

2473rd AIR FORCE RESERVE TRAINING CENTER

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Offutt, NE,

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

CALL SIGN

OPERATIONS

By August, there were quite a few changes. In a "paper transfer," Tenth Air Force had supplanted the 2473d Reserve Training Center, and the 2463d Base Service Squadron and the 2475th WAF unit had been activated. Then, on 9-10 September, representatives of Headquarters United States Air Force (USAF), Headquarters Air Defense Command, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Headquarters Tenth Air Force, and Offutt Air Force Base met to arrange the details of the transfer "of jurisdiction of Offutt Air Force Base and its attendant facilities from Air Defense Command to Strategic Air Command."

The conferees agreed that the effective date of the transfer would be 2359, Central Standard Time, 30 September 1948. All prior joint-use agreements were to remain in effect until renegotiated with the interested agencies by SAC, a separate agreement was to be made to provide for the continued utilization of facilities occupied by the 2473d AF Reserve Training Center and to provide administrative support to Air Defense Command activities which were to be continued at Offutt.

460709	B-17G	43-39136	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	LACGL	James, David P.	Offutt AFB
460710	AT-6D	41-34227	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	LACGL	Wilson, Walter W.	Offutt AFB
460710	AT-6D	41-34243	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	TOAEF	Thomson, Woodrow C.	Memphis MAP
460710	L-5	42-98786	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	LACGL	Wylie, Ross E.	Offutt AFB
460710	OA-10A	44-34017	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	TAC	White, Robert L.	Offutt AFB
460710	A-26B	41-39139	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	ACC	Cook, Robert R.	25 Mi NW Lincoln
460710	B-17G	42-97788	2473AFRTC	Offutt AFB, NE	10	TOA	Stemm, Robert M.	Offutt AFB

According to the newspaper report, the headquarters was to move within "90 days." This proved overly optimistic. The decision came as a "complete surprise" to Major General Paul L. Williams, Commanding General of Second Air Force, who told newsmen that Omaha had been an ideal location for air defense activities and that he "regretted having to move." Colonel Lotha A. Smith, Offutt Base Commander, said that he did not know if the relocation of SAC would mean a change in the base units; Colonel James L. Daniel, in command of the reserve trailing unit, felt that the new situation

would not affect the reserve training. However, by August, there were quite a few changes. In a "paper transfer," Tenth Air Force had supplanted the 2473d Reserve Training Center, and the 2463d Base Service Squadron and the 2475th WAF unit had been activated. Then, on 9-10 September, representatives of Headquarters United States Air Force (USAF), Headquarters Air Defense Command, Headquarters Strategic Air Command, Headquarters Tenth Air Force, and Offutt Air Force Base met to arrange the details of the transfer "of jurisdiction of Offutt Air Force Base and its attendant facilities from Air Defense Command to Strategic Air Command."

Operating from General Mitchell Field, Milwaukee, WI, the 2473rd Air Force Reserve Flying Center was slated to convert the 438th FBS to the F-86H. As with other AFRES units, the conversion wasn't completed. Training was to be conducted from mid-August to the first of September, but those plans were cancelled as a result of instructions from the Continental Air Command. Although not documented, most likely the unit transitioned to C-119s as did the other Reserve units that were in the process of transitioning into the F-86H.

The 924th Reserve Training Wing was activated at Billy Mitchell Field in February 1952. It was redesignated as the 438th Fighter Bomber Wing on July 1, 1952. The Air Reserve changed the unit's mission again in 1953 when it became the 2473rd Air Force Reserve Training Center (AFRTC). During this time period, the Reservists flew the T-6 Texan, F-51 Mustang and the F-80 Shooting Star aircraft.

The 2473rd AFRTC began acquiring land in the southwest corner of the airport in 1954 and began construction of training facilities in 1955 with \$2.8 million that the Air Force Reserve had provided. The first buildings were completed in 1956. One of the first buildings to be completed was the 69,428 sq. ft. aircraft maintenance hangar. The heating plant, base supply and petroleum oils and lubricants areas were also completed in 1956.

The 2473rd was deactivated in 1957, and at the same time the existing 440th was transferred from Minneapolis to the newly constructed Air Force Reserve installation. The Air Force assigned an airlift mission to the unit again. After the move to Milwaukee, the 440th Troop Carrier Group became the 440th Airlift Wing, and the Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar aircraft was assigned to the wing.

General Mitchell International Airport – Air Reserve Station

The Milwaukee County Park Commission purchased the current home of the 440th Airlift Wing in 1926, a 160-acre site known as Hamilton Field. The U.S. Army changed the name in 1942 to General Billy Mitchell Field. Milwaukee County officials changed the name again in 1986, to General Mitchell International Airport.

Sources

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