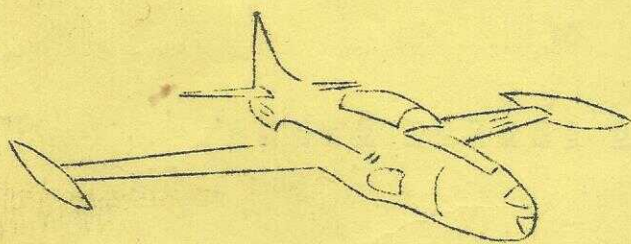
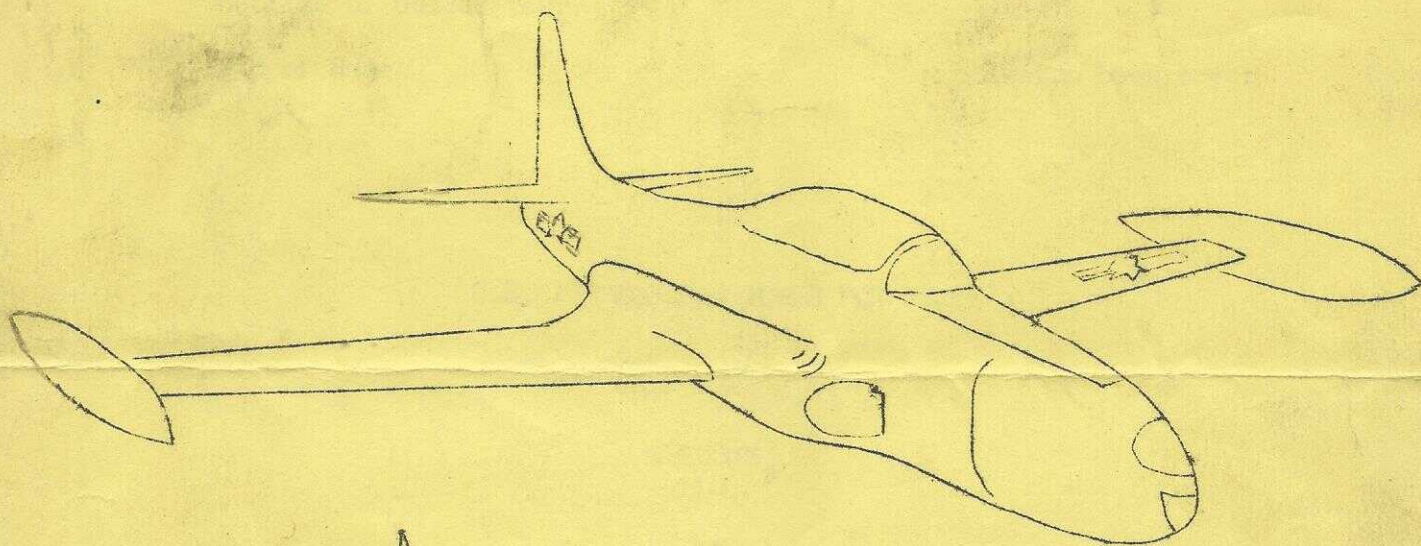


ARMED FORCES DAY
BROCHURE



OPEN HOUSE 20 MAY 1961
656TH RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)

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U.S. AIR FORCE - POWER FOR PEACE

WELCOME

TO

A R M E D F O R C E S D A Y 1 9 6 1

ARMED FORCES DAY 1961

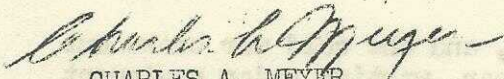
"Power for Peace" is the theme for this Armed Forces Day. National Defense, like the continuing search for peace with freedom and justice for all, is "everybody's business." Our investment in this effort, the greatest in our nation's history, reflects our determination to ensure the peace and the future of freedom.

It is a sound investment. As the President has said, "only when our arms are sufficient beyond doubt can we be certain that they will never be employed."

A radar station in itself is not a very formidable weapon, but eye sight to a fighter is a most valuable asset. This station is primarily the eyes for the vast electronic SAGE system protecting these Northeastern states, and it is also the ears and voice. Similar stations, strategically located, give you, the American citizen, extensive and continuous protection. The facilities of this station feed data into a central computing system, but are also independently capable of seeing and directing an air battle over a vast area.

We, in uniform, are merely custodians and operators of this valuable equipment, which you, the people, have provided. Armed Forces Day is the annual report on this investment, a public presentation designed to give our own people, and the people of other lands who stand with us for peace with freedom and justice, the best possible opportunity to see and understand what we have and why we have it.

Your visit today affords you the opportunity of familiarization with the personnel and the Air Force Station in your community. Our doors are open for you to see, to ask questions, to arouse and revive your interest in a serious business - Power for Peace.



CHARLES A. MEYER
Major, USAF
Commander

U. S. AIR FORCE - - - - POWER FOR PEACE

THE AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, 1946-1961

Fifteen years ago, on March 27, 1946, the Air Defense Command was established, along with its sister combat commands, the Strategic and Tactical Air Commands.

The decision to create a major air force organization devoted to the function of Air Defense was prompted by the realization that no territory on earth could be considered safe from devastating air attack in the future.

