

The Air Corps created the Materiel Division on October 15, 1926, and established its headquarters at McCook Field. Brigadier General William E. Gillmore was selected as the first Chief of the Materiel Division. The new organization united the Field Service Section and the Engineering Division in one command, and it consolidated the following major logistics functions: supply, maintenance, engineering, procurement and production, and industrial war plans. Almost all procurement had been controlled from Washington, D.C., before the establishment of the Materiel Division.

The Materiel Division consisted of seven units. These included the Field Service Section, Repair and Maintenance Section, Experimental Engineering Section, Procurement Section, War Plans, Administration, and Special Inspection. Although it became a part of a new organization, the Field Service Section continued to manage all of the supply and maintenance activities at the depots.

The Materiel Division began to move its headquarters from McCook to Wright Field in early 1927. Six months later, in June, the air intermediate depots were renamed air depots, a designation they were to carry until 1943, and the Air Corps established three insular, or departmental, depots. One depot was established in Hawaii, another in Panama, and the third in the Philippines. The Air Corps made a number of other important changes in the depot structure during the 1930s. The depot at Little Rock was discontinued during Fiscal Year 1930; the depot at Scott Field was discontinued in the late 1930s; and the depot at Rockwell Field was transferred from North Island, which was turned over to the Navy, to Sacramento, California, in 1938 and 1939. In addition, the Chief of the Materiel Division was moved to Washington, D.C., on October 2, 1939. The division's staff, however, remained at Wright Field under an Assistant Chief.