files, draft registrations, or unit rosters related to Lewis Mihalich's Air Force service.
- **Official Personnel File:** You can request his complete Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in St. Louis, Missouri, using his service number (AF17728798) and SSN.
- **Unit History:** You might want to research the 6984th Security Squadron (USAFSS) to understand the specific operations, deployments, and locations he was involved in during his 3 years of foreign service.
- **Census and Vital Records:** You should look for census records, city directories, and vital records in Madison County, Illinois (specifically Alton and Hartford), to trace his early life, parents, and family structure.