

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE:

A HISTORY OF LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE, 1937-1987



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by

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and

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Air Training Command



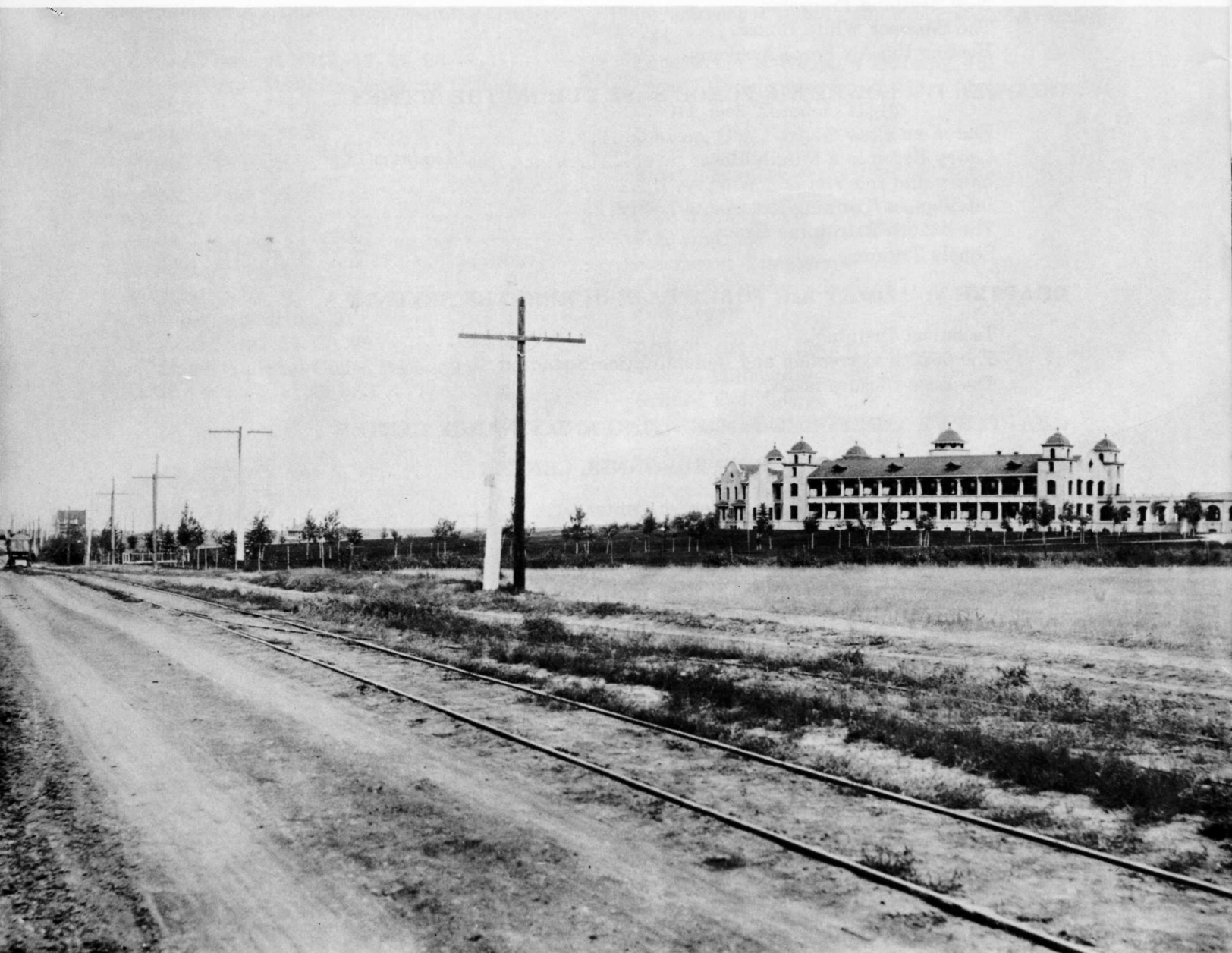
This 1944 design by Cpl. George L. Grimes became the official insignia of Lowry Field. His cartoon character appeared regularly in Lowry's newspaper and represented the average airman. The "Little Fellow's" machine gun, camera, and bomb depicted Lowry's armament and photography schools. Golden orange and ultramarine blue were the official colors of the Army Air Forces. The snow-capped mountain indicated Lowry's location in the Rockies.

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PREFACE

A modern Air Force is vital to the security of the United States and to world peace. But the Air Force needs more than superior weapon systems and support equipment. It also requires skilled men and women to maintain its systems and equipment, whether in times of peace or war, at home or abroad. Lowry Technical Training Center prepares these technicians for the Air Force mission. For fifty years the men and women of Lowry have exhibited an unselfish determination and willingness to sacrifice in defense of freedom.

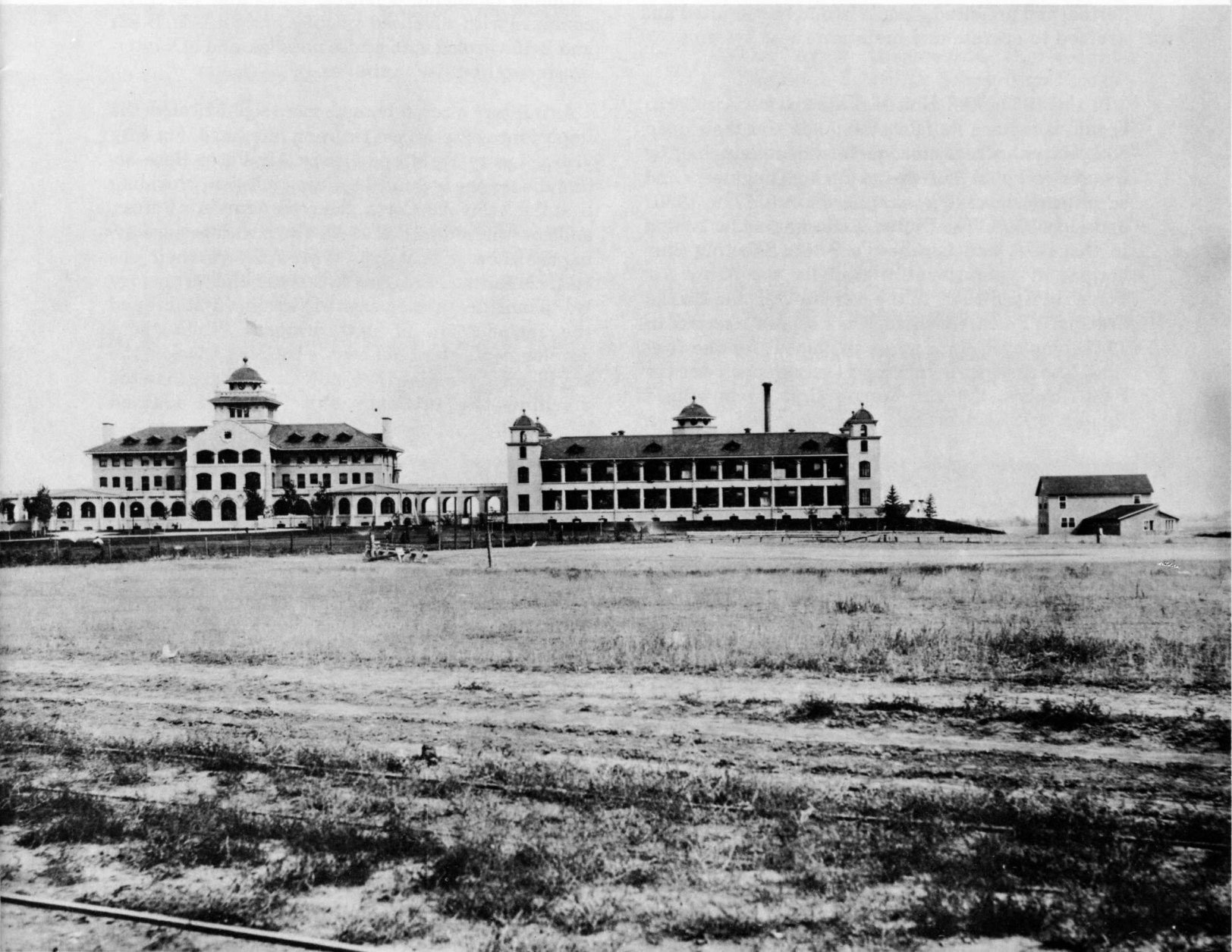


Agnes Memorial Sanatorium about 1906, the future site of Lowry Field. The 150-bed tuberculosis facility treated patients from 1904 to 1932. (Aurora Museum)

The history of Lowry Air Force Base is more than an account of the establishment and growth of a military center for technical training at Denver, Colorado. Lowry's fifty years of service to the nation encompasses a broader perspective and is intertwined with the history of the United States in the twentieth century. We hope that this survey of Lowry's colorful first half-century will encourage others to delve more deeply into the base's specific programs and achievements.

Thanks are due to a number of institutions and individuals. The Aurora Museum and the Lowry Heritage Museum provided photographs. Lillian Nolan prepared the chapter on the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center. Roma K. Simons prepared the chapter on the Air Reserve Personnel Center. Finally, the authors owe a debt of gratitude to the military and civilian historians who preceded them at Lowry.

Michael H. Levy
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Center Historians



PROLOGUE

Overview

The airplane's role as an important military weapon and the necessity of technical training were not widely recognized in the early days of aviation. Flying was still in its infancy before World War I (1914-1918), and the early military aviators gained proficiency largely through trial and error. At the outbreak of World War I in 1914, the airplane was used primarily for observation missions. Later it became a warplane with the deployment of fighter and bomber aircraft.

Military aviation added a new component to war doctrine, planning, operations, training, and research. Weapon systems had to be designed, developed, tested, and produced. People had to be recruited and trained to operate and maintain these systems.

In the 1930s, the United States Army Air Corps began to replace its fabric biplanes and their open cockpits with streamlined metal monoplanes having covered cockpits. British and German engineers and scientists pioneered jet propulsion in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The United States was not far behind in this field, and Lockheed's P-80A Shooting Star became an operational aircraft for the Army Air Forces in April 1945. In the Korean War, the United States Air Force (established as a separate service in 1947) employed jet aircraft in combat for the first time. The preeminent air superiority weapon was the F-86A Sabre, the Air Force's first swept-winged fighter.

During the 1950s, the Air Force received many new weapon systems: the Century-series fighters; the supersonic B-58 Hustler; a variety of missiles and rockets; and the B-52 Stratofortress. In 1963, the service studied prospective technologies and weapon systems to fulfill its mission in the 1970s. This work later culminated with the C-5 Galaxy, B-1 bomber, AGM-65 Maverick, F-15 Eagle, and AGM-69A Short-Range Attack missile (SRAM).

The United States Air Force in the 1980s had formidable tactical and strategic weapons for countering Soviet military forces: F-15 and F-16 aircraft for air superiority, A-10s for close air support, EF-111As to assist fighter and attack aircraft with electronic jamming of enemy defenses, B-52s and FB-111As equipped with advanced avionics and SRAMs, B-52s and B-1Bs armed with cruise missiles, and MX intercontinental ballistic missiles.

As military aircraft became more sophisticated, the importance of technical training increased. For fifty years, Lowry Field and Lowry Air Force Base accomplished the technical training mission, providing first the Army Air Corps, then the Army Air Forces, and now the United States Air Force with people having the knowledge and the skill to perform their jobs with confidence. Progress in science and technology led to modifications in existing weapon systems and the introduction of new designs. While these developments affected Lowry's training mission, the key element remained the individual rather than the machine—the ultimate objective was trained personnel.

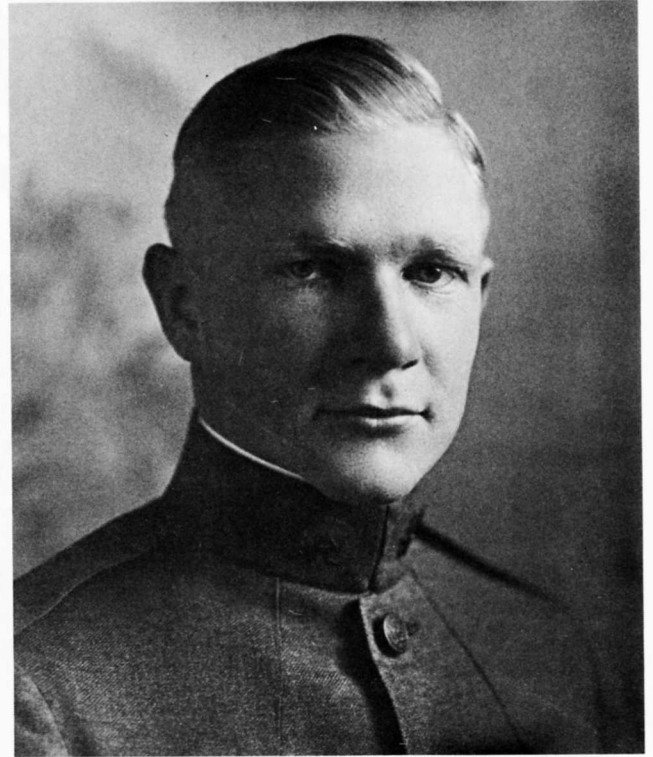


On February 26, 1938, the Denver Chamber of Commerce gave a luncheon for the newly-arrived Air Corps officers. From left: Maj. Clarence C. Wilson, Capt. John K. Nissley, Capt. Donald W. Norwood, Maj. Alfred L. Jewett, Lt. Norman H. Ives, Lt. Charles H. Leitner, Lt. Jerald W. McCoy, Lt. Monty D. Wilson, and Capt. Harold R. Lee.

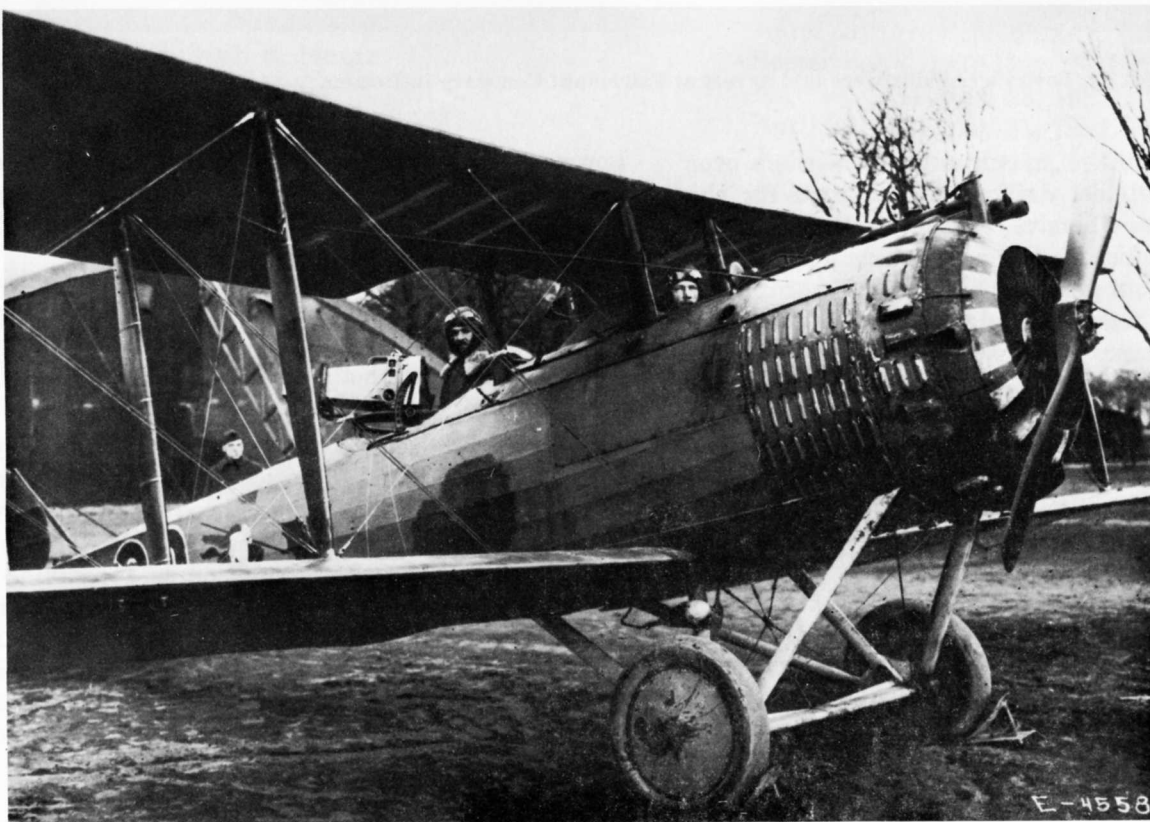
Francis Brown Lowry

Francis Brown Lowry was born to the former May Nell French and Walter Bingham Lowry on December 1, 1894, in Denver, Colorado. He completed his public school education in 1913, then left Denver for the University of Michigan. Upon graduating with a degree in engineering, Lowry joined the Army after the United States entered World War I on the Allied side in April 1917. "Blondy," as he was nicknamed, reported to Fort Monroe, Virginia, on May 15 for training as an aerial artillery observer. Afterwards, Second Lieutenant Lowry volunteered for service with the American Expeditionary Forces fighting in France.

Lowry arrived in France in February 1918 and received further training as an aerial artillery and photographic observer with a French squadron. On May 26, he was assigned to the 91st Aero Squadron and performed his duties in a Salmson 2A2 aircraft. The observer used the back seat and was armed with either a camera or a Lewis gun.



Lt. Francis B. Lowry.



A pilot and observer of the 91st Aero Squadron prepare for a photographic mission in a Salmson 2A2 aircraft. During World War I, the Allies used this aircraft for reconnaissance.



In September 1921 Lt. Lowry's remains were laid to rest at Fairmount Cemetery in Denver.

In September, the squadron flew missions over enemy lines almost daily in preparation for the Meuse-Argonne offensive, scheduled for September 26. With this action, the French high command hoped to end the four-year war. On the morning of September 26, five planes of the 91st Aero Squadron set off for the front. This was Lowry's thirty-third mission, and by that time he was one of the squadron's most experienced aerial observers. His pilot that day was Lieutenant Asher Kelty. When the formation appeared over enemy lines, a German anti-aircraft battery opened fire. The Lowry-Kelty aircraft sustained a direct hit and crashed near Crepion, France, killing both men.

Lieutenant Lowry was buried in Argonne Cemetery at Romagne, France. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and promoted to First Lieutenant. The Commander of the 91st Aero Squadron described the qualities that endeared

Lowry to his fellow officers: a good friend, always cheerful, strong of character, a warm smile, and a quiet humor.

In September 1921, Lieutenant Lowry's remains were returned to the United States and he was buried with full military honors at Denver's Fairmount Cemetery. He rests not far from the section of land that now bears his name.

The first installation dedicated to Lieutenant Lowry belonged to the Colorado National Guard. Opened in April 1924, Lowry Field was located in the vicinity of 38th Avenue and Dahlia Street in Denver, east of the present-day Park Hills Golf Course. It remained the home of the 120th Observation Squadron, 45th Division, Aviation, until 1938 when the field was deactivated. As Denver expanded eastward, the squadron needed a new site for its flying activities and moved to a newly-completed National Guard hangar at Denver's Municipal Airport.



CHAPTER I ESTABLISHING LOWRY FIELD

The Colorado National Guard used the original Lowry Field from 1924 to 1938. Aircraft shown are Thomas Morse O-19s. The hangars were subsequently moved to the new Lowry Field, home of the Air Corps Technical School.

In February 1921, the Army transferred its Air Service Mechanics School from Kelly Field, Texas, to Chanute Field, Illinois. The following year, the Air Service established a technical school for photography at Chanute. Nine steel hangars had been converted into classrooms by 1923, but further construction funds were not forthcoming. By 1934, Air Corps* officials had concluded that Chanute Field no longer met the needs of a modern air force. In addition to old facilities, Chanute lacked adequate space for a bombing range, and the average number of clear weather days restricted training in aerial photography.

The Army appointed a committee headed by Lieutenant Colonel Barton K. Yount, the Commanding Officer of Bolling Field, Washington, D.C., to recommend a new home for the Air Corps Technical School. Army officials established two major prerequisites for the site: space for a bombing range, and weather conditions to support training requirements. In March 1934, the people of Denver, represented by the

Chamber of Commerce and supported by their Congressional delegation and the Governor of Colorado, started a campaign to bring the school to the "Queen City of the Plains." On April 2, they made their formal submission to the War Department.

An Army committee arrived in Denver on May 26, 1934. It was particularly interested in the property of the Agnes Memorial Sanatorium, previously a clinic for treating tuberculosis patients. Lawrence C. Phipps (later a United States Senator) established the sanatorium at the Denver suburb of Montclair in memory of his mother, who died from the disease. The facility remained in operation as a sanatorium from 1904 until 1932.

Denver civic leaders liked the economic prospects an Army post held for their region. As an inducement, they offered to donate the sanatorium site to the Army Air Corps. They also needed public approval of

* The name of the Air Service was changed on July 2, 1926.

a bond issue for acquiring the land and its seventeen buildings. Denver voters passed the measure in May 1935.

