

# **ROME AIR MATERIEL AREA**

## **LINEAGE**

Rome Air Depot established, 1 Feb 1942

Redesignated Rome Air Depot Control Area Command, 1 Feb 1943

Redesignated Rome Air Service Command, 17 May 1943

Redesignated Rome Air Technical Service Command, 14 Nov 1944

Redesignated Rome Air Materiel Area, 9 Mar 1946

Discontinued, 25 Jun 1947

Reestablished, 9 Nov 1958

*Discontinued, 1 Apr 1967*

Inactivated, Jun 1967

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The Air Corps completed most of its plans for constructing seven new depots before the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, and the United States entered World War II. These plans called for the new depots to be constructed at Ogden, Utah; Mobile, Alabama; Rome, New York; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Wellston (later Warner Robins), Georgia; San Bernardino, California; and Spokane, Washington.

The Air Corps selected the site for the Rome Air Depot in the spring of 1941, and preliminary construction began a few months later. At the same time, the Middletown Air Depot began to train both military and civilian personnel for the depot at Rome. Originally, the Air Corps did not plan to occupy the depot until May 1942. These plans were changed, however, after the Japanese attacked Hawaii. As a result, all of the personnel being trained at Middletown were ordered to report to Rome on February 1, 1942.

In December 1963, Secretary of Defense McNamara announced that the Rome Air Materiel Area at Griffiss Air Force Base, New York, would be inactivated by the end of June 1967 and its functions transferred to other AFLC organizations. At the time, Rome was authorized a total of 4,037 manpower spaces. Of this total, approximately 1,570 were to be transferred to other AFLC organizations, 1,276 were to be assigned to the organization that would assume the host responsibilities for Griffiss Air Force Base, and 1,190 were to be eliminated. Of the 1,190 authorizations that would be eliminated, 1,102 were civilian and 88 were military.

When Secretary McNamara made his announcement, the Rome Air Materiel Area was responsible for managing all of the ground communication-electronics systems which formed an integral part of the Air Force's worldwide network of early warning lines, ground control approach systems, search radar, missile tracking stations, and tropospheric and ionospheric communication systems. At the time, the Air Force reported that the Rome Air Materiel Area had been selected for inactivation because it was the air materiel area that could be closed with the least amount of difficulty and the greatest savings. AFLC had to close one of its air materiel areas because the scope of its operations had been declining for some time. In fact, about 600,000 items were eliminated from the Air Force inventory in 1963 alone, and, by this time, AFLC had more than 2.5 million square feet of covered storage space that was not being used. A number of factors contributed to the decline in the scope of AFLC's operations between 1955 and 1963. These included the increased use of computers and direct air support, the introduction of new and improved management and productivity programs, the transfer of management responsibility for a large number of items to the Defense Supply Agency, and the pressure received from a variety of sources to cut the cost of logistics operations.

The actual transfer of functions from the Rome Air Materiel Area began in July 1964, and the program moved more rapidly than originally planned, since all of the air materiel area's management functions were gone by the beginning of August 1965. The items that were stocked in the air materiel area's warehouses were depleted as much as possible before they were moved to the gaining organizations.

Headquarters AFLC transferred the Rome Air Materiel Area's 22 major communication-electronics systems to other organizations within the command between August 1964 and August 1965. Three of the Rome Air Materiel Area's responsibilities-its cataloging and standardization programs, communication support program, and military assistance projects-were transferred to Headquarters AFLC between July 1964 and February 1965.

Headquarters AFLC's phase out plans called for all personnel to be transferred from the Rome Air Materiel Area in two phases. During the first phase, which was scheduled to take place between July and December 1964, a total of 152 people (151 civilians and one airman) were to be transferred. In February 1966, the Rome Air Materiel Area reported that a total of 1,777 civilian employees had been offered functional transfers to other AFLC organizations and that 540 had accepted and 1,237 had declined. It also pointed out that almost all of the personnel who had refused to transfer had either been placed in other positions, retired, or separated.

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources