

HEADQUARTERS AERONAUTICAL CHART AND INFORMATION CENTER



LINEAGE

36th Army Air Force Base Unit (Aeronautical Chart Service) organized, 1 Jan 1945
Redesignated 36th Air Force Base Unit (HQ, Aeronautical Chart Service), 26 Sep 1947
Redesignated Headquarters, Aeronautical Chart Service, 1 Aug 1948
Redesignated HQ and HQ Squadron, USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Service, 1 Feb 1951
Redesignated HQ, USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Service, 21 May 1951
Redesignated USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, 1 Aug 1952
Redesignated Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, 20 Sep 1954
Redesignated HQ, Aeronautical Chart and Information Center, 8 Sep 1958
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1972

STATIONS

St Louis, MO

ASSIGNMENTS

Army Air Forces, 1 Jan 1945
Air Transport Command, Apr 1946
Strategic Air Command, 21 May 1947
Air Materiel Command, 1 Mar 1950 Military
Air Transport Service, 11 May 1952

Relieved from assignment to MATS and given status as a separate operating agency, 1 Jul 1960, with procedural functions of a major command.

COMMANDERS

Col John G. Eriksen, 1963
Col Albert J. McChristy, Jr., 1967
Col Byron L. Schatzley, Aug 1970
Col Edwin L. Sterling, 1971
Col Schauer
Col Anton Hansen

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The mission of the USAF Aeronautical Chart and Information Center (ACIC) is to prepare and distribute aeronautical charts, air target materials, flight-information publications, geodetic-missile data, astronomical and geophysical charts, and reference materials for the Air Force, other military organizations in the Department of Defense, and civilian aviation and space agencies.

This Separate Operating Agency, with headquarters and production plant on the grounds of an old Civil War arsenal near downtown St. Louis, was organized to meet the requirements of all Air Force commands and other military organizations in the Department of Defense. ACIC has squadrons and detachments located in Alaska, Hawaii, Germany, England, the Philippines, Okinawa, the Canal Zone, Japan, and Southeast Asia, to respond rapidly to the requirements of the field.

From its detachment in Washington, D.C., ACIC provides liaison with and obtains data from other intelligence and charting agencies.

The Center's production is divided into four major programs: navigation and planning charts, Flight Information Publications, air target materials, and special products.

The navigation and planning series include the Joint Operation Graphics, Tactical Pilotage Charts, Operational Navigation Charts, Jet Navigation Charts, Global Navigation and Planning Charts, Loran Charts, Missile Planning Charts, and DoD Weather Charts.

Flight Information Publications (FLIPs) are produced for the planning, en-route, and terminal phases of aircraft operation. The charts cover the entire free world.

Air Target Materials include Air Target Charts, Mosaics, and Missile Target Data Sheets.

Under the heading of Special Products are the filmstrips and film-chip products supporting automated navigation systems. These miniaturized cartographic items with electronic data computer tapes are used in the F-106, and the Chart Center also produces the color filmstrips that are required by the Navy A-7E and the F-111.

Three Department of Defense special data files providing service to all of DoD are housed at the Chart Center: the DoD Gravity Library, the DoD Centralized Library of Aeronautical Charts, and the Free World Air Facility Information.

Professional scientific and technical skills of almost 4,000 military and civilian personnel are needed to build and distribute the approximately 100,000,000 copies of the thousands of separate items ACIC provides each year to users all over the world.

ACIC works directly with the USAF R&D organizations to ensure that new cartographic and geodetic products are available in time and are accurate enough to support the new air strike and missile systems in development. Also, research and technical development on ACIC equipment and work processes are continually taking place in order to remain one step ahead of the user's demands.

To keep in step with the ever-changing cartographic career field, ACIC conducts an Air Force cartographic training school for the Air Training Command. Both military and civilian personnel from all commands can receive intensive instruction in the science of chart making.

Charting the earth is not the only assignment given ACIC. Lunar and Martian charting has become another important support function. For the Apollo manned space missions, ACIC has produced hundreds of cartographic items at the request of NASA. These include operation support graphics for lunar orbit, landing, and surface-exploration phases as well as for earth-orbit and recovery operations. A Lunar Atlas and two Lunar Reference Mosaics have been published at scales of 1:5,000,000 and 1:10,000,000, and twenty-five of the 144 Lunar Aeronautical Charts required to cover the moon have been published at the 1:1,000,000 scale. The 1:35,000,000-scale prototype chart of the planet Mars, published by ACIC, was widely used by space planners and news media representatives during the Mariner-4 probe of the Red Planet.

Although the headquarters and the production plant in St. Louis are the focal point of ACIC activities, ACIC squadrons and detachments are located all over the world, wherever needed to provide the most effective support for the major users of ACIC products.

Upon inactivation in 1972, the Aeronautical Chart and Information Center's mission and functions became part of the Defense Mapping Agency, a component of the Department of Defense.

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 19 Sep 2010
Updated:

Sources

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