After having evaluated eighty-six sites across the nation, the military committee recommended Denver because of its favorable flying weather and the availability of land for a bombing range. The Illinois Congressional delegation, however, resolved to maintain the school at Chanute Field, and their votes were crucial for passing any legislation. Despite considerable political maneuvering, politicians from Colorado and Illinois eventually worked out a compromise with the War Department. Chanute was to continue as the headquarters of the Air Corps Technical School and the home of the aircraft mechanics school, while the Army formed the Denver Branch for armament and photography training.

Congress approved the project for the Air Corps Technical School in August 1937, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the legislation authorizing funds for the new installation on August 27. On September 1, Captain Harold D. Stetson, the Army Quartermaster at Fort Logan, near Denver, began working at the sanatorium. He raised the American flag on October 1, making the Denver Branch an active Army post.

The Air Corps Comes to Denver

The conversion of the sanatorium into a military facility commenced on October 4, 1937, with the renovation of existing structures and construction of runways. The Works Progress Administration (WPA)* had responsibility for the project and furnished the funds. The first additions to the Denver installation were four old National Guard hangars, which arrived in November 1937 and were erected the following year.

Captain Stetson served as the Constructing Quartermaster and supervised the civilian work force. During much of the initial construction phase, he remained as the officer in charge of the post until the arrival of Lieutenant Colonel Junius W. Jones. As Commandant of the school at Chanute Field, Colonel Jones came to Denver several times to check on the work.

The City of Denver donated the sanatorium to the Army on December 8, 1937, and paid Lawrence C. Phipps \$200,000 for the property. Also that month, the War Department announced that it was naming the new field in honor of Lieutenant Francis B. Lowry. This became possible because the Colorado National Guard decided to deactivate its Lowry Field shortly after the first of the year. The Denver Branch of the Air Corps Technical School officially became Lowry Field on March 21, 1938.

Colonel Jones became the first Commanding Officer of the Denver Branch on February 7, 1938. Five days later, a train arrived at Union Station from Chanute Field bringing 300 people and the equipment for the



Capt. Harold D. Stetson (promoted to Major in 1939) was the Constructing Quartermaster for Lowry Field from September 1937 to January 1940, supervising more than 3,000 WPA workers during Lowry's early renovation and construction phase. Stetson left Lowry Field in April 1940.

Armament and Photographic Departments. The contingent included men from Langley Field, Virginia, who had joined the main group in Chicago. On February 26, the activating ceremonies were held in the headquarters building, with the Denver Chamber of Commerce giving a luncheon for the Air Corps officers. Later, civic groups organized tours for all Air Corps personnel to points of interest in Denver and the surrounding area.

Land purchased for the post comprised 880 acres. The Army also received 960 acres a few miles to the east as an auxiliary landing field—named Buckley Field on June 19, 1941—and 64,000 acres about twenty miles to the southeast to be used as a bombing range for the armament school. The City of Denver expected to acquire land for the bombing range by January 15, 1938, but the acquisition was not completed until the end of the year because some owners questioned the valuations placed on their property.

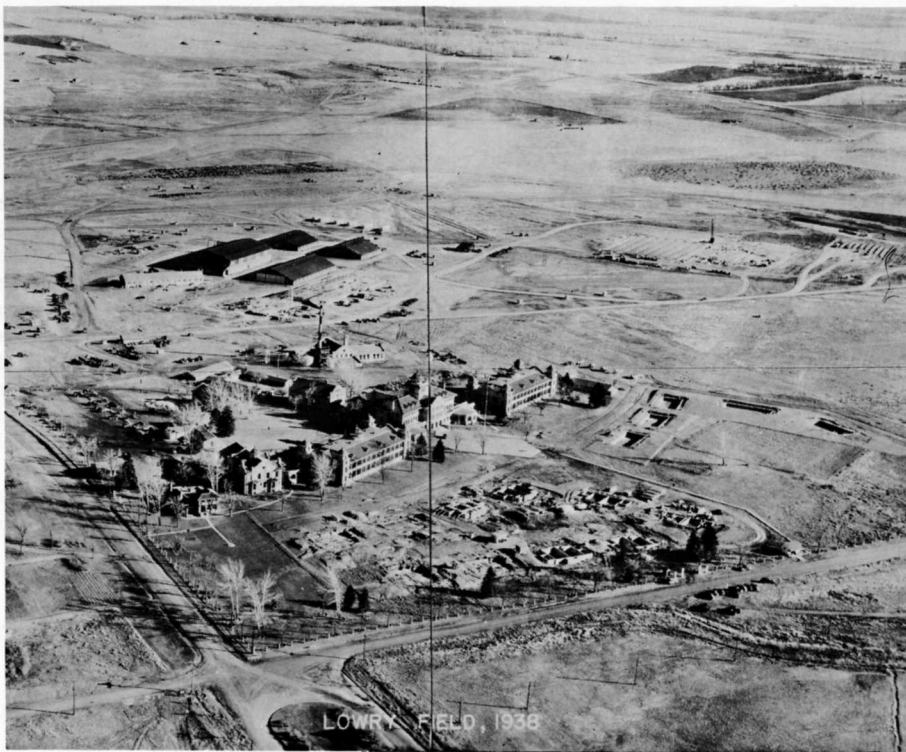
* Established by Congress in 1935, the WPA was a government relief agency that provided jobs for the unemployed; the name was changed to Works Projects Administration in 1939.



Lowry's first students arrived at Union Station on February 12, 1938. Later, Capt. Herbert W. Anderson, executive officer, welcomed the men to the post. A dust storm disrupted the ceremony, and the next day many of the men complained of sore throats.

Lt. Col. Junius W. Jones (Lowry's first commander) and his wife with Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton and Charles A. Shinn, president of the Denver Chamber of Commerce, welcomed Air Corps students arriving at Union Station in February 1938.





Lowry Field in 1938. In the background are four temporary National Guard hangars, the first additions to Lowry Field.

This 1938 aerial view shows how the Air Corps Technical School used the sanatorium buildings.



On February 28, 1938, classes began in the old sanatorium buildings. There were 170 students in the Armament Department and sixty in the Photographic Department. During this early period, both students and instructors had to contend with classrooms and laboratories in various stages of construction. The photography class, for example, met in the unheated and poorly-lighted attic of one of the buildings. Pigeons and the cold of winter entered through a broken alcove window. Armament classes were taught at the main facility and in the National Guard hangar at Municipal Airport.

The Armament Department taught the loading and dropping of bombs, and trained master, advanced, and airplane armorers. Ten armament students graduated on March 19, 1938. Ten photography students

received diplomas on June 29 after completing an advanced course in aerial photography. Basic photography classes normally lasted six months, consisting of courses in elementary, ground, and aerial photography; mosaics and mapping; camera repair; cinematography; and photographic field equipment.

Later in the year; the Air Corps transferred the Department of Clerical Instruction to Lowry from Chanute Field. The clerical school trained engineering, administrative, and supply clerks. Thirty-eight enlisted men began classes at Lowry on October 10.

Lowry Field Flying Activity

The aircraft assigned to the Denver Branch were located at Municipal Airport, where the Air Corps



The first photography class met in the attic of one of the sanitorium buildings, with instruction restricted to the classroom until completion of the darkrooms.


Administration building for the Photographic Department, 1938.





The men of Lowry Field celebrate their first Christmas at the Air Corps' newest installation. (Chalmer D. Hill)

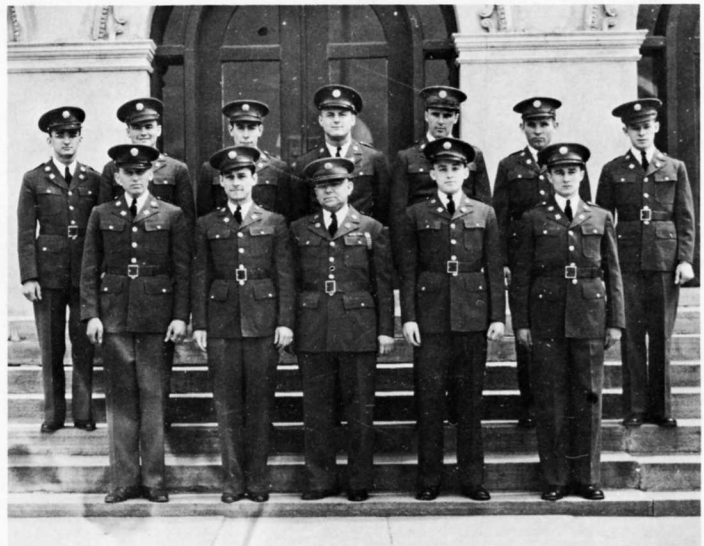
Thanksgiving
November 23, 1939
AIR CORPS TECHNICAL SCHOOL
LOWRY FIELD, DENVER, COL.
Colonel Jacob H. Rudolph, Commanding.



Menu

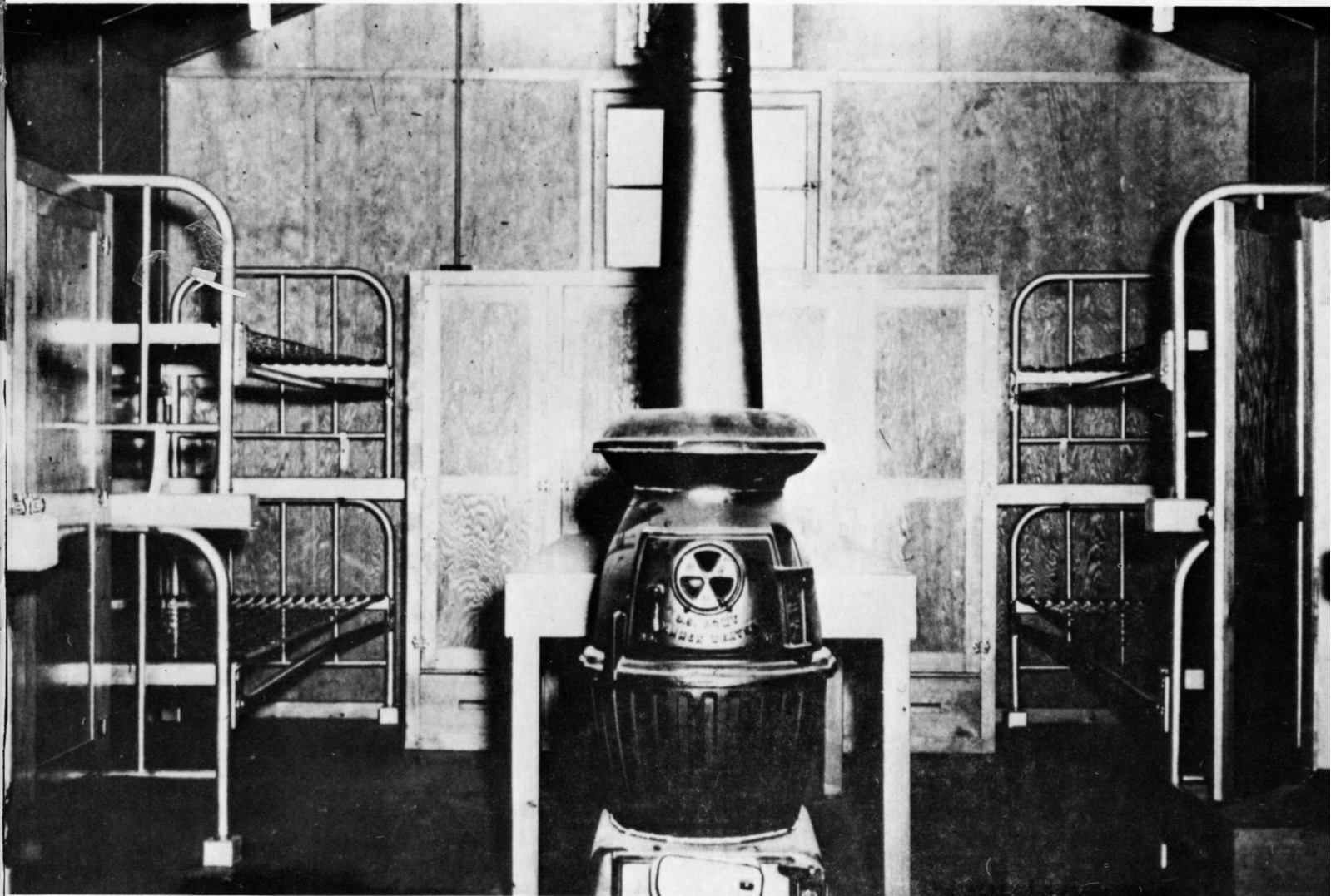
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grape Fruit Cocktail - - Green Olives - Ripe Olives - Fruit Salad - - Roast Young Turkey - - Snowflake Potatoes - - Cranberry Sauce - Cyster Dressing - Fish Mince and Pars - - Giblet Gravy - - Parker House Rolls - Butter - Coffee - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Baked Virginia Ham - - Candied Yams - - Scalloped Corn - - Pumpkin Pie - Minced Meat Pie - Fruit Cake - - Apples - Oranges - Bananas - Assorted Nuts - - Mixed Candies - - Cigars - Cigarettes - Coffee -
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Lowry's 1939 Thanksgiving menu.



There were twelve students in the first photography class, and the school offered three courses of instruction: Primary, five months; Secondary, six months; and Advanced, four months.

Because of inadequate housing during the early years at Lowry Field, students lived in tents and temporary barracks. In October 1940, airmen vacated "Tent City." MSgt. M.L. Council, USAF, Ret.)



shared a hangar with the National Guard until completion of facilities at the field. The air fleet included the B-6 bomber, the A-17A attack, and the P-35 pursuit aircraft. On March 9, 1938, the post acquired its first twin-engine Douglas B-18A, the Air Corps' new medium bomber. Personnel stationed at the airport were billeted on the second floor of the hangar. Also assigned to duty at the airport were the men of Lowry's weather station.

The first unpaved runway became operational at Lowry on April 4, 1938. When the first of four portable hangars were ready, nine aircraft made the short flight on June 30 from Municipal Airport to the post. The airport, however, continued serving as the center for Lowry flying activity in 1938 and 1939 until the construction of permanent hangars and paved runways.

In June 1938, the Army announced a four-year, \$3.5-million program of new construction for Lowry Field, beginning on August 13. The Army awarded contracts to private companies for an 850-man barracks, ten officers' quarters, twenty noncommissioned officers' quarters, permanent hangars, runways, installation of utility lines, and grounds improvements. The post received its first Army construction funds on August 4; previously, the Works Progress Administration provided all of the money.

During Army maneuvers at Cheyenne in August 1938, Lowry's fleet of twenty-six bomber and pursuit aircraft "attacked" the Wyoming capital. The planes dropped 15,000 propaganda sheets and "bombed" the rail center. When the "invasion" force returned to Municipal Airport, the landing gear on Lieutenant Joseph C. Moore's B-18 failed to drop into place.



Photography students with cameras have always been a common sight at Lowry. This 1940 photograph shows students using 8 × 10 view cameras.

Lieutenant Moore remained unaware of the malfunction until his aircraft came down on its belly and slid 700 feet down the runway. Although the aircraft sustained damage to the propellers and the fuselage, the crew was unhurt. Other crewmembers were Privates Robert L. Woody, Chalmer D. Hill, Henry F. Zielinski, and R. Van Duke.

Colonel Jacob H. Rudolph became the Commanding Officer of Lowry Field on July 1, 1938. On December 25, he formally conveyed holiday greetings to the personnel of his command. In wishing them happiness in the new year, Colonel Rudolph praised their cooperative spirit and the exemplary manner in which they performed their duties. The mess hall staff prepared Christmas dinner with a main course of roast young turkey.

Construction of Hangar No. 1 and the 8,000-foot north-south runway were completed in August and December 1939, respectively. On December 13, Colonel Rudolph landed the first aircraft, a B-18A, on the new concrete runway and taxied into Hangar No. 1. By the end of the next day crews had ferried



During the early years at Lowry, funds had only been appropriated to renovate existing structures and erect new buildings. Road construction did not begin until December 1940.

all of Lowry's aircraft from Municipal Airport. Two other concrete runways were completed in 1940 and 1941: the east-west runway, 8,084 feet long; and the northeast-southwest runway, 8,300 feet long. In addition, Hangar No. 2 was ready in December 1940.



The Army renovated the Agnes Memorial Sanatorium for the Air Corps Technical School. The building in the center of this 1940 photograph was the headquarters for Lowry Field. The new brick structure in the left foreground served as quarters for noncommissioned officers and their families.

Stormclouds on the Horizon

By the end of the 1930s Lowry Field had become an important element in the American response to increased aggression abroad. Political and military conditions in Asia and Europe had deteriorated throughout the decade. The Axis powers went on the offensive with Japan's seizure of Manchuria from China in 1931. Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935, and Japan resumed its subjugation of China in the summer of 1937 with an undeclared war. Two years later, the German Army invaded Poland and World War II began in earnest. After France fell to the Germans in June 1940, only Great Britain blocked Hitler's domination of Western Europe.

In January 1940 Lowry Field housed forty-four officers and 1,350 enlisted men, including 600 students, and there were twenty-seven aircraft at the post. The "Brick Barracks," also called "Buckingham Palace" and now Building 349, was completed in September 1940. No longer did troops have to live in tents. Although this building was constructed to accommodate 850 men, as many as 3,600 lived there by 1943. By the end of 1940, Lowry had thirteen school squadrons and two bomber squadrons in addition to



"Brick Barracks"

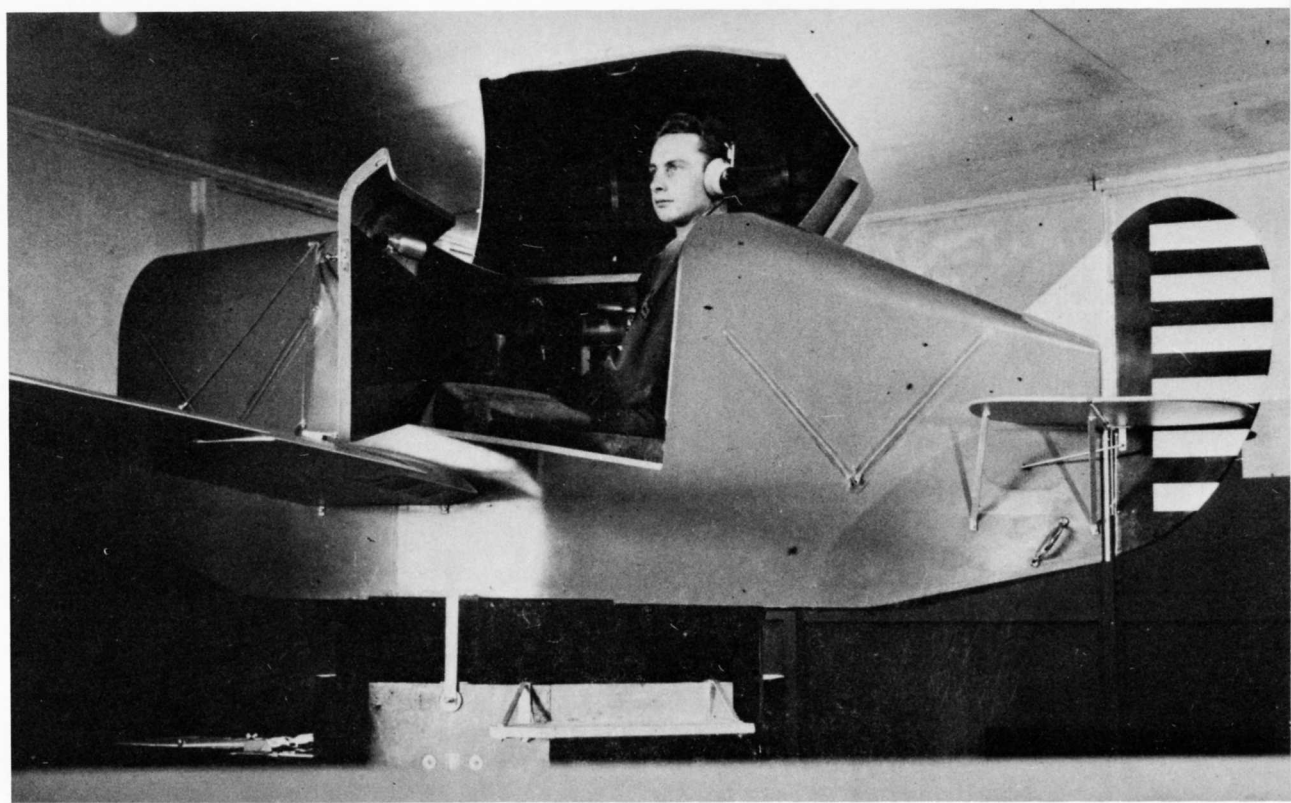


"Tent City."



This radio operator performs his duties in one of Lowry's B-18 training aircraft used for aerial photography and bombing practice. (Lt. Col. Franklin W. Dawson, USAF, Ret.)

Pilots stationed at Lowry Field maintained their instrument rating by "flying" in the Link trainer. The cockpit contained standard airplane instruments and radio devices. (Lt. Col. Franklin W. Dawson, USAF, Ret.)





