

# AIR ARMAMENT CENTER



## LINEAGE

Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics established as, 27 Oct 1942  
Redesignated AAF Tactical Center, 16 Oct 1943  
Redesignated AAF Center, 1 Jun 1945  
Redesignated AAF Proving Ground Command, 8 Mar 1946  
Redesignated Air Proving Ground Command, 10 Jul 1946  
Redesignated Air Proving Ground, 20 Jan 1948  
Redesignated Air Proving Ground Command, 20 Dec 1951  
redesignated Air Proving Ground Center, 1 Dec 1957  
Redesignated Armament Development and Test Center, 1 Aug 1968  
Redesignated Armament Division, 1 Oct 1979  
Redesignated Munitions Systems Division, 15 Mar 1989  
Redesignated Air Force Development Test Center, 11 Jul 1990  
Redesignated Air Armament Center, 1 Oct 1998

## STATIONS

Orlando, FL, 27 Oct 1942  
Eglin AFB, FL, Jun 1946

## ASSIGNMENTS

Army Air Forces, 27 Oct 1942  
United States Air Force, 18 Sep 1947  
Air Materiel Command, 20 Jan 1948  
United States Air Force, 1 Jun 1948  
Air Force Systems Command, 1 Dec 1957  
Air Force Materiel Command, 1 Jul 1992

## COMMANDERS

MG Carl A. Brandt, Oct 1946  
MG William E. Kepner, Aug 1948  
MG Bryant L. Boatner, Jul 1950  
MG Patrick W. Timberlake, Jul 1952  
MG Robert W. Burns, Aug 1955  
MG R. H. Warren, #1961

MG Robert W. Chedister, #2005  
MG Jeffrey R. Riemer, #2006  
MG David W. Eidsaune, #2009

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

None

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Air Force Organizational Excellence Awards

1 Jan 1998-31 Dec 1999

1 Jan 2001-30 Apr 2002

1 Jan 2002-31 Dec 2002

1 Jan-31 Dec 2003

1 Aug 2006-31 May 2008

## **EMBLEM**

Approved, 26 Jan 1994

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The AAF Proving Ground Command, responsible for testing aircraft weapon systems and munitions, was established in 1942 at Orlando, Florida, and moved in 1946 to Eglin Field, Florida. It replaced another AAF Proving Ground Command that was discontinued and disbanded.

Air Proving Ground Command was responsible for improving operational suitability. The command would further make recommendations on the establishment of military characteristics and requirements for operational systems and materiel. The Air University would supervise and operate the Air War College, the Air Command and Staff School, and other schools and courses as called for.

The first actual testing of aircraft began in 1939. In the following year the War Department acquired the 340,000 acres of the nearby Choctawhatchee National Forest for inclusion in the Eglin base. The construction of ranges began. Some sixty land and water areas were laid-out and equipped to yield accurate and objective findings about the increasingly complex materiel and tactics tested above and upon them. The greater area gave Eglin the physical capacity for

increased responsibilities

Activation at Eglin of the Air Corps Proving Ground in June 1941 formally established the proving function. The assignment of the 23rd Composite Group in the following month, with forty-six aircraft for test flying, provided the manpower and equipment. Col. Frank O'D. Hunter commanded the 23rd. A year later the proving ground achieved command status under Brig. Gen. Grandison Gardner as the Air Forces Proving Ground Command (AAFPGC). Its proving function was "To make such tests, special studies, and investigations as are directed by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces" and, within the limits of facilities and priorities, as might be requested by the Air Force Materiel Command.

During World War II the Proving Ground, with increased man power (more than 1,000 officers, more than 10,000 soldiers, and over 4,000 civilians at the close of the war) tested every kind of equipment the Air Force used, from guns, cameras, radios, bombs, and bullets, to complete aircraft. Throughout the war the command maintained small base units, in effect special testing detachments, in six states and Alaska, principally at the proving grounds of other arms and services.

To this was added the renewal of atomic testing; not this time as a partner in task forces, but with primary responsibility for the operational suitability testing of atomic weapons and associated equipment. The Command created a special agency, its Detachment No. 1 stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base, to discharge the new responsibility.

Effective December 1, 1957, the Air Proving Ground Command absorbed the Air Force Armament Center and its mission, was assigned to the Air Research and Development Command and was renamed the Air Proving Ground Center. This new organization will carry out the mission of the Air Proving Ground Command and that of the Air Force Armament Center in a more efficient and economical manner.

Reviews, evaluates, and makes recommendations on the materiel and equipment used by the Army Air Forces, the results of tests of new developments and the action to be followed in future developments.

Develops and recommends the doctrines and techniques to be used in the training and employment of the Army Air Forces. Advises the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, on all general policies affecting personnel, training, equipment, and organization. Plans and supervises the development and testing, under simulated combat conditions, of new and different tactics and techniques of aerial warfare, including air defense; reviews and evaluates such tests, and makes recommendation based thereon. Prepares, or collaborates in the preparation, and recommends revisions to Headquarters, Army Air Forces, of all Field Service Regulations and War Department Field Manuals affecting the Army Air Forces, and such other War Department publications as contain Air Forces tactical doctrine. Collects, evaluates, and disseminates information pertaining to Army Air Forces activities in Arctic, desert, and tropic regions.

The Air Armament Center (AAC)

The AAC is the U.S.A.F.'s organization for all deployment, acquisition, testing, deployment, and sustainment of air-delivered weapons. AAC plans, directs and conducts test and evaluation of U.S. and allied air armament, navigation/guidance systems and Command and Control (C2) systems. It operates at two Air Force installations, providing host support to Eglin and Kirtland AFB, and supports the largest single-base mobility commitment in the Air Force. AAC accomplishes its mission through four components: The Armament Product Directorate (Eglin), 46th Test Wing (Eglin), 96th Air Base Wing (Eglin) and 377th Air Base Wing (Kirtland AFB, NM). The Air Armament Center serves as the focal point for all Air Force armaments. It applies advanced technology, engineering and programming efficiencies across the entire product life cycle to provide superior combat capability to the warfighter. AAC has 1,415 military officers; 7,392 enlisted; 3,683 civilians; 2,957 contractors; and 575 nonappropriated funds personnel.





---

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 22 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

AFHRA.

Air Force Magazine Almanacs. Air Force Association. Arlington, VA. Various years.