

468th AAF BASE UNIT (RESERVE TRAINING)

MISSION

LINEAGE

468th AAF Base Unit

STATIONS

Memphis Municipal Apt, TN

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Air Defense Command organized the first four reserve training base units on June 15 and another twenty-one by the end of the month. Among the latter was the 468th Army Air Forces Base Unit (Reserve Training) at Memphis Municipal Airport (MAP), Tennessee, where on July 1 reservists conducted the first postwar Air Reserve training flight in an airplane, probably a C-41, borrowed from the 4th Ferry Group—twelve days before the War Department formally approved the Army Air Forces Air Reserve plan. By the end of 1946, the command had organized Air Reserve training

detachments at seventy bases and airfields.

After adjusting its plan to accommodate the changing availability of some facilities, the Air Defense Command intended to activate forty base units by July 1, 1946. In getting the reserve base program underway, Stratemeyer and his headquarters staff encountered severe problems from the very beginning. They included delays in the assignment of bases, facilities, and aircraft; insufficient permanent party personnel; and severe budget limitations. The first of many obstacles arose when it became evident on May 22 that, because of War Department delays in approving the Army Air Forces plan, permanent party personnel for the base unit cadres could not meet their reporting dates. The Air Defense Command therefore delayed activating each base for fifteen days, and the Air Staff postponed delivery of aircraft until after July 1

Another early difficulty involved the identification and acquisition of bases and training facilities for the base units which were to train the air reservists. The problem was threefold: the War Department and the Army Air Forces did not immediately identify installations that would be retained for long-range postwar use; the Air National Guard had first choice; and municipal authorities sought to attract civil aviation in preference to government activity. Various Air Staff agencies began coordinating the location of guard and reserve units in September 1945, but a year would pass before the fields for the first forty Air Reserve units were firmly identified. This was but one of the fruits of the long delay in planning an Air Reserve program. The War Department approved implementation of training by the Army Air Forces at the first forty bases. Still, the Reserve and National Guard Division

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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.