Completed in 1940, the "Brick Barracks" (also known as "Buckingham Palace") housed more than 3,000 airmen during World War II. It became the headquarters for Lowry Technical Training Center in 1961. (L.H. "Roy" Mershon)



In addition to living quarters, the "Brick Barracks" contained administrative offices; mess hall and bakery; bowling alley; laundry, dry cleaning, and barber shops; Post Exchange; and recreation rooms. Pictured is the Orderly Room for the 33rd School Squadron in 1941. (Edward Bukovinsky)

its headquarters squadron. Moreover, the Army had already spent \$15 million on Lowry Field, with 103 buildings completed and others underway.

Lowry Field played a key role in the buildup of the nation's defenses when the Air Corps selected a group of aviation cadets for training as bombardier instructors. Between July 1940 and March 1941, three classes of cadets trained on B-18As from the 36th and 37th Bombardment Squadrons, assigned temporarily to Lowry. The course of study lasted 16 weeks, and 118 graduates received commissions as Second Lieutenants. These men became the core group that trained 15,000 bombardiers during World War II.

On September 16, 1940, Congress approved peacetime conscription for the first time in the nation's history. The Selective Training and Service Act required men between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five (subsequently changed to twenty and forty-four) to register for military training. The initial registration and draft selections occurred on October 16 and 29, respectively.

As the numbers of personnel at Lowry Field increased during 1940, something had to be done about crowded conditions at the post. The Air Corps decided to move the clerical school to Fort Logan, an Army installation located about twelve miles southwest of Lowry Field. Fort Logan became a subpost of Lowry on February 1, 1941, and arrangements were made to transfer the 9th, 23rd, and 24th School Squadrons and the equipment of the Department of Clerical Instruction. Classes began at Fort Logan on March 3.

The move to Fort Logan gave Lowry Field added space for its armament students. Aircraft armorer training lasted 15 weeks and the students received instruction in operating, repairing, and maintaining aircraft armament. The largest segment of the course covered machine guns. During its first years at Lowry, armament training involved mostly servicing

aircraft weapons. Now, men also received training on power-operated gun turrets (the plexiglass structure housing machine guns), bomb sights, and automated bombing systems.

In addition to its better-known armament and photography schools, Lowry Field also trained cooks and bakers in a four-week course. The school began instruction on May 15, 1941.

In 1941, Lowry officials decided to enhance morale at the post and Fort Logan by publishing a newspaper. *Lowry Field* ??? appeared on May 9, and a "crisp, new ten-dollar bill" awaited the "bright" individual who came up with a name for the weekly paper. The second issue, dated May 23, bore the name *Lowry Field Rev-Meter*. Lowry personnel submitted over one thousand entries, and Captain William L. Snowden had the winning title. He observed that just as a revmeter recorded an airplane's engine speed, the newspaper would document the "speed" of events at Lowry Field.

Also in May 1941, post officials reached agreement with the Denver Tramway Corporation to provide scheduled bus service for Lowry's military personnel. No longer would they have to make their way to Quebec Street to catch a bus into town because buses now made five stops on the post.

As the international situation worsened, Lowry Field reflected American military preparations. The Army continued to acquire land for the installation. Over 1,200 trainees arrived during the week of July 13, 1941—more than in any previous week. Activities continued to intensify the following month. The number of officers and enlisted men at Lowry and Fort Logan totaled almost 8,000. On August 18, the post adopted a two-shift schedule and an eighteen-hour school day to meet Air Corps requirements for training more than 15,000 men during the period from July 1, 1941 to June 30, 1942.

Building 251, dating from the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium, has been the home of many Lowry commanders.





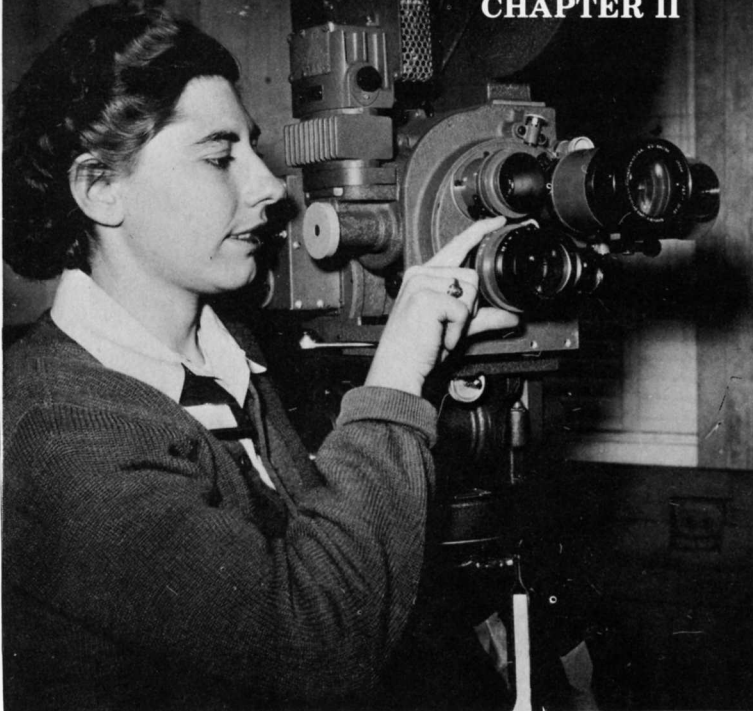
Construction of Lowry's first large hangar began in 1939. In December, the Air Corps moved its flying and maintenance activities inside even though the facility still lacked lights, heat, and hot water. The intensity of the cold and the need to wear winter clothing aggravated working conditions. In January 1940 the Quartermaster put stoves in the hangar until steam heating units could be installed.



In December 1939, Lowry's flying heritage began in earnest when the aircraft assigned to the post were ferried from their temporary location at Denver Municipal Airport. This 1940 photograph of the flight line shows five Douglas B-18s, four Martin B-10s, and several single-engine aircraft, including a Seversky P-35 and some Curtiss P-36s.

LOWRY FIELD DURING WORLD WAR II

CHAPTER II



In addition to operating and maintaining equipment, Air Corps cinematographers wrote and "shot" scripts.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese carrier-based aircraft attacked the United States Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. Now that the nation was at war with the Axis powers, all furloughs for Lowry personnel were canceled and additional men were assigned to guard duty as a security measure. Furthermore, airmen had to wear their military uniforms every day, even when off the post, and mail home all civilian clothing.

On December 12, 1941, Colonel Early E. W. Duncan, Commanding Officer of Lowry Field since October 31, 1940, called upon the officers and enlisted men of his command to unite behind the nation's political and military leaders. He asked them to maintain faith in their government and its ability to prosecute the war to a successful conclusion and achieve a just peace. On December 19, Lowry officials conducted a drill to evaluate the ability of the post to repel an aerial attack. This exercise involved five "enemy" airplanes dropping flares and "enemy" agents operating on the ground. Afterwards, Colonel Duncan announced that drills would be held monthly.

When the United States entered the war the Army Air Corps Technical Training Command, formed on March 26, 1941, had responsibility for Lowry Field. The headquarters moved from Chanute Field to Knollwood Field, North Carolina, in February 1942, and the name changed to Army Air Forces Technical



On June 14, 1942, Lowry Field celebrated Flag Day with a parade. The reviewing dignitaries included Maj. Gen. John F. Curry, Commanding General of the Fourth District, Army Air Forces Technical Training Command; Col. Harvey S. Burwell, Commanding Officer of Lowry Field; Colorado Governor Ralph L. Carr; and Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton. (MSgt. M.L. Council, USAF, Ret.)



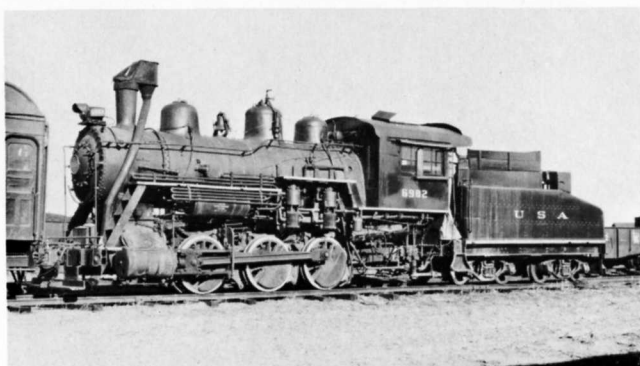
This 1943 aerial view of Lowry Field shows the runways in the center, Lowry No. 2 to the left, and the railroad tracks crossing the runways.

Training Command in March 1942. On July 7, 1943, the Army merged the Flying Training and Technical Training Commands to form the Army Air Forces Training Command at Fort Worth Texas. The organization name changed to Air Training Command on July 1, 1946.

The mobilization of American military forces resulted in expansion at Lowry Field. In January 1942, the War Department tasked Lowry with training 55,000 men annually. Needing more facilities, Lowry officials decided to construct Lowry Field No. 2 on the northeast side of the post for training aircraft armorers. Because the north-south runway divided both sections, this project required a transportation system between the two areas and construction of a service club, theater, chapel, mess halls, and living quarters. Lowry No. 2 opened in July 1942 with the transfer of the 363rd School Squadron, and the first group of armament students arrived on July 10.



With the expansion of operations in the 1930s, the Army extended the railroad spur from Fitzsimons Hospital to Lowry. The first train arrived at Lowry in 1940. The railroad averaged 135 runs a week during World War II, carrying troops, coal, and equipment. The facilities were also used for training in rail maintenance and sabotage operations. Traffic decreased throughout the 1950s, and operations ceased in September 1964. These photographs show Lowry's first steam engine and the track entering Lowry from the east.



The new area enabled Lowry officials to increase the numbers of students in the photography and bombsight maintenance courses conducted at the main section of the post. The number of photography students, for example, rose during 1942 from 203 to 2,487 by the end of the year. In 1943, over 200 photography students were arriving weekly. They specialized in laboratory work, phototopography, camera repair, or cinematography. The motion picture division produced training and orientation films, and the staff of this division included men who had worked as Hollywood cameramen prior to joining the Army.

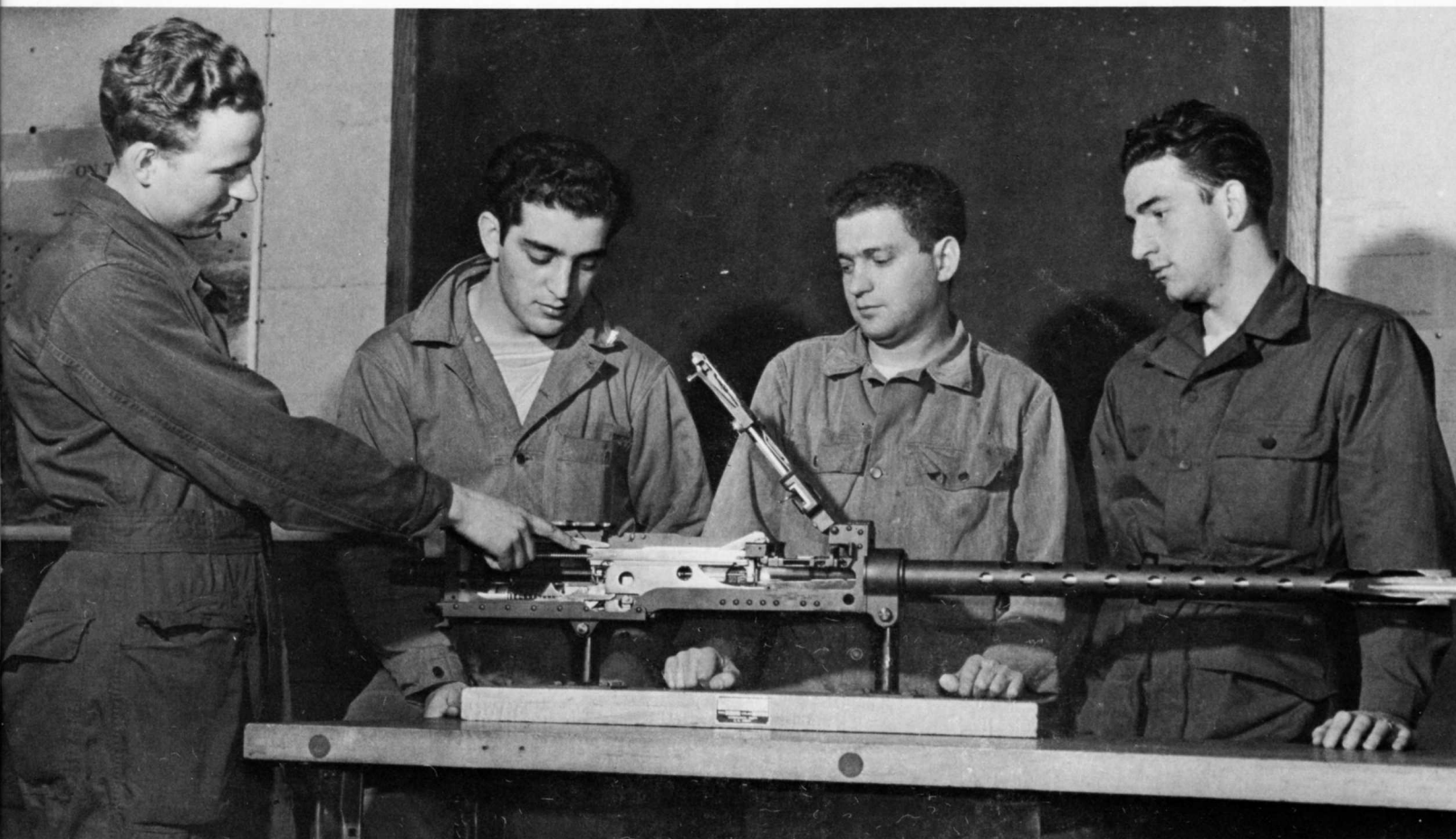
Another action during 1942 was the establishment of Armament School No. 2 at Buckley Field. Instructors arrived on July 1, followed by the first group of students on the 7th. At its peak, the armament department trained about 15,000 men annually at Lowry and Buckley. Graduating armorers were assigned to tactical units where they were responsible for the maintenance of aircraft weapons.

As aerial warfare became specialized, the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command recognized the need for specialization in armament training.* Accordingly, Lowry trained bombardment armorers

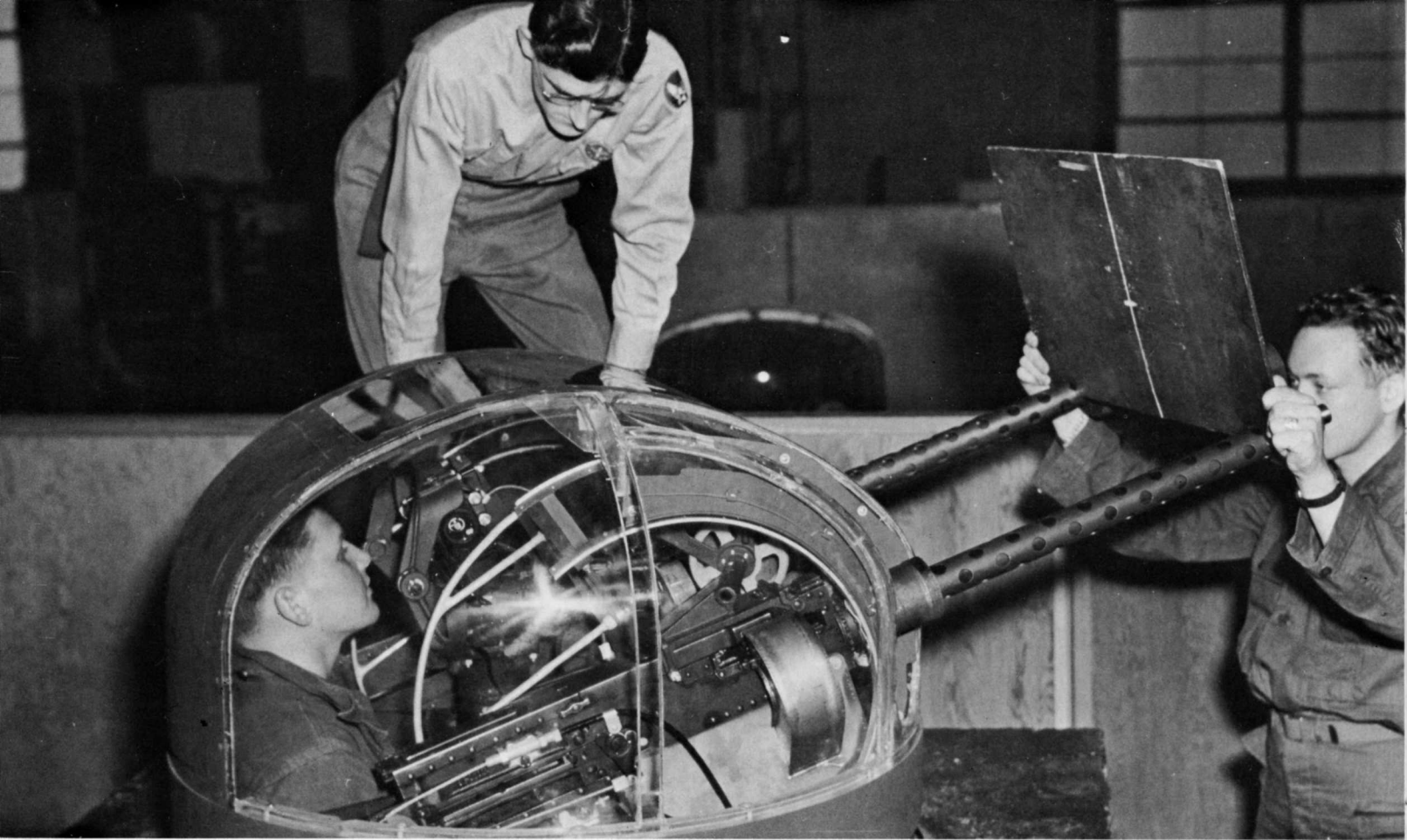
* The Air Corps became the Army Air Forces on June 20, 1941.



Photography students used the B-9 projection printer to prepare aerial photographs, (Frank Mouffe)



The machine gun was a major defensive weapon on World War II aircraft. These students are receiving instruction on the .50-caliber machine gun.



Armament students learned to align machine guns on turrets. This Bendix upper turret was installed on B-25 bombers.

while Buckley prepared the armorers for fighter aircraft. To better meet the demands of a nation at war, Headquarters Army Air Forces Technical Training Command adopted a seven-day training week with three daily shifts. Lowry officials began the new schedule at the photography and armament schools in October 1942.

Only twenty-six civilians had worked at Lowry Field in December 1938. By 1942, however, civil service employees were being hired in greater numbers for a variety of jobs that included positions formerly filled by military personnel. Employing civilians in the technical schools freed more airmen for military duties.



The Martin upper turret being inspected by these students was installed on B-24 and B-26 bombers.

A typical student day consisted of six hours of classes and two hours of physical exercise. In January 1943, training officials had reduced the number of class hours from eight to six to enhance the students' physical and mental well-being.

By January 1943 there were over 20,000 people at Lowry Field, and the base population continued to rise throughout the year. The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps* sent its first group to Lowry on January 28 to study photography. Additionally, marines from the aviation base at Cherry Point, North Carolina, arrived in February 1943 for instruction in the Power Turret School. Lowry Field was the only military installation training in power-operated gun turrets.

Although Hollywood stars and professional athletes visited Lowry periodically to entertain the troops, two special events during 1943 served to promote morale and welfare. On April 24, President Roosevelt visited Lowry while touring the nation's military facilities. Then, on June 1, the Colorado National Bank opened a Lowry branch with full banking services for military and civilian personnel who established accounts.

On June 7, 1943, Lowry opened Camp Bizerte on the northwest corner of the bombing range. On that

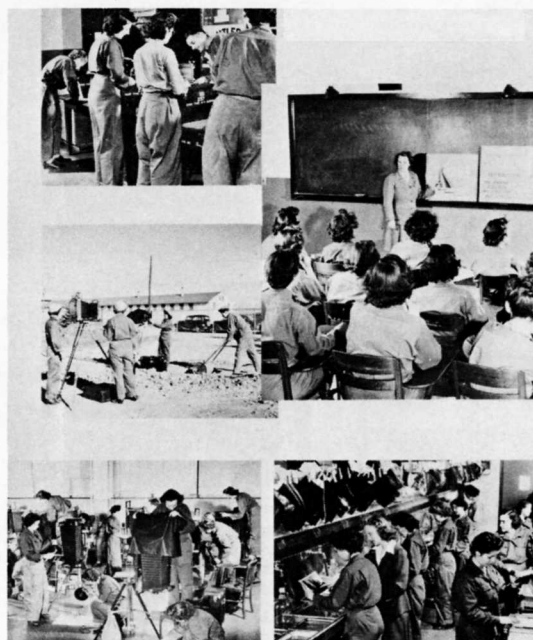
* The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps was redesignated the Women's Army Corps on September 1, 1943.



Many commanding officers at Air Corps posts required women employees to wear uniforms. The women in this photograph are wearing the Lowry uniform—a white blouse and blue gabardine jacket, skirt, and cap—approved by Brig. Gen. Harvey S. Burwell in 1942. The War Department subsequently ended the practice. (Margaret McLellan)

morning a convoy transported 500 men to a point five miles from the camp. Then these men marched the rest of the way carrying their thirty-six-pound field packs. The students lived in tents for a week and worked at their jobs under field conditions. They also received training in chemical warfare and weapons firing. With the onset of cold weather, the facility closed on October 11 after 20,000 airmen had received field training.

