

2837 SPECIALIZED DEPOT GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

2837 Specialized Depot Group

STATIONS

Kirtland AFB, NM, 20 Nov 1950-20 Feb 1952

Kelly AFB, TX, 20 Feb 1952-1 Aug 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

As the atomic bomb became the cornerstone of American security policy after the war, the military services established various organizations to work with nuclear weapons. Strategic Air Command crews and aircraft would deliver the nuclear blow, but the Air Force needed an organization dedicated to the management and repair of nuclear weapons, components, and kits. In July 1950, a small cadre of fourteen men transferred from Kelly to Kirtland AFB, New Mexico,

to set up an organization for this nuclear support mission. Five months later, on November 20, AMC officially activated the 2837th Specialized Depot Group at Kirtland and assigned it to SAAMA.

The new group had problems finding enough personnel to carry out its assigned mission of providing concentrated storage, distribution, and maintenance of special weapons, kits, weapon and kit components, and training equipment. On top of this, there was a housing shortage at Kirtland, creating problems for the group's personnel. Hoping to solve these problems, AMC officials decided to move the group back to Kelly.

By the beginning of 1952, planning to move the 2837th was well underway. In January, work started on the group's new home, building 1556, which would provide office space, storage, and shop facilities. Kelly's Civilian Personnel Office concurrently began recruiting workers to fill the group's vacancies. On February 14, 1952, Headquarters AMC published Movement Orders Number 1, authorizing and directing the SAAMA commander to move the 2837th Specialized Depot Group from Kirtland to Kelly, with all of its organizational equipment and stocks on hand, including active Class 09-D items (nuclear ordnance commodity managed items) and other items not available at the south Texas base.

Twenty-eight people made the move from Albuquerque to San Antonio, including eight of the original fourteen group members, in three stages: on February 8, 14, and 22. The depot became operational on February 20, 1952, and passed inspections in March, which certified the group as capable of performing its Atomic Energy Commission mission. By June almost all of the supply positions were filled, but because of the Top Secret clearance requirement and unusual type of repair work involved, it took longer to hire qualified maintenance workers.

The AMC Decentralization Program affected the 2837th Specialized Depot Group, too. New responsibilities gained included cataloging, requirements and distribution, and budget computation for nuclear equipment. The group would also be responsible for distributing special weapons publications to the appropriate Air Force units. At the same time, the military was revising management of nuclear resources, taking over control from the Atomic Energy Commission, which had handled nuclear management since the war. The Secretary of the Air Force gave logistical responsibility to AMC, which, in turn, delegated it to SAAMA and the 2837th. On January 1, 1953, AMC named the 2837th Specialized Depot Group as SAAMA's fourth directorate - the Directorate of Special Weapons - and inactivated the depot group the following August.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.