Such had not been the case during World War II. During those wartime years, no nation possessed bombers capable of a prolonged offensive against this nation, and American Air Defense policy reflected this feeling of security. Along both coasts, Radar Stations were erected, a Ground Observer Corps was organized and fighter aircraft were on the alert for bombers that never came. By 1943 a decision was made to demobilize these defenses. Though no air attack was launched against us during the war in the Continental United States, air defense networks did yeoman service in combat theaters overseas, as a result of this experience the doctrine was established that air defense was, and should always be, an indispensable function of military aviation. Thus, when the postwar reorganization of the Army Air Force took place there was no hesitating in earmarking a major air command for the function of Air Defense.

Nevertheless, the priority which Air Defense enjoyed in the immediate Post-War years was a low one. The cold war had not yet broken out, the United Nations promised to provide an instrument of international understanding, and above all, this nation enjoyed a monopoly in Atomic Weapons. Consequently, the new Air Defense Command had a mission, but virtually no weapons for the job at hand. The wartime defenses had been demobilized, and all that ADC could call its own in 1946 was one lonely Radar Station and four fighter squadrons.

But the illusion of peace was soon shattered, and the cold war broke out in all its intensity during 1948. In that year, wartime radar equipment was deployed in strategic locations, and fighters were borrowed from sister air commands in the Air Force. At the same time congress approved the construction of an extensive modern radar network.

With the coming of the Korean War the erection of the Air Defense system was vastly accelerated, and plans were laid for the extension of the continental system to Canada - resulting in later years in the Mid-Canada, Pinetree and Dew Lines, Radar Belts extending our detection system all the way to the Arctic Circle. On January 1, 1951, ADC was shorn of its minor responsibilities and moved to Ent Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, from where it could control its growing Air Defense System. It has grown enormously, with more modern radars added to the system, and radar-bearing aircraft, the famous RC-121, flew continuous surveillance missions off both coasts.

The Air Defense Command, 1946-1961 (cont'd)

Platforms, bristling with radar equipment and called Texas Towers, were imbedded in the ocean floor off the East Coast. But perhaps the most conspicuous, an ultra modern semi-automatic control system (SAGE) was erected, linking together the various radars and weapons into a quick reacting and error-free mechanism to throw a protective shield over the country in the minimum time and in the most effective manner.

In the years since 1951, ADC has been joined in Air Defense by units of the Army employing ground-to-air defense such as Nike, and units of the Navy helping to patrol both coasts with radar-picket ships; in an effort to integrate the efforts of the three services in air defense, there was established in 1954 in Colorado Springs, the Headquarters of the Continental Air Defense Command (CONAD). Three years later, Canada joined the U.S., in a joint venture to protect the North American Continent, and the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), was born, also in Colorado Springs.

As the component of NORAD which contributes the major portion of the resources of the nation for air defense, ADC Commands about 375 Radar Stations, 41 Fighter Squadrons, and approximately 110,000 people, deployed from the Arctic Circle to the Rio Grande. In addition, ADC has recently acquired the responsibility for inspecting and supervising the training of Air National Guard Squadrons charged with the Air Defense Mission. All told, ADC maintains physical facilities worth eight billion dollars, but the value of these resources cannot be measured in dollars. At stake is the survival of the nation and western civilization.

In a message to ADC, SAC and TAC on their 15th Anniversary, the Air Force Chief of Staff, General Thomas D. White, said that during their existence, the three Commands were "a mighty force for peace, by maintaining in a state of constant readiness the defense of this country."

U.S. AIR FORCE -- POWER FOR PEACE

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 656TH RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)

Saratoga Air Force Station became operational in March of 1952. Designated the 656th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, the unit was assigned to the 32nd Air Division (Defense), and a year later to the 4707th Wing. It operated under the 32nd Air Division until March 1956, when, due to geographical reorganization of Eastern Air Defense Force, it was integrated into the 26th Air Division (Defense).

In October of 1956 the 656th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was placed under the command jurisdiction of the 4622nd Air Defense Wing (SAGE), Stewart Air Force Base, Newburgh, New York -----later designated the Boston Air Defense Sector.

Since the original physical plant opened in 1952, about \$1,500,000 worth of additional construction has been added. Nine base housing units and a recreational hall, as well as operational additions have been completed.

From September 1957 to December 1958 the 656th carried out its primary mission of providing Radar Surveillance for the detection and interception of all unknown or hostile aircraft approaching our shores. The 15th of December 1958 the 656th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron was officially indoctrinated as a part of the Air Defense Command's highly complex Semi-Automatic Ground Environment System know as SAGE. with this indoctrination the 656th became a Radar Squadron for SAGE. Our primary mission is now one of support.

Through the use of our long range radars depend the success of various SAGE Centers strategically located throughout the United States. Information on unknown or hostile aircraft is now fed automatically into an adjacent SAGE Center where it is compiled and stored in complex computers. The Defense Sector Commander then makes the decision to intercept and destroy the aggressor. The 656th Radar Squadron (SAGE) is now continuing its role of supporting SAGE.