Lowry Field had provided technical training for small numbers of foreign servicemen since 1938. In that year, enlisted men and officers from the Colombian and Philippine armies attended armament classes. Beginning in 1943, however, foreign personnel came to Lowry in greater numbers. Although most were from France and China—both countries sent a total of forty-eight men for photography training in December—airmen also came from such countries as Great Britain, Peru, Uruguay, Nicaragua, Brazil, Mexico, Canada, the Philippines, the Netherlands, Australia, and the Union of South Africa.



The Women's Army Corps began sending students to photography classes at Lowry in 1943.



In 1944 more than 20,000 people celebrated the Fourth of July at Lowry Field. Visitors to the flight line saw the B-24, B-17, B-25, B-26, P-39, Spitfire, C-46, B-29, and L-5 aircraft. This picture was taken atop Hangar No. 1. (Maj. Gen. E. Gillis Johnson, USAF, Ret.)

(Below) During the war years, Lowry's hangars were often filled with aircraft undergoing modification and maintenance. These 1944 photographs show training aircraft—B-17, B-24, BT-13, and B-25—in Hangar No. 1. (Harold E. Habicht)



The 42nd Technical School Squadron performed administrative duties for photography students living in the "Brick Barracks." The squadron held weekly inspections and gas mask drills in front of the barracks.



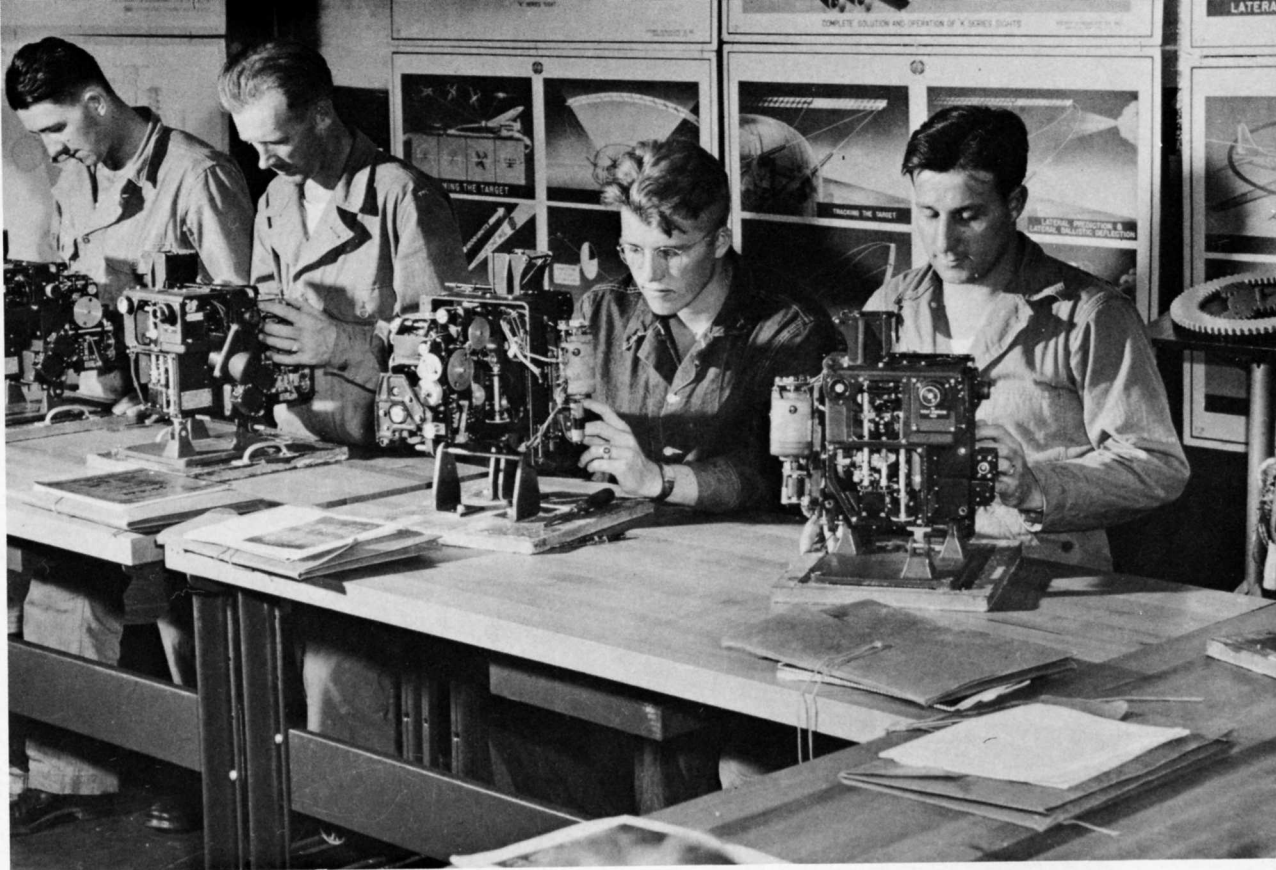
Lowry students trained under field conditions at Camp Bizerte in 1943.

Facilities, personnel strength, and training at Lowry Field grew as the war continued. In October 1943, the Army transferred the Flight Engineers School to Lowry from Smoky Hill Army Air Field at Salina, Kansas. The following year, Lowry officials introduced courses in radar photography, autopilot maintenance, and training programs for B-29 crews. In April 1945, the Crash Fire Fighting and Rescue School moved to Lowry from Buckley Field. This school offered two eight-week courses: Fire Fighter and Crash Rescuemen, and Fire Fighting Unit Commanders.

The fighting in Europe formally ended on May 8, 1945. On September 2, Japanese envoys signed the terms of surrender aboard the battleship *USS Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. Now the United States began demobilizing its vast military forces. Between September 1945 and May 1947, the strength of the Army Air Forces decreased from 2,253,000 to 303,000. Demobilization affected the mission at Lowry Field.

With an end to World War II, the men and women of Lowry Field returned to a peacetime schedule. On September 19, 1945, all schools resumed a five-day training week, with one shift per day. Student enrollments in some departments declined by as much as 60 percent. In addition, Lowry Field served as a separation center for the Army Air Forces. By the end of the year, Lowry was processing an average of 300 discharges a day.

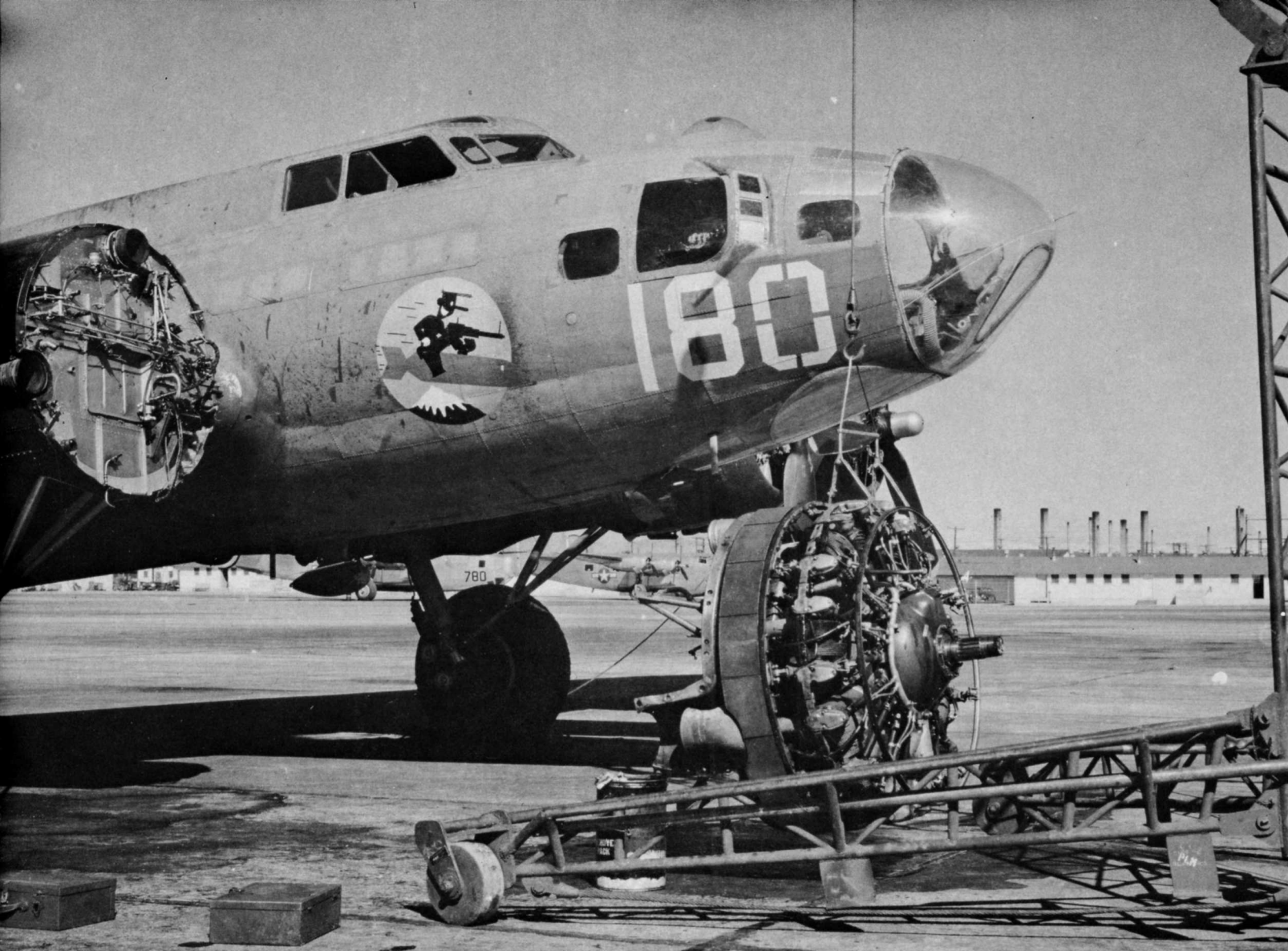
The bombsight was a key to successful missions. In this 1945 photograph, Lowry students inspect and adjust Sperry bombsights.



Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Lowe, Commanding General of Lowry Field (November 1945-June 1947), and Chief Warrant Officer Grover B. Gilbert discuss advances in aerial photography since their days at Chanute Field. As a Second Lieutenant, General Lowe was one of Gilbert's students. In this 1946 photograph they examine the K-20 aerial camera.



Lowry Field's first reserve officer reported for duty in August 1940. These members of Lowry's Air Reserve Training Detachment load an AT-11 aircraft for a flight to the bombing range, 1947. (Lt. Col. John W. Darr, USAF, Ret.)



This B-17 being repaired displays the first Lowry Field insignia, representing the armament and photography schools, 1945.

The defeat of the Axis nations altered the balance of power and left political vacuums in Eastern Europe and East Asia. The United States and the Soviet Union emerged from the conflict as the predominant nations in the world. Guided by different ideologies, each had plans and policies for the postwar period. But unlike the aftermath of World War I, now the United States became fully involved in international affairs and actively committed itself to maintaining world peace. The new American role influenced the training mission at Lowry.

During the war, the relatively young and inexperienced air force became a major component of the nation's armed services. The leaders of the Army Air Forces demonstrated that airpower was not limited to tactical missions in support of ground forces engaging the enemy. Strategic bombing proved to be an important factor in bringing the war to its successful conclusion. As relations with the Soviet Union deteriorated after 1945, airpower became an even more significant factor in American military plans

to contain further Soviet advances in Europe and Asia.

In May 1944, the Joint Chiefs of Staff had established a committee to study organization of the nation's military forces in the postwar period. The committee recommended a Department of the Armed Forces that included separate army, navy, and air branches. While Congress addressed the unification issue and military leaders discussed the matter, the postwar Air Force was already taking shape. On March 21, 1946, the War Department established the Strategic Air Command (formerly the Continental Air Forces), the Tactical Air Command, and the Air Defense Command.

The National Security Act of July 26, 1947 established a Department of Defense that included the Departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. The service secretaries reported to the Secretary of Defense. On September 18, W. Stuart Symington became the first Secretary of the Air Force. Lowry Field was officially redesignated Lowry Air Force Base on June 13, 1948.



In October 1943 the Army transferred the Flight Engineers School to Lowry. This 1945 photograph shows a B-29 flight engineer station and trainer.

Students from the Philippines learn the techniques of aerial photography, 1944. (Lowry Heritage Museum)





CHAPTER III

LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE DURING THE FIFTIES

At the Summer White House in August 1953, President Eisenhower discussed the post-armistice situation in Korea with (l to r) Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs Walter S. Robertson, United Nations Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. (Col. Charles J. Pinto, USAF, Ret.)

With the reorganization of the armed forces and the “cold war” intensifying between the United States and the Soviet Union, Congress passed a new Selective Service Act that became law on June 24, 1948. The act required men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six to register for the military draft and

serve in the Army for twenty-one months after attaining age nineteen.* While supporting measures to strengthen their nation’s military forces, the American people hoped for the continuance of peace. But American military involvement in Korea interrupted the recent period of peace.



Lowry officials provided facilities for reporters covering the Summer White House, 1953. (Col. Charles J. Pinto, USAF, Ret.)

Meanwhile, the Air Force entered the aerospace age in the 1950s. Jet-powered aircraft, guided missiles, nuclear ordnance, and electronic and computerized equipment came into the inventory. The Air Force acquired long-range air-breathing missiles such as the SM-62 Snark and SM-64 Navaho; developed ballistic missiles such as the SM-65 Atlas, SM-68 Titan, SM-75 Thor, and SM-80 Minuteman; and introduced an array of missiles and rockets fired from aircraft and launched by ground forces. Also, the Air Force began to take advantage of developments in the technology of simulation training.

* This was later amended to two years of service and a draft age of eighteen and a half years old.



When the Air Force entered the aerospace age in the 1950s, the operation and maintenance of electronic and computerized equipment became very important. These students are training on a circuit board.

War in Korea

At the Potsdam Conference in July and August 1945, the Allies agreed to the joint occupation of

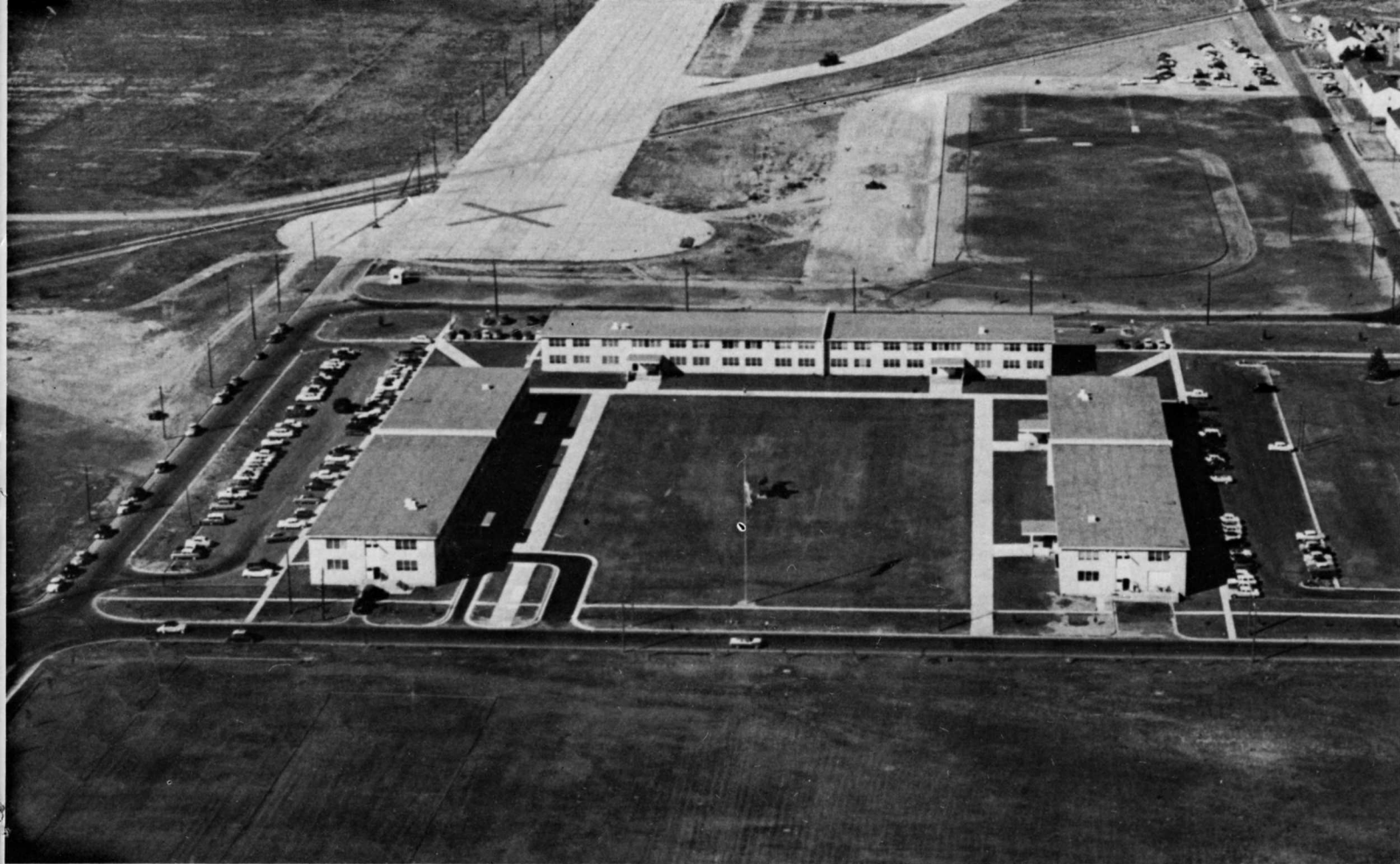
Korea, with the 38th parallel serving as the dividing line between Soviet forces in the north and the Americans in the south. The Soviet Union announced that it had removed its army units from Korea by December 1948. In June 1949, the United States completed the withdrawal of its troops, except for a token advisory group of 500 men.

On June 25, 1950, North Korea launched an attack across the 38th parallel, and the United Nations Security Council called upon its members to support South Korea. President Harry S. Truman dispatched American air and naval units and ordered army troops stationed in Japan to enter the battle to restore the territorial integrity of South Korea. After repelling the initial attack, United Nations forces advanced deep into North Korean territory. On October 26 the Chinese army crossed the Yalu River into North Korea and, on November 25, launched an offensive that drove United Nations forces back into South Korea, below the 38th parallel.

Lowry Air Force Base responded to the fighting in Korea by returning to an expanded program. On July 17, 1950, Lowry's 3415th Technical Training



A class in the Department of Fire Control Systems Training receives instruction on test equipment for the AN/APQ-30 gun-sight used on the F-102 aircraft.



Lowry hosted the Air Force Academy from 1954 to 1958, and headquarters functions were located in Buildings 901, 903, and 905.



Technicians from Lowry's 3415th Maintenance and Supply Group check the electronic systems of a T-33 aircraft.

Wing* adopted a six-day training week with three shifts per day. Moreover, the curriculum reflected advances in aviation technology. In addition to photography and armament instruction, Lowry provided courses in rocket propulsion, missile guidance, armament electronics, radar-operated fire-control systems, computer specialties, gun and rocket sights, and flexible gunnery (electronically-operated turret systems).

Although negotiations for a cease-fire and an armistice began in July 1951, the parties failed to reach agreement and fighting continued. Hostilities finally ceased after an armistice was signed on July 26, 1953. Lowry reverted to a five-day training week on October 7.

New Training Programs

A significant part of the mission of Lowry's 3415th Technical Training Wing was developing new programs of instruction for the Air Force. In the 1950s the Air Force acquired rockets, missiles, and nuclear ordnance in greater numbers. The wing formed

* During fifty years, Lowry trained under other designations, including 3705th Army Air Forces Base Unit (Technical School), 3415th Technical School, USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences, and 3400th Technical Training Wing.

departments that trained people to operate and maintain these systems.

In January 1951, eleven Air Force specialists assembled at Lowry to start a missile training school. They prepared courses in guidance, controls, and propulsion for the Matador, the nation's only surface-to-surface missile, and for new systems that were being developed. These included the Falcon, Rascal, Snark, and Navaho missiles. The training wing activated a Department of Guided Missiles on June 7, 1951.

In 1959, the Department of Guided Missiles introduced an instrumentation course for airborne telemetry and ground equipment. These systems collected data from space vehicles and then transmitted the information to ground-based receiving stations. By 1962, Lowry's Department of Missiles Training (formerly the Department of Guided Missiles) was providing the Air Force with more than 1,000 trained missile specialists annually. The curriculum consisted of eighteen courses, and the instructional and administrative staff numbered more than 300.

On April 13, 1955, the 3415th Technical Training Wing activated the Department of Special Instruments Training. This department prepared people to operate and maintain nuclear instruments and special electronic equipment.

Significantly, Lowry lost one of its traditional programs in this decade. The Army had introduced aerial photographic training at Langley Field, Virginia, in 1917. The Army transferred the program to Chanute Field, Illinois, in 1922 and moved it to Lowry in 1938. The pace of technology, however, caught up with aerial photography in the 1950s. When the introduction of remote control cameras on reconnaissance aircraft diminished the need for aerial photography specialists, Lowry discontinued this training with the



Students in the Department of Flexible Gunnery Training track a drone with a radar range detector.



