

3902 AIR BASE WING



MISSION

The 3902 Air Base Wing is host unit at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. It is assigned directly to Headquarters Strategic Air Command (SAC). The wing commander is designated both base commander and Commandant of Headquarters SAC.

The responsibilities of the 3902 Air Base Wing are to provide logistical and administrative support to all tenant units at Offutt AFB including Headquarters SAC. The 3902 Air Base Wing is also responsible for ensuring such services as commissary and base exchange and for maintaining a disaster relief capability for domestic emergencies. Additionally, the wing must participate in reserve training programs, depending upon the availability of facilities and personnel, and it must provide any other services that the Commander in Chief of SAC may direct

LINEAGE

3902 Air Base Wing
Activated, 16 Aug 1949

STATIONS

Offutt AFB, NE, 16 Aug 1949

ASSIGNMENTS

Strategic Air Command

COMMANDERS

Col William B. Campbell, #1959
Col Elkins Read, Jr. 1965

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 3902d Air Base Wing was activated. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron were organized along with the 3902d Composite Group and 3902d Operations Squadron. The Hospital Squadron was redesignated the 3902d Medical Group. The 702d Air Force Band and 30th Communications Squadron were relieved from attachment to the 3902d Air Base Group. The 3902d Air Base Wing gained these two groups as attachments and the 3902d Base Flight Squadron was redesignated the 3902d Maintenance Squadron.

SAC was permitted to establish a unit at Offutt before 30 September in order to move an advance echelon to Offutt. Military and civilian personnel who did not move with the Tenth Air Force to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, were transferred to the 3902d Air Base Group effective 26 September 1948, with the exception of an unknown number civilians who were separated and paid accrued leave by Tenth Air Force.

The story of Strategic Air Command's growth during the next eight years could have been summarized for this history of Offutt Air Force Base because it was against the backdrop of the 3902d Air Base Wing (as the group was redesignated in 1952) that many personnel and financial management theories and plans were tested before becoming command-wide policies. But, the "big picture" has been left in the capable hands of SAC's professional historians in the belief that an account of SAC's refinement of bombing techniques, crew training, aircraft maintenance, personnel management, and unit mobility, to name a few, deserved more minute discussion. However, references to the Commander in Chief and Headquarters SAC, were inevitable; Strategic Air Command would have developed into a mighty deterrent force no matter where it's headquartered. Offutt might have remained a heterogeneous mixture of old Army brick buildings and aircraft assembly and modification plants.

The decade began when moving offices and furniture seemed to be a significant aspect. In January 1957 the entire staff and equipment comprising Strategic Air Command Headquarters moved from Building 323 to the New Control Center (Building 500) in eight days. This move required the placement of over 12,000 pieces of office equipment and nearly as many cartons of material required by the headquarters staff. The entire move cost the government slightly over \$1,600. The 3902d Air Base Wing Commander had decided to use the talent and capabilities of the personnel assigned to Offutt instead of relying on contract carriers. The decision saved the Air Force

approximately \$50,000 in moving expenses. Later that April, the various offices of the 3902d Air Base Wing began moving into Building 323.

The 3902 ABW conducted two large-scale projects during 1963, Operation Shelter and Operation Shelby County. Operation Shelter had three major objectives. One was the movement of emergency supplies from Building D at Offutt to 154 pre-designated acres in Douglas County, Nebraska, and the second objective was to reawaken public interest in preparation for national disaster whether caused by a man or as a result of natural forces. The third objective was to coordinate efforts of civil defense and military personnel as a full-scale practice exercise to prepare both parties for any future disaster which would call for a coordinated effort. The exercise was carried out on 20-21 April 1963 and moving equipment and drivers were furnished by various businesses in the local area. Offutt AFB provided the manpower to load and unload the supplies from the trucks. The Information Office at Offutt was also responsible for local coverage of the event. The operation was a success, and all materials reached their destinations on or ahead of schedule with all communications taking-place by radio instead of by telephone to increase the reality of the event.

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