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FACTS ABOUT SARATOGA AIR FORCE STATION

Saratoga Air Force Station is situated on one of the highest points in Eastern New York and affords a panoramic view of the Mohawk Valley and the Adirondack Mountains. It occupies approximately 43 acres which were originally leased by the Government for 25 years from five landowners. The Government subsequently purchased the property.

The ground and buildings, including recent additions, are valued at approximately \$2,800,000. The equipment may be roughly estimated at a value of over \$3,500,000.

In regard to personnel, Saratoga Air Force Station is quite cosmopolitan and about 32 different states are represented here. This, however, is a fluctuating figure. Change in the mission of the 656th Radar Squadron (SAGE), caused an exodus of personnel from the squadron. This transitional period continued until the manning requirements of 6 officers, one hundred and twenty-seven airmen, and thirteen civilians were met.

From past experience and evaluation it is expected that Saratoga Air Force Station will contribute approximately \$66,000 per month or more than \$800,000 annually to the local economy. This figure includes not only pay, allowances, and utilities, but also such items as food, medical assistance, fuels, and non-appropriated funds.

There are 76 Air Force families renting and residing in Saratoga County with about 70 Air Force children enrolled in local schools.

U.S. AIR FORCE - - POWER FOR PEACE

DISPLAYS AND POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Reference is made to the following page for information concerning the 650th Radar Squadron Guided Tour available to all civilian personnel visiting the station.
2. M-48 Tank, US Army. - *Firing BLANK SHELLS*
 - a. Courtesy of Watervliet Arsenal.
 - b. Master Sergeant Campis, US Army (Reserve), in charge.
 - c. Used in Korean Campaign.
 - d. On display at Main Gate.
3. AIR FORCE MOVIES - Continuous showing in the Recreation Hall, building #107.
4. NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS' CLUB - Bldg. #107, open to the public at 3:00 O'Clock P.M.
5. BAND CONCERT 3:00 to 4:00 O'Clock P.M., Recreation Hall area. Saratoga Musicians' Union Band, Local #506 AFM, Band Leader: Mr. Vern Hellijas.
This band made available by the Performance Trust Fund of the Recording Industries.

(Personnel of the 656th Radar Squadron (SAGE) wish to extend their appreciation and thanks to each member of the band for their contribution and effort in making this a more enjoyable Armed Forces Day)

6. AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT FLYOVERS - All flyovers will be announced over the public address system five minutes prior to arrival:

1:38 PM - Three C-119 Boxcars from Stewart AFB, New York.

2:00 PM - Three F-101 Fighters from the 60th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Otis AFB, Mass. *EACH DROPPED 3 Smoke Bombs.*

2:51 PM - Three B-57 Bombers from Stewart AFB, New York. *Refueling in*
3:30 PM - THE THUNDERBIRDS - PERFORMING FOR 25 MIN | mid air

7. AIR FORCE RECRUITING DISPLAY - In Base Headquarters, Bldg #126.

8. AIR FORCE RETREAT - The 656th Radar Squadron will conduct an official Retreat at 4:30 O'Clock PM at the flag pole in front of the Headquarters Building. The public is encouraged to attend. Music will be provided.

The Thunderbirds came from Otis A.F.B. on Route to Stewart A.F.B. - Just a two minute jump

OUTLINE OF GUIDED TOUR

Personnel of this unit will conduct guided tours for the public from 1:30 to 4:00 O'Clock PM. Tours will start from in front of the Non-Commissioned Officers Club, building 107, every 15 minutes. The following is a schedule of the areas to be covered during the tour:

1. Base Engineer Section - Bldg #106.
 - a. Base Utilities and Shop Area.
 - b. Base Exchange also located in same building.
2. Special Service Display - Bldg #108.
 - a. 16 foot boat used on Saratoga Lake.
 - b. 7½ H.P. Motors.
 - c. Other atheletic equipment.
3. Radio Receiver Site - Bldg #110.
 - a. MARS Station on the Air.
 - b. Function of MARS explained.
 - c. MARS mission during Civil Defense and CONALRAD Alerts.
 - d. Air Force SAGE radio receiver equipment.
4. Airman's Living Quarters - "B" Barracks, building 140. *"B" lower*
Barracks Guard - Soldiers, Hartmen, Sparks, Martin
5. Dining Hall - Bldg #122.
6. Base Dispensary & Dental Clinic - Bldg #124.
7. Base Chapel & Library - Bldg #124.
8. Headquarters - Bldg #126.
 - a. Commander's Office.
 - b. Administrative Services Section.
 - c. Air Force Recruiting Display.
9. Unit Supply - Bldg #126.
 - a. Supply Office.
 - b. Air Force Weapons Display.
10. Boiler Facilities - Bldg #130.
11. Operations - Bldg #132.
 - a. Communications Center.
 - b. Radar Maintenance Shop.
 - c. Communications & Electronics Office.
 - d. Computer Equipment, AN/FST-2.
 - e. Radar Operations Room.
 - f. Air Conditioning Room.
12. Diesel Power Plant.
Building #134.
13. Water Treatment Plant.
Building #304.
14. Explanation of Radar
Dones.
15. Return to Starting
Area.