The M-61 Vulcan gun was installed on F-104, F-105, and F-111 aircraft. The M-61 fired up to 6,000 rounds of 20 millimeter ammunition per minute. Lowry began M-61 instruction in the late 1950s.

graduating class on February 21, 1956. The Department of Photographic Training continued its programs in camera repair and ground photography.

The Summer White House

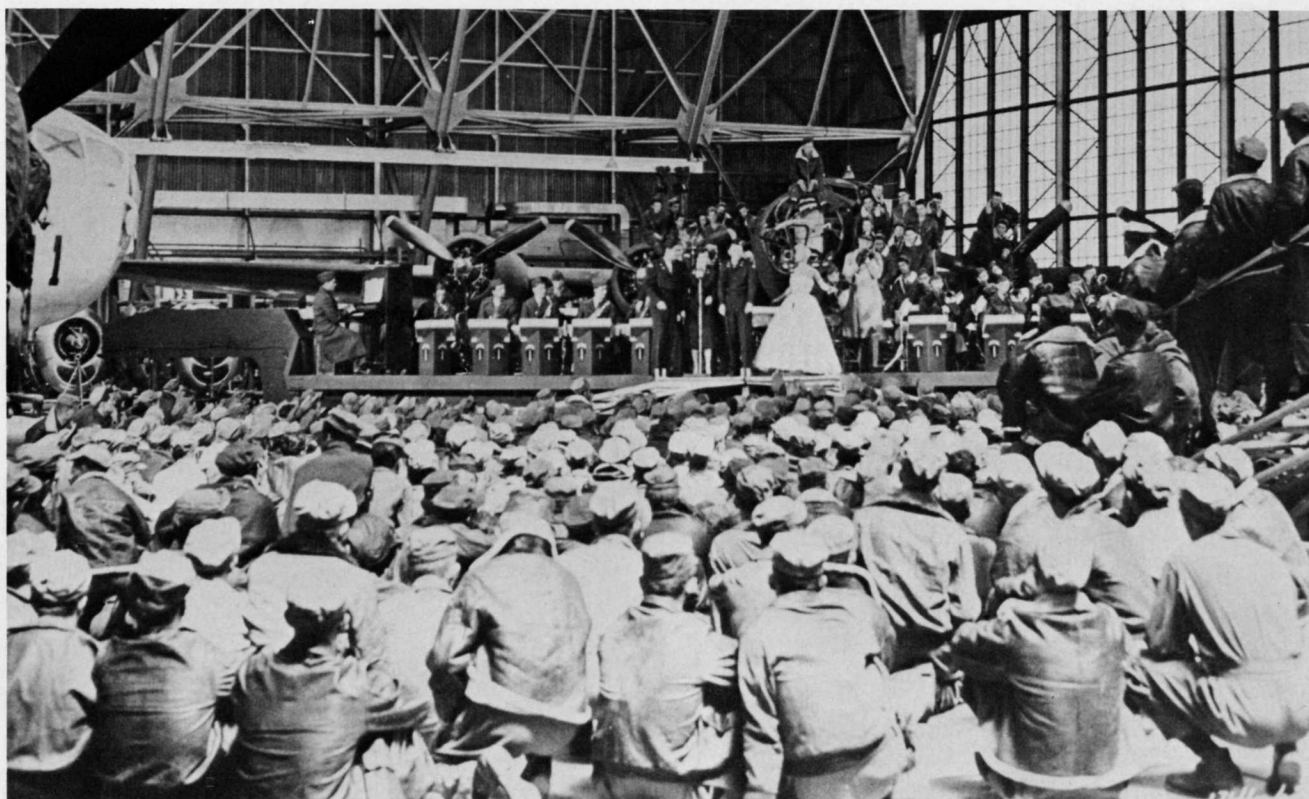
Lowry Air Force Base became a center of national and world attention during the administration of President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Because Mrs. Eisenhower's family lived in Denver, Lowry was the site of the Summer White House from 1953 to 1955 while the Eisenhowers vacationed in Colorado. The President first arrived at Lowry on August 8, 1953 aboard *The Columbine*, the Presidential aircraft, and remained until September 19.

The President, his staff, and administration officials had offices in Building 256, the headquarters building and main structure of the former sanatorium. Lowry also provided office space for the Secret Service and the national press corps. A 180-member Air Police detail provided security for the Summer White House.

In 1954, President Eisenhower stayed at Lowry from August 21 until October 15. On September 12, the National Security Council met outside the nation's capitol for the first time. The group assembled in the Williamsburg Room—later renamed the Eisenhower Room—at the Lowry Air Force Base Officer's Club to hear Secretary of State John Foster Dulles report on his recent trip to the Far East. In attendance were Vice President Richard M. Nixon, Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, Central Intelligence Agency Director Allen Dulles, Federal Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover, and Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Lewis L. Strauss. The following year, the President remained in Colorado from August 14 until November 11. He



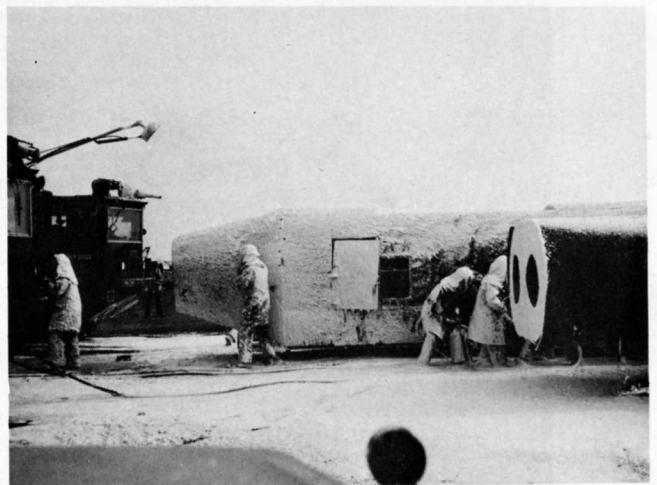
The Department of Munitions and Weapons Training provided instruction in bomb loading and fighter aircraft weapons. An instructor discusses a 3,000-pound bomb with his class.



Jimmy Stewart, June Allyson, Dick Powell, and Frances Langford came to Lowry in 1953 when Universal-International Studios filmed part of "The Glenn Miller Story" at the base. This scene took place inside Building 401 with Lowry personnel as extras.



Jimmy Stewart played the part of the World War II Army band leader.



Students from the Department of Fire Protection and Aircraft Rescue Training practice using a hand spray nozzle and foam sprayer equipment.

CHAPEL 1



President and Mrs. Eisenhower leave Chapel No. 1, 1954. With them are Interior Secretary Douglas McKay and Chaplain Victor Pennekamp. In the background are (l to r) Presidential Press Secretary James C. Hagerty, Mrs. Sprague, Lowry Commander Brig. Gen. John T. Sprague, and Presidential Air Force Aide Lt. Col. William G. Draper. Chapel No. 1 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.



Students in the Department of Comptroller Training gain experience in a model finance office, 1950. In August 1948, Lowry combined its budget, fiscal and statistical courses under one department for comptroller training. The department moved to Shepard Air Force Base, Texas, in October 1954 to make room for the interim Air Force Academy at Lowry.

was at Lowry only through September 23 because of a heart attack suffered the following day. The President was transferred to Fitzsimons Army Hospital for treatment.

Hosting the Air Force Academy

After the United States Air Force became a separate entity in 1947, the service began planning an academy to educate its future officers. On April 1, 1954, President Eisenhower signed the authorization bill for an Air Force Academy, and the Secretary of the Air Force appointed a committee to choose the site. On June 22, Secretary Harold E. Talbott announced that the Air Force Academy would be located near Colorado Springs. The following month he stated

that Lowry Air Force Base would become the interim home of the academy, with the first class of 306 cadets scheduled to arrive in July 1955.

To make room for the cadets, the Air Force transferred Lowry's Intelligence, Transportation, and Comptroller schools—1,300 students and several hundred staff members—to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. The move began in October 1954.

The United States Air Force formally dedicated its Academy at Lowry Air Force Base on July 11, 1955. Lieutenant General Hubert R. Harmon served as the first Superintendent. The Air Force Academy occupied buildings and barracks at Lowry No. 2 until 1958, when construction of the permanent site at Colorado Springs was completed.



From the moment new cadets arrived at Lowry they were introduced to military discipline.



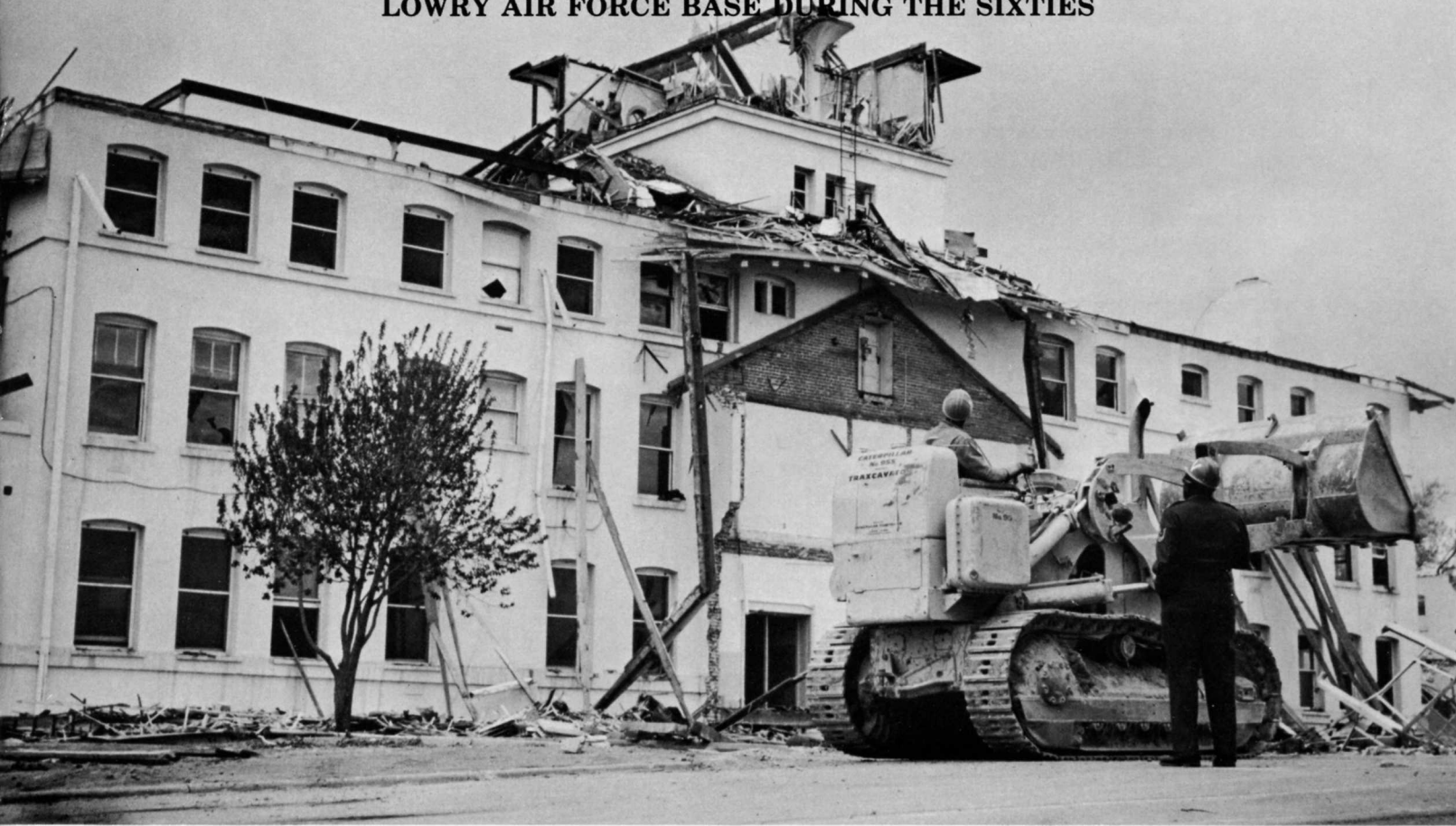
Mrs. Eisenhower reviews a formation of Air Force Academy cadets. (Lowry Heritage Museum)



Air Force Academy cadets march in formation. (Lowry Heritage Museum)

CHAPTER IV

LOWRY AIR FORCE BASE DURING THE SIXTIES



In 1963 Lowry lost a link with its past when the structures of the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium were demolished.

At the beginning of 1959, Air Training Command designated its training wings as centers. This change reflected the difference in their mission and size compared to other wings in the Air Force. On January 1, 1959, the 3415th Technical Training Wing became Lowry Technical Training Center.

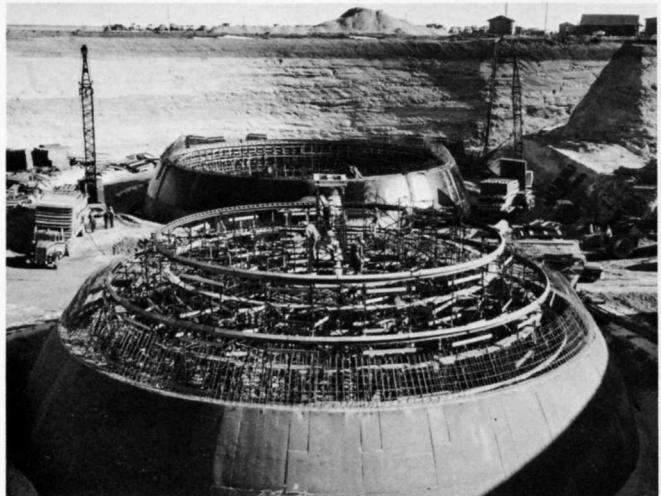
During the 1960s, Lowry Air Force Base severed some ties with the past and moved into new areas of training. For one thing, the headquarters functions shifted from the sanitorium buildings. More significantly, Lowry's flying operations came to an end. Despite these losses, however, there were additions to the base and the mission of Lowry Technical Training Center. These included the installation of Titan I missiles, the return of intelligence training, and the transfer of the 3320th Retraining Group and supply training to Lowry from Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas. Finally, with American military forces once more fighting on the mainland of Asia, Lowry trained airmen for the Southeast Asian conflict.

End of an Era

Because of structural deterioration, the Air Force had to demolish the sanitorium complex which had originally opened in 1904. The accumulation of

moisture in the sand brick and stucco exteriors produced settling and cracking of the buildings. On July 7, 1961, the headquarters activities for Lowry Technical Training Center began moving to Building 349. Demolition of the former tuberculosis clinic commenced in April 1963.

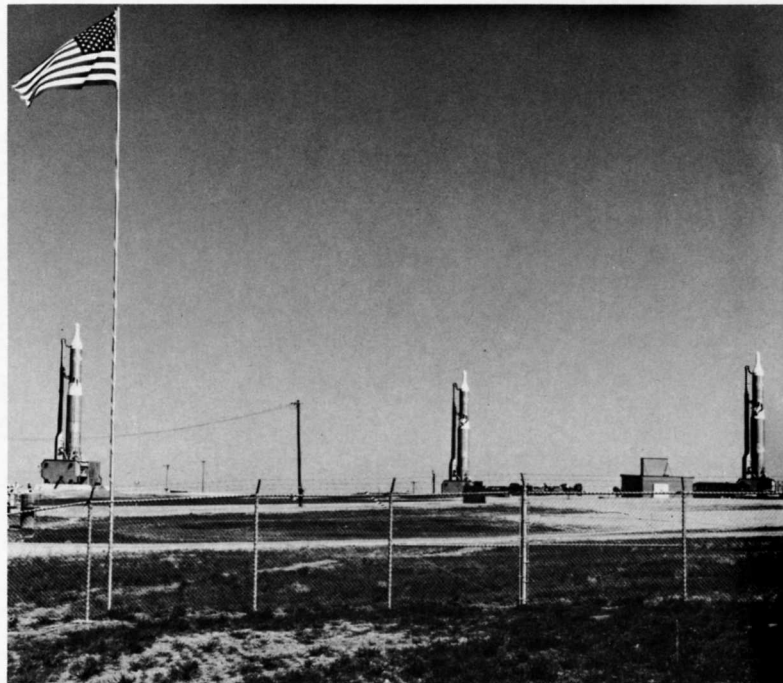
Lowry's flying heritage also ended in 1966. The first Army aircraft had landed at Lowry Field in 1938. In the years that followed, a variety of military aircraft



Construction of Lowry's Titan I missile complex began in April 1959.

operated from the base. In March 1945, there were 104 aircraft assigned to Lowry Field, including seventy-two B-24 bombers. The first B-29 was assigned to Lowry on May 18, 1945. Among the training highlights, on March 3, 1952 Lowry B-29s completed a mission over the nearby town of Longmont. Coming in at an altitude of 1,000 feet, the aircraft dropped leaflets instead of bombs, and chemical warfare personnel simulated fire with smoke bombs. In August 1954, the Air Force assigned an H-19B helicopter to Lowry to provide transportation between the base and the future site of the Air Force Academy.

On June 1, 1960, Lowry was closed to all transient jet traffic, and after that date Buckley Air National Guard Base serviced transient aircraft. On November 19, 1964, the Department of Defense announced that it was shifting Lowry's remaining flying activities to Buckley because of operational requirements, safety, and economic considerations. The many hazards of operating the Air Force's newest high-performance jets over the growing residential areas of Denver and Aurora were too great. Moreover, improvements for Lowry to handle these aircraft would be too costly. On June 30, 1966, Lowry's flying activities ceased



The first Air Force Titan I missile unit became operational at Lowry in April 1962.



This view shows the domed powerhouse and control center for a Titan I missile complex under construction.

after Major General Charles H. Anderson, the Center Commander, flew the last aircraft—a T-29—to Buckley.

Lowry Becomes a Missile Base

Although Lowry Field and Lowry Air Force Base had provided technical training for armed forces personnel since 1938, the base now prepared for another contribution to the national defense. As part of a buildup of American strategic forces, Air Force officials wanted to install Titan I missiles on Lowry's former bombing range. These plans called for a network of six complexes, each having three missile silos and the requisite equipment and structures. On September 25, 1958, the Strategic Air Command activated the 703rd Strategic Missile Wing at Lowry. Construction work got underway on April 28, 1959.

In a September 9, 1960 article for the base newspaper, now called the *Lowry Airman*, Gene E. Forbes described the awe-inspiring feeling of touring the missile construction site. His first thought was that he had glimpsed a "model of some city of a future age," a structure that belonged "on some distant planet." He described the deafening noise of "steel on steel," the movement of "mountains of earth," and

concrete domes two stories high with four-foot-thick walls.

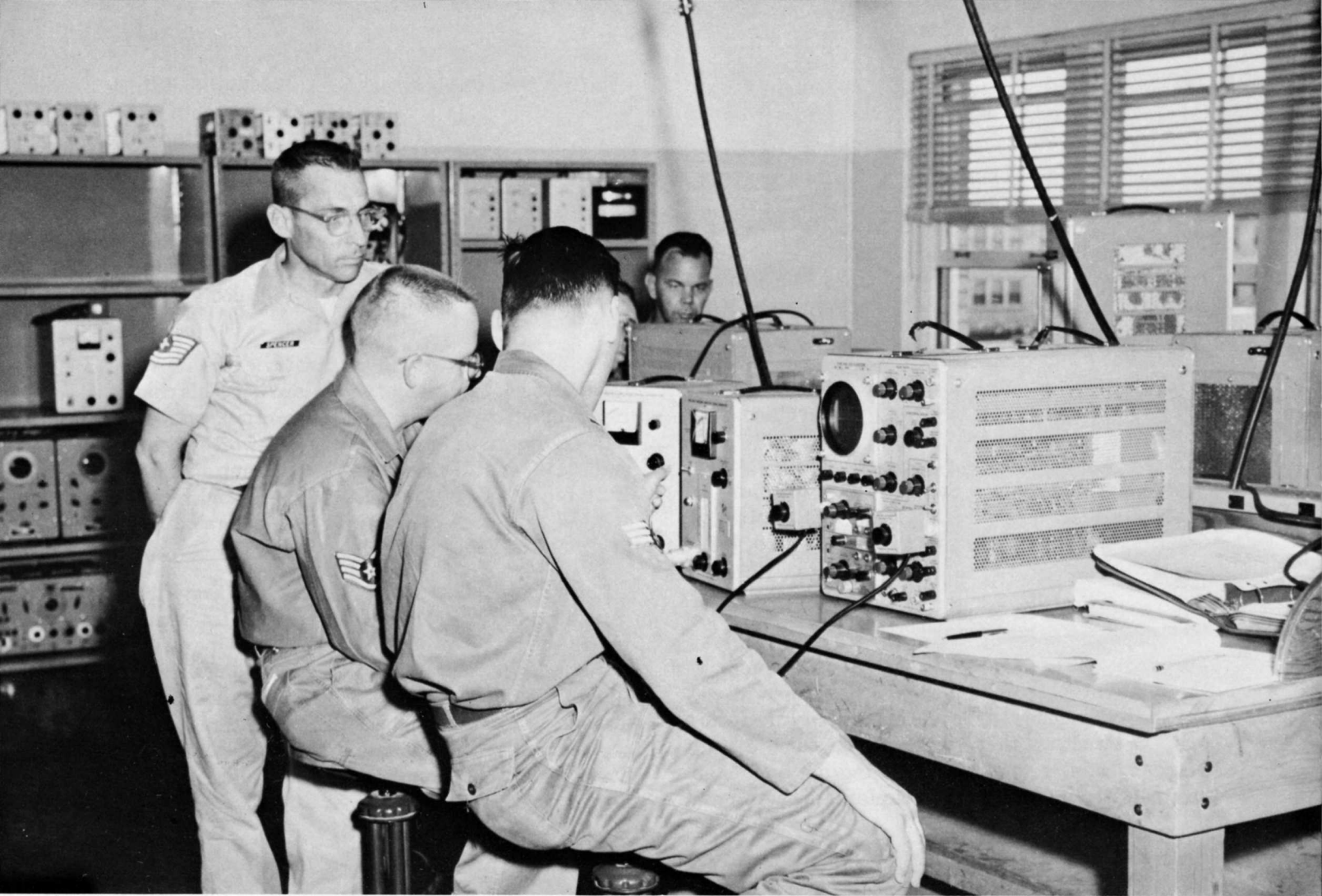
The arrangement of the Air Force's first Titan wing constituted a 170-mile triangle east and south of Lowry and Buckley, with command and support facilities established at Lowry. The reinforced concrete missile silo was 160 feet deep and 40 feet in diameter, with walls two feet in thickness. The foundation was eight feet thick, and the silo doors weighed 180 tons.

