AIR FORCE DATA SYSTEMS DESIGN CENTER

LINEAGE
Air Force Data Systems Design Center established and organized as a separate operating
    agency, on 26 October 1967
Redesignated Data Systems Design Office, 8 May 1984

STATIONS
Gunter AFS, AL

ASSIGNMENTS
Air Force Data Automation Agency, 29 Feb 1972
Air Force Communications Service Qater, Command, 30 Jun 1978
Air Force Teleprocessing Center, 8 May 1984

COMMANDERS
Col Jack M. MacGregor, #1969

HONORS
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Established as Air Force Data Systems Design Center, and organized as a separate operating agency, on 26 October 1967

Reassigned to Air Force Data Automation Agency on 29 February 1972, losing SOA status

Reassigned on 30 June 1978 to Air Force Communications Service Qater, Command)

Redesignated Data Systems Design Office and assigned to the Air Force Teleprocessing Center of AFCC on 8 May 1984

ON MARCH 10, 1971, the Air Force announced that headquarters for the Air Force Data Systems Design Center (AFDSDC) would be relocated from the Washington National Capitol region to Gunter AFB, Ala. All elements of the Center are expected to be in place and fully operational at Gunter AFB by early fall of this year. The move is being phased to provide uninterrupted service to Air Force customers during the brief transitional period. Consolidation of all AFDSDC activities and operations at this new site will produce operating economies, and will enhance the mission effectiveness of the Center.

Since establishment of the Air Force Data Systems Design Center in 1967, the requirements of its customers—the Air Staff agencies—for new automated management systems and products have grown at a rapid pace. It became necessary to establish a means for identifying and assigning relative priorities among the various projects and tasks; to re- posture the Center work force so as to respond to the work requirements within the priorities established; and to introduce internal management controls that will permit continuous appraisal of the development and effective use of the Center's manpower resources and skills in its design work.

This need for internal management control over the total workload is being served by the AFDSDC Planning and Resource Management Information System (PARMIS), which was initially installed on the Center's B-3500 computer in May 1970. Improvements to the system have created a sophisticated computer application that will provide managers at all levels with information needed to effectively manage resources, apply related skills, track progress, and meet targets on all projects involving the design, programming, test, and release of computer systems assigned by the Air Staff.

Products of PARMIS include: project and individual workload schedules, status reports, forecast reports, and other specified statistical data. Each of the products has been tailored to serve the specific needs of the individual managers, with summaries produced for top management. Command reviews are scheduled periodically, and status is appraised and evaluated. PARMIS is providing management a new visability on the activity and use of the Center work force, and is contributing measurably to the timeliness and effectiveness of actions inherent in the Center mission.

The Center has established a "Quality Assurance" Program to assure the release—for Air Force-wide implementation—of "error- free" systems, program documentation, and programs. Several new areas of emphasis were applied under this program:

Directors preparing the Air Force manuals containing the functional systems and program documentation were required to include specific quality checks in their design and review process.

A single focal point was established within the Center to perform final checkout of the systems and program documentation prior to field release; and, more importantly A plan for subjecting the systems and programs to an "Environmental Systems Test" (EST) on the AFDSDC computer was instituted for all programs and documentation.

The EST consists of a test run of all related programs loaded into the computer and operating in a multiprogramming mode, thus assuring that the programs operate perfectly without adverse effect on any other programs that are operating on the computer.

During the past year, 431 systems change packages were prepared and tested for the B-3500 application. They represented 3,312 individual programs. Of these, 2,752 were released—an effective release rate (error free) of 83.1 percent. During these Environmental Systems Tests, almost 500 program problems were identified and corrected prior to Air Force-wide release. Statistics indicate that this new EST technique resulted in a fifty-two percent reduction in field problems.

The Computer facility will be significantly expanded at Gunter AFB, to permit more extensive checks on functional system programs during the early design phase, and Environmental Systems Testing.

The Center has on its books a total of 976 approved projects consisting of 2,121 individual work orders. They represent an estimated 565,950 man-hours of work for the next twelve months—designing, programming, testing, and preparing computer systems for release to the field. Some typical projects are: development of software for the functional systems applications; performance of simulation exercises on the various functional systems; modification of major systems, such as the UNIVAC II Standard Base Supply System; design of the Satellite Program for the Air National Guard Supply Accounts; design of a new automated Procurement System; redesign of the Accounting System and design of the related budget systems; and development of new Workload Control and Library, Hardware Diagnostic, and Disk Management Systems.

An Air Force Reserve unit has been established at the Center. Reservists assist in planning and programming computer systems and in operating the computers.

AFDSDC's computer systems are adding a new dimension to Air Force management. The full potential of the computer for serving management by enhancing efficiency and reducing costs has yet to be realized. That is the challenge that lies ahead.

Three centers-the AF Data Systems Design Center, the AF Data Systems Evaluation Center, and the Phase IV Program Management Office-were located at Gunter AFS, Alabama. The Air Force Data Systems Design Center, the largest of the AFCC data automation centers, was charged with

the design, development, programming, testing, implementation and maintenance of standard automated data processing systems. The center was also responsible for automatic data processing system management of three Air Force standard computer systems used at all bases and major command headquarters. A second center, the Air Force Data Systems Evaluation Center, con ducted independent assessments of automated data processing systems during their life cycle. Evaluations were performed during the conceptual, definition, development, test, and operation phases of new systems, as well as during major modifications of existing systems, as presented and used, were effective and satisfied user requirements. In additon, the center also provided expert consultant support to program managers. A third center, the Phase IV Program Management Office, was charged with providing the management and technical direction necessary to replace current base-level computer systems with a new state-of-the-art system in order to adequately support the Air Force's mission. The Phase IV Program Management Office was also responsible for the acquisition of the Interservice/Agency Automated Message Processing Exchange.

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