On July 1, 1961, the 703rd Strategic Missile Wing became the 451st Strategic Missile Wing. This change represented an Air Force policy to continue active service designations for units with noteworthy combat records. The 451st Bombardment Group had flown B-24 Liberators during World War II and received three Distinguished Unit Citations before being inactivated in September 1945.

In October 1961, workers installed the first Titan I in a silo at Lowry's missile range. The 451st Strategic Missile Wing achieved its initial operational milestone on April 18, 1962, when three missiles were ready for launching. In November 1964, the Air Force announced plans to phase out the Titan I and to replace it with the less vulnerable Minuteman. The Strategic Air Command removed the last Titan from Lowry on April 14, 1965.



Students in the Department of Aerospace Munitions Training load a cluster bomb on an F-105.



Lowry's Precision Measurement Equipment Training Branch, Department of Avionics Training, provided metrology instruction.

Lowry and the Vietnam War

In the 1960s, Lowry's mission expanded with American involvement in another overseas conflict. Before World War II, Indochina had been under the control of France. Resistance forces representing nationalist and Communist groups fought the Japanese invaders during World War II, but when the war ended they also challenged the reimposition of French colonial rule. Following the 1949 Communist victory in China and North Korea's aggression in 1950, the United States took steps to prevent a Communist takeover in Indochina.

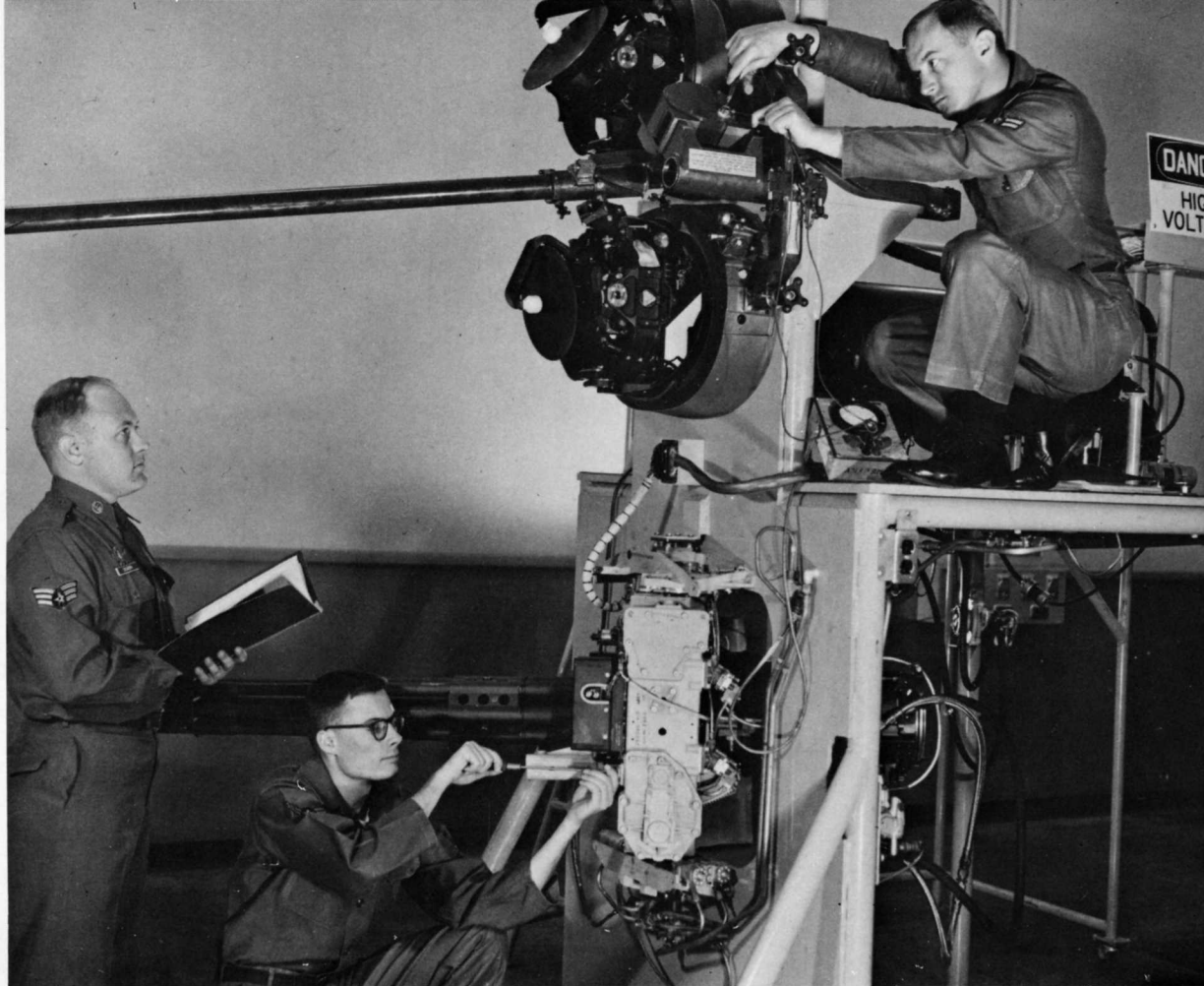
Both Presidents Truman and Eisenhower provided France with financial and military aid in its war against the Indochina Communists, but French troops were defeated at Dien Bien Phu in May 1954. At an international conference at Geneva during July 1954, Indochina was divided at the 17th parallel pending general elections. Subsequently, the United States extended its support to the new government of South Vietnam and, in February 1955, dispatched military advisors to train its army.

The Administration of President John F. Kennedy strengthened America's conventional military forces

to combat "brush-fire" wars and prevent their escalation. The United States became increasingly involved in countering efforts by Communist forces to seize control of South Vietnam. President Kennedy dispatched military advisors and troops for combat support missions. In 1965 President Lyndon B. Johnson authorized American forces to take offensive action, and he greatly increased the number of American personnel sent to South Vietnam.

Throughout the 1960s, the supersonic Century-series fighters were the mainstays of the Aerospace Defense Command and the Tactical Air Command and represented the initial aircraft deployed by the Air Force in Vietnam. The first combat unit to arrive in South Vietnam in October 1961 flew RF-101C Voodoos, but the most widely used in the air war over North and South Vietnam were, respectively, the Republic F-105D Thunderchief fighter-bomber and the North American F-100 Super Sabre. The effectiveness of these aircraft depended not only on their pilots, systems, computers, and weapons but also on the people who maintained them for combat. Lowry's Department of Fighter Systems trained these technicians and the officers managing armament maintenance organizations.

An instructor in the Department of Avionics Training supervises adjustments on the M-61 gun and its radar system.



In 1961, the Department of Fighter Systems had two branches, the Weapons Control Systems Branch and the Fire Control Systems Branch. A staff of over 200 people taught thirteen courses relating to the F-100D, F-101B, F-102A, F-104A, F-105D, and F-106, as well as the older F-84, F-86D, and F-89J aircraft. Then the F-4C Phantom II began operating in Vietnam in early 1965, followed in March 1968 by the first use of the General Dynamics swing-winged F-111A as a tactical bomber in the air war against North Vietnam. Lowry Technical Training Center responded with the appropriate courses for these aircraft.



Students in the Department of Aerospace Munitions Training learn basic maintenance on various missiles, such as this AIM-7.

The Department of Weapons Training prepared officers, airmen, and civilians to maintain Air Force weapons. In 1962 there were sixty courses in conventional munitions, disaster control, staff armament, nuclear weapons, and weapons loading. The department's Nuclear Weapons Branch was the only Air Force organization providing instruction in storing, maintaining, assembling, testing, and handling nuclear components. Its other unique training program was mating nose cones and re-entry vehicles to missile systems.

The Department of Electronic Principles taught the fundamentals of electronics to about 6,000 people annually. The department introduced closed-circuit television instruction in Air Force technical training on August 6, 1958. It was particularly useful for teaching basic knowledge dealing with circuits, tubes, and wiring.

Lowry faced a special problem during the Vietnam War. At times the mission and operations of the Technical Training Center were adversely affected when base personnel and training instructors were dispatched overseas. In 1964 Lowry instructors with specialties in munitions, armament, and ordnance disposal were sent to the war zone on temporary or permanent assignment to fill critical manpower requirements.

The fighting also affected civil engineers. The Air



Students in the Department of Missiles Training learn to operate and maintain tactical missiles such as Mace.

Force needed people to operate heavy equipment at construction and repair sites in Vietnam and Thailand. This project was called RED HORSE, for Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operations Repair Squadron, Engineer. Civil engineering specialists from Lowry and other Air Force bases were organized into squadrons and deployed to the war zone.

By 1964, Lowry's 3415th Technical School was graduating over 10,000 people annually. In addition to the three departments already mentioned, the school consisted of the Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center and the Departments of Bomber Training (maintenance of navigation and fire control systems, calibration of radar, and servicing photography equipment for reconnaissance aircraft), Missiles Training, and Special Instruments (special electronic training).

The 3415th Technical School used two and sometimes three shifts to prepare people for the munitions and ordnance disposal career fields. The school also adopted a six-day training week. By 1966, the Center had increased the number of graduating munitions and weapons specialists from 1,600 to 5,600 annually. On June 11, 1969, Lowry also began training South Vietnamese Air Force personnel in these specialties under the Pacer Bravo program.

The Air Force developed hundreds of rapid-response programs in the limited warfare area for use in Southeast Asia. They ranged from modifying cargo aircraft into side-firing gunships to developing tactical electronic warfare systems and guided bombs. This new level of sophistication in military weaponry

required a corps of instructors equally well-versed in fields such as solid state electronics, laser-guided bombs, and electro-optically-guided glide bombs. As in the past, the Lowry Technical Training Center responded with the necessary courses and continued its tradition of excellence in training.

In January 1973, representatives from the United States, North Vietnam, South Vietnam, and the Viet Cong's Provisional Revolutionary Government signed an agreement in Paris. The accord ended the hostilities, secured the release of American prisoners of war, and brought about the withdrawal of American military forces from South Vietnam. American troops were withdrawn by the end of March. Lowry's School of Applied Aerospace Sciences discontinued its training oriented to Air Force operations in Southeast Asia.

Intelligence Training Returns to Lowry

Lowry Air Force Base had a long association with the training of intelligence specialists. The Army Air Forces began this training at Keesler Field, Mississippi, in 1946 but moved it to Lowry Field the following year. In 1954, the Air Force shifted the program to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, to make room for the Air Force Academy at Lowry. It remained at Sheppard until 1963, when it returned to Lowry as part of the 3415th Technical School.

Aerial warfare required specialized air intelligence. The Air Force Intelligence School at Sheppard and the Navy Air Intelligence School at Washington, D.C., prepared the necessary people for these duties.

In 1962, the Secretary of Defense directed the Air Force and Navy to establish a single air intelligence school under Air Force jurisdiction.

The Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center was activated at Lowry on July 1, 1963 and began holding classes on the 17th. The program primarily involved courses in radar analysis and photographic interpretation. Of the 413 students in 1963, sixty-two were Navy personnel and twenty-three were foreign officers. On October 23, 1963, the school conducted the first combined classes for Air Force and Navy students. Later, the Marines joined in the training. During the height of American activities in Southeast Asia, the intelligence center conducted fifty-six courses.

The volume of security information received by agencies of the Department of Defense increased greatly during the 1960s. The equipment and the people to acquire, evaluate, store, and retrieve this data were essential to national defense. By the mid-1970s, Lowry's intelligence school possessed \$2 million worth of computer equipment. The Intelligence Data Handling Systems Branch used mobile training teams to instruct Department of Defense personnel throughout the United States and abroad.



Lowry pioneered closed-circuit television instruction in 1958.



These Navy students are learning to interpret aerial photographs at Lowry's Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center.



Photography students receive instruction on the EH 6-A aerial film processor, 1968.

The 3320th Retraining Group

In 1952, the Air Force organized the 3320th Retraining Group to offer special training to certain airmen convicted of military crimes. The Air Force wanted to restore to active duty those airmen successfully completing the program. Because the training stressed changes in attitude, it could also serve them well in civilian life if they had to leave the service.

The staff, including psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists, created an environment without armed guards or barred windows and doors. The curriculum consisted of academic classes, individual and group therapy sessions, athletics, and recreation. The Air Force transferred the group to Lowry from Amarillo Air Force Base, Texas, on July 1, 1967, with 109 airmen in the program. The responsibilities of the 3320th increased in the following decade.

Supply Training

In July 1967, the Air Force moved supply training to Lowry from Amarillo Air Force Base. The shift of 1,100 students began on July 4 and concluded on September 9. Classes at Lowry's Department of Supply and Procurement Training started on August 1. The department taught twenty-one resident courses and had 301 permanent party personnel, providing instruction in automated data processing, supply management and services, and redistribution and marketing.



Since its beginning as the Denver Branch of the Air Corps Technical School, Lowry has trained airmen from many nations. An instructor from the Department of Aerospace Photography Training explains the operation of a K-17 aerial camera to two sergeants from the Royal Laotian Air Force, 1967. (*Lowry Heritage Museum*)



Building No. 700 was one of five 1,000-person dormitories constructed during the 1970s.

Lowry's physical appearance changed greatly in the 1970s. Construction workers demolished almost two hundred World War II-era wooden buildings and replaced them with new brick structures, including five dormitories each housing 1,000 people, a Youth Center, a Child Care Center, a Chapel Center, an Airmen's Open Mess, and the five buildings of the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group. On September 30, 1976, Lowry dedicated the Gilchrist Building (Building 444) as the new home for the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center and the Air Reserve Personnel Center. Also during the 1970s, Lowry reorganized its technical training wing and successfully confronted the closure issue.

Technical Training

To enhance the significance of Lowry's technical training and the Air Force's aerospace mission, the 3415th Technical School became the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences on August 1, 1972. The school had the following Departments: Avionics Training, Aerospace Photography Training, Aerospace Munitions Training, Special Instruments

Training, and Logistics Training. Lowry also managed the Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center and the Interservice Nuclear Weapons School. The School of Applied Aerospace Sciences gained accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools on March 28, 1973. This gave airmen the opportunity to apply their Lowry training toward a Career Educational Certificate from the Community College of the Air Force and, after April 1977, an Associate of Arts degree.

In 1977, Air Training Command realigned its training structure along traditional military lines. Lowry's school became the 3400th Technical Training Wing on April 1, 1977. The training departments were now designated Technical Training Groups: 3420th, intelligence; 3430th, audiovisual; 3440th, logistics; 3450th, avionics; 3460th, munitions. On September 1, 1978, Lowry—and the other schools within Air Training Command—adopted the eight-hour classroom day. This represented a change from the six-hour academic day in effect since World War II. Although there were other organizational changes at the technical school, the basic wing-group arrangement continued into the 1980s.

Audiovisual training included photography, high speed film processing, photojournalism, television production, audio recording, and maintenance of cameras and communications equipment. Air intelligence specialists studied the application of computers and data processing to the acquisition, evaluation, storage, and retrieval of information. In 1979, Lowry introduced instruction in field maintenance and repair of the military's latest tactical intelligence equipment. This portable, computerized van could be transported throughout the world to examine reconnaissance films and prepare intelligence reports.

Avionics instructors taught courses on airborne and ground electronic systems and emphasized maintenance and calibration procedures. Logistics



Lowry has been providing air intelligence training for other branches of the armed services since 1963.



This munitions student is training on the SRAM rotary launcher for the B-52 aircraft.



Since 1941, Lowry has trained personnel for the food services career field.

training (formerly the supply career field) still involved moving items where and when needed, but logistics personnel now required expertise in using computers for inventory control. Munitions students learned maintenance procedures for missiles, munitions, nuclear weapons, and conventional weapons; safety procedures; disaster preparedness; loading conventional weapons; and disposing of explosive ordnance. Throughout the decade of the seventies, the number of graduates from Lowry's technical school exceeded 20,000 each fiscal year, with a high of more than 27,000 in fiscal year 1973.

The 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Squadron

In January 1970, the Air Force initiated a test program for selective airmen with administrative discharges. Airmen who successfully completed the program could be discharged under honorable conditions. Lowry became the test site because it housed the 3320th Retraining Group. The 3415th Special Training Group was activated on April 1, 1971, with the first airmen arriving on May 2. In contrast to the 3320th, those airmen coming to the 3415th Special Training Group were not prisoners. In February 1973, drug rehabilitation became part of the group's mission. In May, the Air Staff approved continuation of the special program on a permanent basis. On April

15, 1974, the 3320th moved into a new facility with dormitories, dining hall, gymnasium, and hobby shop.

As the United States reduced its Vietnam involvement during the early 1970s, the military drug problem decreased in severity. The Air Force no longer needed a separate drug program. Moreover, the number of airmen entering the special training program had decreased. As a result, the 3415th Special Training Group merged with the 3320th on February 1, 1975. The organization became the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group on June 15, 1976. By 1977, after 25 years of operation, more than 14,000 airmen had entered the retraining program and over 8,000 had been returned to active duty.

With the number of people in the retraining program continuing to decline, the Air Force reduced the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group to squadron status on March 1, 1977. In February 1978, the squadron moved into smaller accommodations. Also that month, the Air Staff directed the 3320th to close its Lowry confinement center for Air Force prisoners. The number of prisoners had declined to eighteen, and maintaining a separate Air Force center for such a small number of people was not economical. The Air Force sent its prisoners to the Army's confinement facility at Fort Riley, Kansas. In June 1980, however, the number of Air Force prisoners increased at Fort Riley. As a result, Lowry reopened an Air Force confinement facility.

The Base Closure Issue

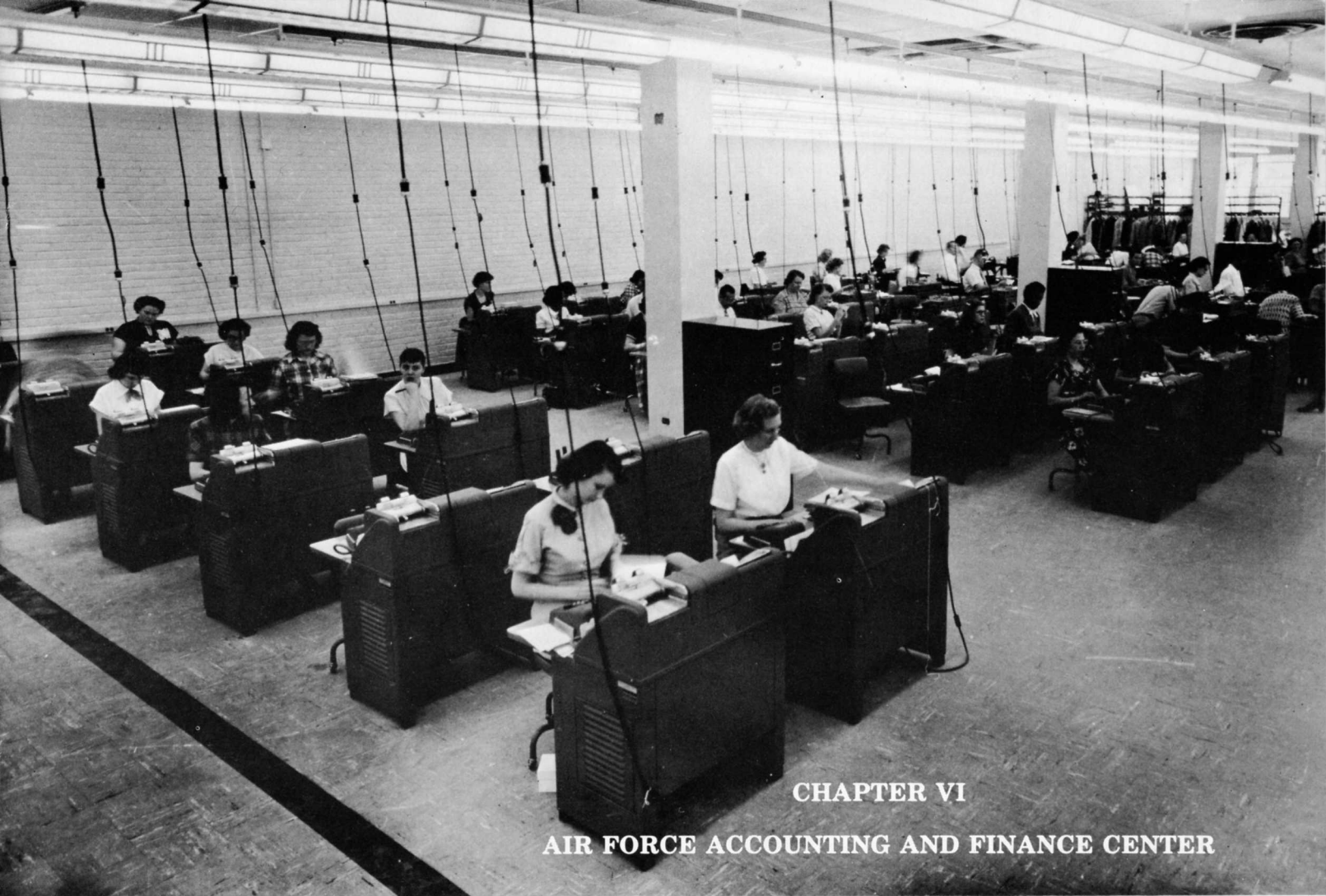
Despite its proud training heritage, Lowry Air Force Base faced a struggle for survival in 1978. Prior to that year, the Air Force had considered closing one of its training facilities because of diminishing needs. The Air Force investigated the closure of Lowry and Chanute Air Force Bases.

The Colorado Congressional delegation, local officials, and civic groups organized on Lowry's behalf.

State and local legislators formed a task force to assess the potential losses for Colorado and the United States Air Force. The group prepared a fifty-page report that supported the retention of Lowry Air Force Base. This response by civic and political leaders reinforced Colorado's historic ties to the base. In March 1979, the Air Force ended months of speculation on the future of the base by recommending that Lowry, as well as Chanute, be kept open.



View of Denver from Lowry Air Force Base.



CHAPTER VI

AIR FORCE ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE CENTER

The Key Punch Section of the Accounting Division in 1951.

In 1976, Lowry became home for the United States Air Force Accounting and Finance Center. The Center moved into the Gilchrist Building, named for its first and third Commander, Major General John R. Gilchrist. Prior to coming to Lowry, the Center had operated at 3800 York Street in Denver for twenty-five years.

The Accounting and Finance Center served as the principal organization for the financial operations of over 100 Air Force accounting and finance offices. The Center handled the payroll affairs of all Air Force military personnel, provided Congress with information on the disbursement of appropriated funds, and offered technical guidance to Air Force accounting and finance offices. As the last element of its mission, the Center also functioned as the Department of Defense's billing, collecting, and accounting office for foreign military sales.

Before 1951, the United States Army Finance Center, St. Louis, Missouri, handled all Air Force financial transactions. When the Army's financial workload mushroomed because of the Korean conflict, the Air Force formed a finance center to maintain the pay records of its members. On January 1, 1951, the

Air Force redesignated the United States Army Medical Depot facility in Denver as the Air Force Finance Center. The Center became fully operational on July 31, adding an annual payroll of \$11 million to the Denver area.

In 1956, the Air Force added its accounting duties to the Finance Center, which now became the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center. Also that year, the Comptroller of the Air Force moved some of its functions to the Denver operation. Now the Center Commander filled a dual position, also serving as the Assistant Comptroller of the Air Force for Accounting and Finance.

With the acquisition of its first computer (the RCA 501) in the early 1960s, the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center automated its operations to handle the volume of data essential to its mission. Established in 1963, the Center's Directorate of Data Automation developed financial management systems acclaimed by other financial institutions. In 1972, the Center began converting to the Joint Uniform Military Pay System with installation of the IBM 360/65 computer. The objective was the centralization of all active-duty pay activities and quicker

pay actions. As the system became operational, Air Force accounting and finance offices reported that processing time had decreased from seven days to twenty-four hours. The project reached full operational status in August 1974.

In November 1976, the Department of Defense established a centralized foreign military sales accounting and billing organization at the Center. The new Security Assistance Accounting Center advised Pentagon and Congressional officials on the status of all armed forces material sold to foreign governments.

In 1976, the Accounting and Finance Center established its Electronic Funds Transfer System to modernize pay procedures for retirees. Using the Burroughs 3500 computer, the Center standardized civilian pay operations. The program also tracked leave information for civilian employees. In 1977, the Center adopted the SURE-PAY system, electronically transferring payroll funds to banks and other financial institutions and eliminating the need for individual paychecks. This saved millions of dollars in operating costs and provided better service to Air Force personnel. In 1978, the Center extended data processing support to the Office of the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services.

During the decade of the seventies, the Accounting and Finance Center continued to computerize its operations. It became the first Department of Defense organization to use electronic mailmobiles for hourly pickup and delivery of mail. Other improvements included a computer laser printer capable of typing 20,000 lines per minute, word processing, and microfilm service.

In 1977, the Accounting and Finance Center established satellite communication links to provide

remote inquiry of its data bank to several overseas accounting and finance offices. Distant bases received an individual's pay data on remote computer terminals connected electronically to the Center's computer system. Most stateside offices already had similar access. In 1979, the Center initiated toll-free telephone service to help retirees with pay problems. Another service was the long-term modernization of the Retiree and Annuitant Pay System. This would save the Air Force approximately \$2.3 million over a six-year period.

In 1983, the Accounting and Finance Center started to centralize the pay system for all Air Force civilian employees, a project that was scheduled for completion in the 1990s. In July 1984, the Center transferred its Currency Clearing House from Brussels, Belgium, to Lowry. This office provided currency exchange services for the F-16 coproduction nations. In December 1985, the Center issued the new five-color paper check bearing the Statue of Liberty. Switching over from the green punch card check provided better protection against counterfeiting and resulted in an annual savings of \$53,000.

The Accounting and Finance Center celebrated its 35th anniversary on July 31, 1986 with a rededication ceremony. Presently, the Center employs 2,400 military and civilian personnel with an annual payroll of \$64 million. The people working at the Center are continually looking for ways to improve their efficiency, productivity, and service to the United States Air Force. Data automation promises faster reporting procedures, reduced maintenance costs, immediate customer access to information, and reduced labor and operating expenditures. The men and women of the Center take pride in giving the Air Force the best in financial management.



Prior to 1976 the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center paid Air Force personnel from its location at 3800 York Street in Denver.

AIR RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER

CHAPTER VII



Center personnel audit records in 1954 to establish seniority lists for promotions under the Reserve Officers' Personnel Act.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center became part of Lowry Air Force Base on September 1, 1976, when it moved into the new Gilchrist Building. The Center managed the personnel records for the Air Reserve Forces, which included the Air Force Reserve and the Air National Guard.

Forming the Air Reserve Personnel Center

When World War II ended in 1945, the United States began to demobilize its vast military forces. Returning servicemen received exemptions from all reserve obligations in spite of legislation requiring reserve service for a period of time after active duty. Only those who volunteered remained in the reserves.

By 1948, military officials recognized that the reserves could not augment the active forces in time of national emergency. Although over 300,000 served in the National Guard and over 600,000 in reserve programs, none had been required to attend training drills or classes. Before the reserve programs could

be reorganized, the Korean War began in June 1950. In the ensuing mobilization, large numbers of inactive reservists were called up before active reservists. Some reservists reported for duty based on military skills that had changed since World War II. In addition, reservists who had served during World War II were recalled to active duty while large numbers of deferred students and registered men were not.

These inequities produced the Armed Forces Reserve Act in July 1952. As part of this measure, the Air Force formed the Continental Air Command to promote a more effective and better organized Air Force reserve. In November 1953, the new command established the Air Reserve Records Center as its Detachment 1 at 3800 York Street in Denver. The Center opened officially on March 1, 1954 to maintain all reserve personnel records while the command concentrated on training, planning, and policymaking. On January 1, 1957, the Center became a subcommand of the Continental Air Command. Now

equivalent to a numbered air force, it dropped the Detachment 1 designation.

By 1958, the accounting system at the Reserve Center could no longer keep up with the volume of data required for its mission. Its operations had to be computerized, and the conversion to the RCA 501 began on October 31, 1959. Now the Center was ready to respond to its first mobilization of reserve forces.

The 1960s: A Decade of Mobilization

In August 1961, President John F. Kennedy met the Soviet Union's challenge to American access into West Berlin by calling to active duty over 23,000 members of the Air Reserve Forces. The Air Reserve Records Center completed the paperwork on these people. In October 1962, President Kennedy imposed a blockade around Cuba to halt all Soviet shipments of military weapons and equipment to that island nation. The Reserve Center furnished the major air commands with the records for the twenty-four Air Force Reserve troop carrier squadrons, eight reserve troop

carrier wings, and six aerial port squadrons ordered to active duty.

On January 23, 1968, North Korean forces seized the *USS Pueblo*, a Navy intelligence vessel. President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered to active duty over 14,000 members of the Air Reserve Forces. The Reserve Center prepared the records for these people and sent the documentation to the Air Force Military Personnel Center at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas. During the same time as the *Pueblo* incident, another 2,000 reservists were recalled to duty in support of American military activities in Southeast Asia. The Reserve Center performed its mobilization duties by producing lists, processing records, and compiling reports.

The Reserve Center continued to refine its organization and management structure. A grid address coding system divided the United States into 5,000 squares, and a five-digit code associated each reservist with a specific area. An automatic address coding system, with 40,000 population points, listed reserve members in each area.



During the early 1950s, the Air Reserve Personnel Center maintained 250,000 master personnel records for reservists not on extended active duty.



In 1964, the Reserve Center participated in Air Force-wide mobilization exercises for the first time. Previously, mobilization testing had been an internal Center operation. On September 1, 1965, the Air Reserve Records Center became the Air Reserve Personnel Center. The organization had always been more than a records repository, and the name change better reflected its total mission. These duties included career guidance, classification, assignment, promotion, separation, discharge, and retirement.

As part of a general reorganization, the Air Force deactivated the Continental Air Command on August 1, 1968, and created two separate operating agencies. Headquarters Air Force Reserve, Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, received responsibility for the organization and command of Air Force Reserve units. The Air Reserve Personnel Center became the personnel center for the Air Force Reserve. Each organization reported directly to the Chief of Air Force Reserve, a member of the Air Staff, and was equivalent to a major command.

The Total Force Policy: Events Since 1970

Budgetary constraints and contingency planning required the Air Force to rely more heavily on National Guard and Reserve units for combat support. Reservists needed to be fully trained and ready for combat. Because the Reserve Center maintained the personnel records for all reservists, it received responsibility for managing training programs. The Center established the Directorate of Individual Reserve Programs to perform this function. The new single manager program centralized the administration, training, and management functions for reservists in professional fields. This program covered attorneys, doctors, and chaplains.

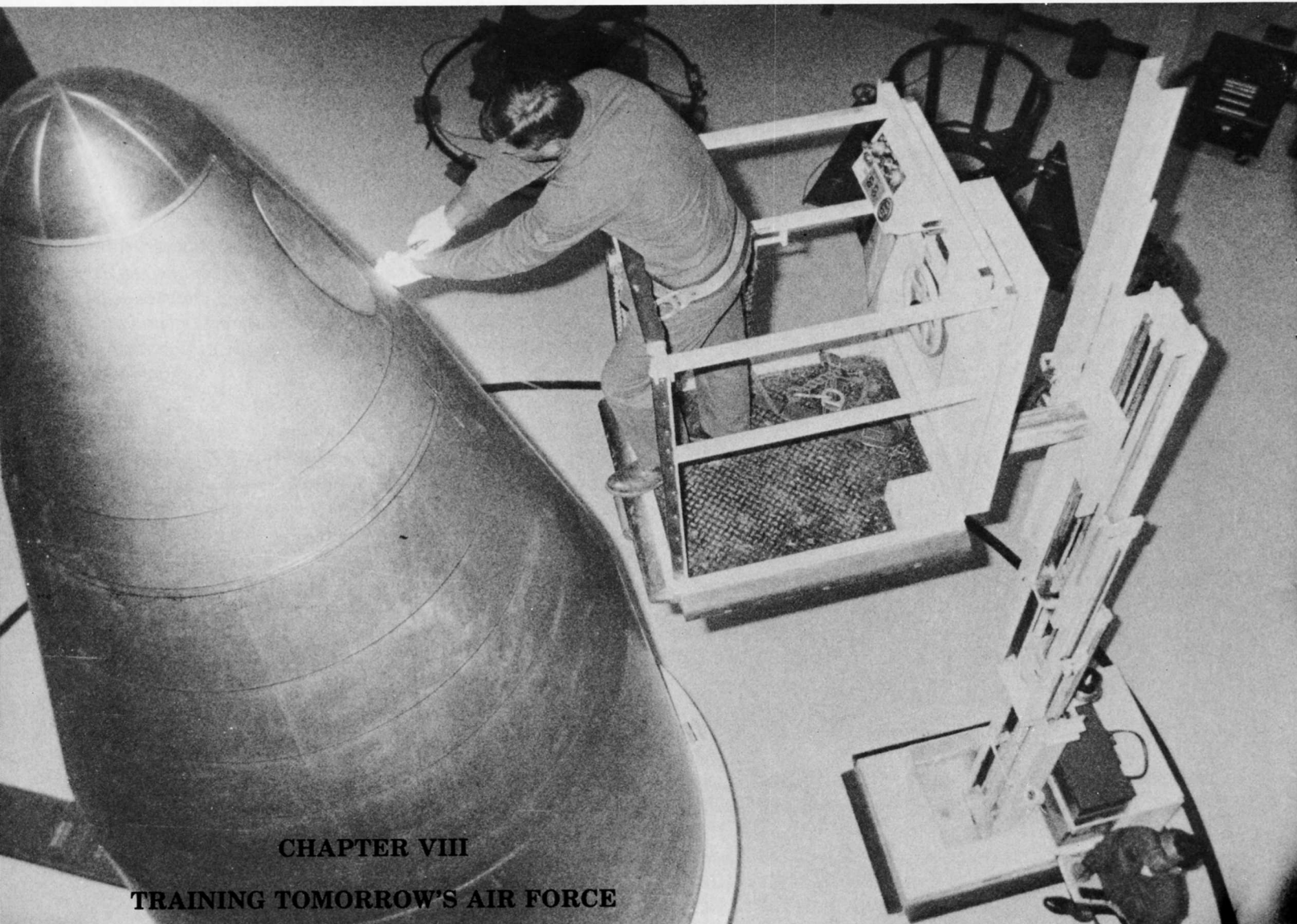
The emphasis on reserve forces increased the importance of Individual Mobilization Augmentees. In

1975, the Reserve Center developed the Mobilization Augmentee Revitalization Program to fill vacancies with qualified people, to train reservists properly, and to manage the augmentation program effectively. In 1982, the Center expanded the base level coordinator program from four to sixteen locations. These administrators assisted augmentees and their local personnel offices. The Mobilization Augmentee Strength Report listed augmentees and their locations, as well as program vacancies. Personnel Briefs gave local personnel offices information not previously available about augmentees.

In June 1974, the Air Reserve Personnel Center started to microfilm all Reserve and Guard records. Most of the conversion from paper records had been accomplished by 1978, and Air Force officials gained quicker access to these documents. Monthly rosters that had previously been printed on thousands of pages were now produced on less than 100 pages of four-by-six inch microfiche. The time for preparing a complete file on a reservist declined from as long as two weeks to twenty-four hours.

The Reserve Center continued its participation in Air Force mobilization exercises in the 1980s. POWDER RIVER '85, in October 1984, marked the Center's first involvement with a full-scale Joint Chiefs of Staff operation. Other exercises emphasized readiness and staff planning.

For thirty-two years, the Reserve Center has performed duties necessary for mobilizing reserve forces in times of national emergency. The success of the total force policy remains crucial to the national security of the United States. The Air Reserve Personnel Center employs 160 military and approximately 600 civilian employees, with an annual payroll of \$16.2 million. The men and women of the Center pledge to continue their rich tradition of dedicated service to the Air Force and the nation.



CHAPTER VIII

TRAINING TOMORROW'S AIR FORCE

In 1986 Lowry started Peacekeeper training in a specially-built facility.

The United States Air Force can only be as effective as the quality of its people and their equipment. To respond as professionals, the men and women of a technically-oriented Air Force require the best training. With the base closure matter settled, the Lowry Technical Training Center introduced new and improved programs for the 1980s. Significantly, Lowry became the Air Force's primary training center for the space operations career field and began the Undergraduate Space Training program.

F-15 Training

In February 1978, a prototype of the McDonnell-Douglas F-15 arrived at Lowry for use as a ground trainer by munitions loading classes. Because the prototype lacked much of the equipment in its operational counterpart, it was not as effective for chan-

nelized training, which prepared students to work on specific types of aircraft.

In 1980, Tactical Air Command headquarters offered the loan of an operational F-15 that could be kept at Buckley Air National Guard Base, along with the test and ground equipment. Two years passed before there was any agreement on the support, funding, and maintenance issues. In May 1982, an aircrew delivered the F-15 to Buckley, and busloads of Lowry students made the round-trip for training. This arrangement ended when Lowry's Eagle was finally modified for training in 1983.

F-16 Training

Lowry officials made better progress in obtaining an F-16 trainer. In 1979, the Air Force received its first operational Fighting Falcon from the General

Dynamics Corporation, and Lowry was selected for a major role in training avionics maintenance specialists. Avionics training began in 1980. At the same time, Lowry also received a pre-production F-16 for its armament systems course. As was the case with the F-15, however, the F-16 prototype lacked the required operational systems and was suitable only for familiarization training.

Center officials obtained a crash-damaged F-16 for use as a ground trainer. In August 1982, the aircraft arrived from the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. In a short time, the new F-16 trainer was ready for channelized instruction. A few months earlier, an Army helicopter had transported the F-16 prototype to the Air Force Academy to serve as a static display.

A-10A Training

The Air Force procured the Fairchild Industries A-10A Thunderbolt II to provide close air support to ground troops. The aircraft carried up to 16,000 pounds of mixed ordnance on underwing pylons. The GAU-8/A 30-millimeter Gatling gun fired at rates of 2,100 or 4,200 rounds per minute and was effective against heavily-armored vehicles, including tanks. The A-10A became operational in 1977, and Lowry offered instruction in avionics and the weapons control system. In 1982, the Center acquired an A-10A for training in munitions loading and unloading and operation of the GAU-8/A gun.

SRAM and ALCM Training

The AGM-69A Short-Range Attack Missile (SRAM) was a supersonic air-to-surface weapon launched by strategic bombers to neutralize enemy air defenses. The Air Force planned to add this missile with a nuclear warhead to its B-52G/H and FB-111 bombers. SRAM production began in 1971, and delivery of 1,500 missiles was completed four years later.

The AGM-86B Air-Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) was developed during the late 1970s. A turbofan jet engine powered the missile at sustained subsonic speeds. Inertial and terrain-following techniques guided the missile and its nuclear warhead to a target more than 1,500 miles away. President Jimmy Carter canceled the B-1A program in 1977 in favor of placing cruise missiles aboard existing B-52s. The Stratofortress could carry twelve missiles on two pylons under the wings.

In January 1980, Lowry Technical Training Center acquired a B-52D from the Military Aircraft Storage and Disposition Center at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, for weapons loading and release training. Base civil engineers stabilized the fuselage on Lowry's other bomber trainer, a B-52F from the storage center, by pouring 70,000 pounds of sand into the fuel tanks to prevent the aircraft from tipping

over during weapons loading. This aircraft was subsequently configured to a B-52G/H model.

In 1982, a team from the Boeing Military Airplane Company modified Lowry's B-52 for ALCM training. They restructured the bomb bay for SRAM loading and modified the right wing for SRAM mounting and the left wing for ALCM training. Also in 1982, Lowry became the prime training center for the internal common strategic rotary launcher, capable of carrying a variety of weapons that included SRAM and ALCM. The launcher was designed for the B-52H and the B-1B, as well as the Advanced Technology Bomber in the planning and development stages. Lowry's B-52 required further modification to support the launcher's 35,000 pounds and its integration with the aircraft's avionics subsystems.

The modernization program to keep the B-52 fleet an effective force included new offensive avionics. In 1983, Lowry received four training models of the AN/ASQ-176 Offensive Avionics System, a computerized electronics network providing automatic navigation and weapons delivery. Training began in 1984.



Air intelligence training at Lowry dates from 1947. In this recent photograph, an Army instructor assists a Marine student in analyzing tactical information.

B-1 Training

The Center's mission was also intertwined with the B-1 bomber. Lowry's initial involvement began in 1970, when the North American Rockwell Corporation received a contract to develop the B-1A for the Air Force. President Carter canceled production of the bomber in 1977 but continued the flight test program. Four years later, President Ronald Reagan resumed the program for a new strategic bomber, and the Air Staff authorized development and production of the B-1B in December 1981. A derivative of the B-1A, the B-1B was a subsonic, low-level penetrator capable of delivering nuclear and conventional weapons.

Lowry prepared courses in weapons loading and avionics for the new bomber, scheduled to be delivered to the Strategic Air Command in 1986. To provide the required training, the Center had to acquire an Avionics/Armament Maintenance Trainer System and weapons load trainers. These weapons load trainers would be twenty feet high, seventy-six feet long, thirty-six feet wide, and accommodate loads of 98,000 pounds. Lowry also developed courses for avionics training. B-1B avionics included the offensive system for directing missiles and bombs to their targets; the defensive system, the electronic

countermeasures for confusing enemy defenses during penetration missions; and the central integrated test system and electronic multiplexing system for recording data about the status of aircraft equipment.

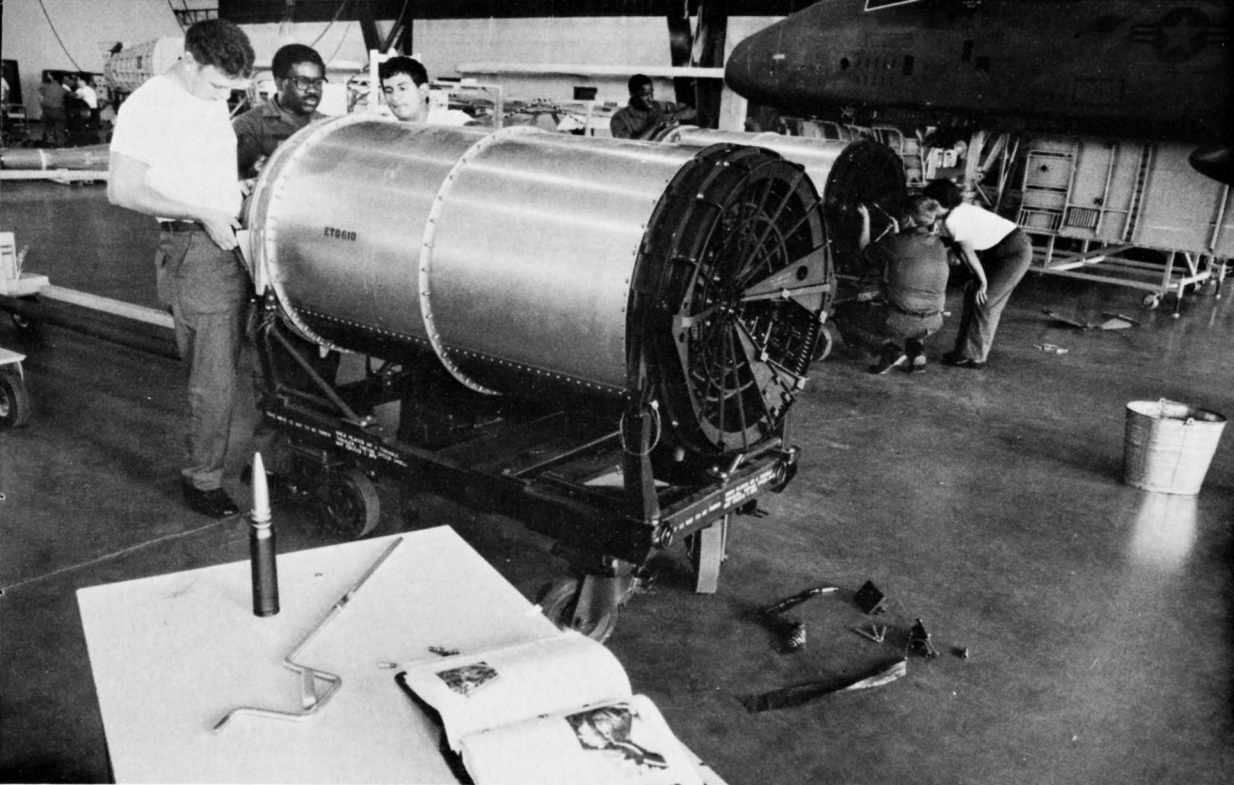
In 1985, Lowry received two simulators for B-1B avionics instruction. Moreover, the base scheduled renovation of Hangar No. 1, Building 401, the armament systems training facility. In July 1985, workers began removing the huge sliding doors on one of Lowry's historic landmarks. The project, including new classrooms and office space, was completed in 1986. The remodeled structure met requirements for training increasing numbers of students and accommodating new equipment.

Peacekeeper Training

Lowry's association with intercontinental ballistic missiles dated to the activation of the Air Force's first Titan I missile wing in 1958. Because security experts argued that the Minuteman missile was becoming vulnerable to Soviet countermeasures, in 1971 the Air Force defined requirements for a more advanced weapon called MX, or Missile Experimental. Full-scale development began in 1979, and Lowry became an associate training center with Chanute serving as the prime training center.



Since 1980, Lowry has prepared avionics and armament specialists for the F-16 aircraft. These students are attaching wing pylons.



Lowry received an A-10A aircraft in 1982. This class works on the ammunition drum for the GAU-8/A 30mm gun.

Named the "Peacekeeper" by President Reagan, the MX is a four-stage missile capable of delivering ten warheads to separate targets over distances of 5,000 miles. The President wanted to deploy 100 missiles in refurbished Minuteman silos at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyoming. In 1983, Congress approved deployment of only fifty missiles, and the Air Force successfully conducted the first Peacekeeper flight test from Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. The missile traveled 4,190 miles before dropping six unarmed warheads at a test range in the Pacific Ocean.

Headquarters Air Training Command selected Lowry for training on the Peacekeeper reentry vehicle. In July 1984, construction began on a 13,245-square-foot facility. A unique feature of the building was the fifty-five-foot-high training bay that provided the required forty feet of working height for installation and removal of the reentry shroud, or nose cone. The shroud protected the reentry vehicle during the ascent phase of flight.

Center officials accepted the new Peacekeeper facility, Building 1491, on October 21, 1985, and instruction began the following year. The courses emphasized maintenance and repair of equipment, arming and fuzing operations, shroud processing, deployment module processing, and operation and repair of the reentry system. With the new facility, Lowry was ready to support the nation's newest intercontinental ballistic missile.

Intelligence Training

During the 1970s, a Soviet military buildup challenged the intelligence community. The Air Force

had to modernize its training to meet the needs of intelligence specialists. This required not only new equipment but also a new methodology. There had to be more automation and computerized instruction, with intelligence personnel using computer keyboards, cathode ray tube displays, and digital imagery.

While the Air Force conducted air intelligence training at Lowry, Offutt, Goodfellow, and Keesler Air Force Bases, it had long considered consolidating these activities at one location. In March 1983, Headquarters Air Training Command decided to concentrate air intelligence training at Goodfellow in Texas. In addition to efficiency of operations, this would modernize training in the areas of collection, analysis, and dissemination of information.

The consolidation was scheduled for completion in phases between 1985 and 1988. In the meantime, Lowry Technical Training Center continued to improve its intelligence training. In April 1983, Lowry officials participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the \$9.85-million Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center facility. On December 26, 1984, they accepted the new building and soon began instruction in air operations, targeting and weaponeering, imagery interpretation, and intelligence data handling.

Space Operations Training

In 1977, Lowry became the prime training center for new career fields associated with space systems command and control equipment. In addition, the Air Force moved all training equipment for the defense meteorological satellite program from Keesler Air Force Base to Lowry in 1978. The Center expanded

space training in 1982, following establishment of Headquarters Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. The formation of Lowry's 3430th Technical Training Group on October 1, 1984 emphasized the growing importance of the space training mission in the Air Force. The new unit provided entry-level training for officers and airmen manning satellite and space shuttle control consoles and examining computer printouts.

The Air Force developed a new approach to space training in the fall of 1985. The service needed people trained in all aspects of the space operations career field. Undergraduate Space Training would provide the Air Force with people having broad knowledge of space operations and allow greater flexibility in making personnel assignments.

On October 9, 1986, the first class of twenty-five officers began Undergraduate Space Training at Lowry. They faced ninety-eight academic days in class and a curriculum that included mathematics and physics as well as flight dynamics, orbital mechanics, command and control procedures, and space law. These officers graduated on February 20, 1987. This program gave the Center a greater role in helping the Air Force meet the challenge of operating in space and promised significant growth for the future of Lowry Technical Training Center.

Lowry Technical Training Center in 1987

Lowry Technical Training Center is committed to excellence in training and advancing the goals of Air Training Command. These include providing fully trained and highly motivated men and women for the United States Air Force—professional military people. The Center offers instruction in more than 300 courses, and its curriculum combines technical skills with military values.

Lowry training programs prepare almost 33,000 students annually. The individuals who operate and

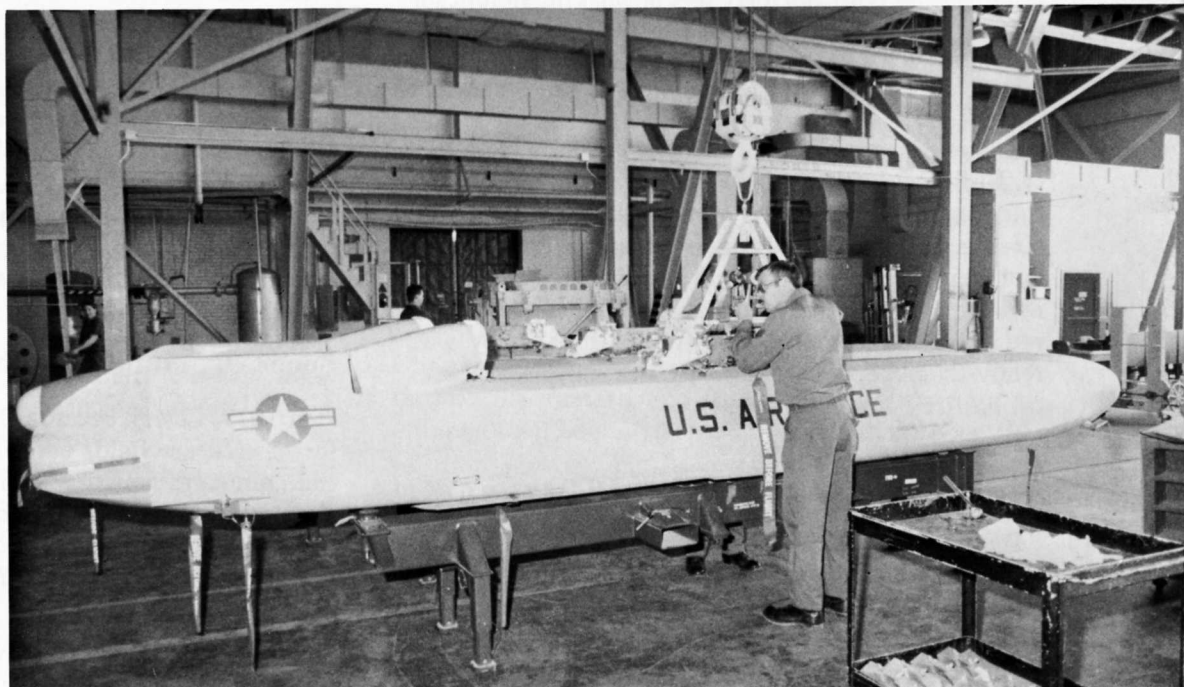
maintain Air Force equipment and weapon systems are the measure of the Center's success. How well they apply the skills acquired while at Lowry determines in part the nation's capability for responding to foreign military threats.

Major General Larry N. Tibbetts is the Center Commander. In exercising control over both Center and tenant organizations at Lowry Air Force Base, General Tibbetts and his Vice Commander, Colonel Theodore C. Dreyer, are supported by an immediate staff in several functional areas: Inspection, Protocol, Safety, Public Affairs, Social Actions, Staff Judge Advocate, Programs, History, Standardization and Evaluation, Information Systems, and Heritage Museum.

The 3400th Technical Training Wing is Lowry's primary mission element and has responsibility for all technical and military training. Colonel Murle A. Wilson is the Wing Commander, and his Vice Commander and Training Advisor are, respectively, Colonel Willard Grosvenor and Mr. Donald E. Nate. The wing organization includes the wing staff, one student group, five technical training groups, one training squadron, and ten units at eight locations in the continental United States. More than 1,200 officers, enlisted men and women, and civilians teach over 350 resident courses. The students include not only active-duty Air Force people but men and women from the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard, the Army, the Navy, the Marine Corps, and the federal civil service. Each year, the wing also trains more than 500 officers and enlisted people from over forty countries.

In addition to sending students to Lowry, the Army, Navy, and Marines provide instructors. Of these three services, the Army accounts for the most graduates, approximately 1,100 each year. The soldiers study still and motion picture photography, television equipment repair, television production, graphics,

An armament student uses a laser gun to align the AGM-86B ALCM to its mount.



and metrology.* Navy students learn metrology, television equipment repair, intelligence, meteorology, and graphics. Marines attend intelligence, audiovisual, contracting, metrology, safety, ordnance, and support services courses.

The 3405th Student Group has nine student squadrons and is responsible for the military training and administration of an average daily student population of 4,500. Although technical training is a major facet of Lowry's mission, Center officials are also concerned about instilling the proper military attitude, spirit, and resolution in these young men and women. While at Lowry, they have the opportunity to grow personally as well as professionally in developing the strength of character required of United States military forces in an armed conflict.

The 3420th Technical Training Group is responsible for audiovisual training. This encompasses instruction in avionic sensor systems, still and motion picture photography, film processing and development, camera maintenance, graphics, television equipment repair, and television broadcasting. The squadron administers Air Force training in the Army's postal school and the Defense Information School's public affairs, broadcasting, and journalism programs at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

The 3430th Technical Training Group has the space training mission. It provides Undergraduate Space Training and instruction in aerospace control and warning systems and computer programming for the Defense Support and Weather Satellite Programs.

The 3440th Technical Training Group conducts training in supply operations, contracting and procurement services, logistics planning and programming, food services, billeting management, and mortuary affairs.

The 3450th Technical Training Group handles basic and applied electronics, integrated avionics for fighter and bomber aircraft, and metrology.

The 3460th Technical Training Group trains in assembling, maintaining, repairing, and transporting nuclear weapons and munitions systems. The group offers instruction in disaster preparedness, instrumentation (operating and maintaining data acquisition and monitoring equipment for research and development), aircraft armament systems (loading and unloading bombs, missiles, rockets, and guns), disposing of explosive ordnance, and weapons safety. In addition, the 3460th manages the Interservice Nuclear Weapons School at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico.

The 3496th Technical Training Squadron continues to provide some air intelligence training at Lowry. The squadron sends training teams throughout the United States and overseas. All branches of the armed forces are represented on the instructional staff. Air intelligence training consists of targeting, imagery interpretation, weaponeering, use of sensor data, and intelligence data handling systems. The squadron will move to Goodfellow Air Force Base in October 1988, completing the consolidation of air intelligence training at that center.

The 3415th Air Base Group, commanded by Colonel Thomas F. Schammel, performs base-wide services. These include Civil Engineering; Administration; Chaplain; Security Police; Morale, Welfare, and Recreation; Family Support Center; Personnel; Services Squadron; and the Readiness Division.

* Metrology training, the science of weights and measures, emphasizes the test, repair, calibration, and certification of measurement and diagnostic equipment.



Lowry introduced Undergraduate Space Training for the Air Force in 1986. Here an instructor discusses orbital mechanics.

The Deputy Commander for Resource Management, Colonel E. Wheeler Summerhill, is responsible for all logistical planning, programming actions, and budgetary functions for the Center. The resource deputate has six divisions: Comptroller, Contracting, Transportation, Resource Plans, Supply, and Maintenance.

The United States Air Force Clinic, the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Squadron, and tenant organizations also fall under the jurisdiction of the Center Commander. Additionally, the base hosts two separate operating agencies: the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, and the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

Epilogue

The capital assets of Lowry Air Force Base encompass 2,019 acres and almost 500 buildings, including 230 residential units. Lowry also has the capacity to house more than 5,000 people in dormitories, visitor's quarters, and temporary lodging facilities. Over 10,000 people, military and civil service, work at Lowry. As one of the state's largest employers, Lowry's total economic impact on Colorado is over \$600 million annually.

The base exercises a strong influence on the

development of Denver, Aurora, and other surrounding communities. The civilian housing market, commercial areas, schools, and social and community centers are intertwined with the activities of Lowry Air Force Base. Each year, local and state-wide companies receive millions of dollars from Lowry for contracted services, supplies, equipment, construction, and utilities.

In the 1930s, Denver made a concerted effort to secure an Army post. During World War II, the citizens of Denver expressed a very favorable attitude toward the men and women of Lowry Field. Denver had the reputation of being a "good soldiers' town." In 1987, the citizens of Colorado, especially those in the Denver metropolitan area, continue their historic ties to Lowry and support its mission and people.

In years to come, the men and women of Lowry Air Force Base will be called upon to train the skilled personnel needed to accomplish the mission of the United States Air Force. They can meet this challenge with the confidence and knowledge of a proud heritage. For five decades, they and their predecessors served the nation through excellence in training. Their work exemplified the motto of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command: *Sustineo Alas*, "I Sustain the Wings."



64 A 1987 aerial view of Lowry Air Force Base.

LOWRY COMMANDERS

Lt Col Junius W. Jones*	February 7, 1938-June 30, 1938
Brig Gen Jacob J. Rudolph	July 1, 1938-October 12, 1940
Lt Col Warner B. Gates**	October 13, 1940-October 30, 1940
Col Early E.W. Duncan	October 31, 1940-April 8, 1942
Brig Gen Harvey S. Burwell	April 9, 1942-April 14, 1943
Brig Gen Albert L. Sneed	April 15, 1943-August 18, 1944
Col Raymond P. Todd	August 19, 1944-December 8, 1944
Col John B. Patrick	December 9, 1944-November 13, 1945
Brig Gen Thomas M. Lowe***	November 14, 1945-June 1, 1947
Brig Gen Rosenham Beam	June 2, 1947-October 14, 1948
Brig Gen Warren R. Carter	October 15, 1948-March 25, 1950
Col Stanley M. Umstead**	March 26, 1950-April 6, 1950
Brig Gen Charles H. Caldwell	April 7, 1950-November 10, 1950
Maj Gen John T. Sprague	November 11, 1950-October 31, 1956
Maj Gen Eugene P. Mussett	November 11, 1956-May 31, 1960
Col Ladson G. Eskridge**	June 1, 1960-August 14, 1960
Maj Gen Charles H. Anderson	August 15, 1960-July 31, 1967
Col C.J. Heflin**	August 1, 1967
Maj Gen Dwight O. Monteith	August 2, 1967-July 31, 1971
Maj Gen John S. Samuel	August 1, 1971-July 31, 1972
Col David H. Buss**	August 1, 1972-August 31, 1972
Maj Gen Alton D. Slay	September 1, 1972-September 5, 1973
Maj Gen Charles C. Pattillo	September 6, 1973-August 7, 1975
Brig Gen Warren C. Moore	August 8, 1975-December 29, 1976
Brig Gen Andrew Pringle, Jr.	December 30, 1976-April 24, 1978
Maj Gen William W. Hoover	April 25, 1978-September 7, 1979
Maj Gen William B. Maxon	September 8, 1979-May 13, 1981
Maj Gen Titus C. Hall	May 14, 1981-April 28, 1982
Col James D. Kellim**	April 29, 1982-May 31, 1982
Maj Gen William R. Usher	June 1, 1982-August 15, 1985
Maj Gen Joseph D. Moore	August 16, 1985-October 16, 1986
Maj Gen Larry N. Tibbetts	October 17, 1986-Present

* Before Col Jones' arrival, Capt Harold D. Stetson supervised the renovation and construction work at the Denver Branch of the Air Corps Technical School. In addition, Maj William J. Flood arrived from Air Corps headquarters on January 8, 1938, to negotiate the acquisition of land for a bombing range with Denver officials.

** Interim Commander

*** During the absence of Gen Lowe (February 1-April 19, 1946), the following served as interim Commanders: Col Walter L. Wheeler, Col Jesse Auton, and Col Joseph J. Preston.

CHRONOLOGY

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| | 1894 | | |
| Dec 1 | Francis B. Lowry was born in Denver, Colorado. | Feb 7 | Lieutenant Colonel Junius W. Jones became the first Commanding Officer of the Denver Branch of the Air Corps Technical School. |
| | 1918 | | |
| Sep 26 | Francis B. Lowry was killed while on a mission over German lines. | Feb 12 | A train brought the men and equipment of the Armament and Photographic Departments to Denver from Chanute Field. |
| | 1921 | | |
| Feb | The Army Air Corps transferred its Air Service Mechanics School to Chanute Field from Kelly Field. | Feb 26 | The Army officially activated the Denver Branch of the Air Corps Technical School. |
| | 1924 | Feb 28 | Photography and armament instruction began at the Denver Branch. |
| Apr | The Colorado National Guard dedicated the first Lowry Field in Denver. | Mar 9 | The Denver Branch received its first B-18A, the Air Corps' new medium bomber. |
| | 1934 | Mar 19 | The first group of armament students graduated from the Denver Branch. |
| Apr 2 | City of Denver officials notified the War Department of their interest in having the Air Corps Technical School located in Denver. | Mar 21 | The Denver Branch became known as Lowry Field. |
| May 26 | An Army committee examined Denver sites for the Air Corps Technical School. | Apr 4 | The first unpaved runway became operational at Lowry Field. |
| | 1935 | Jun 29 | The first photography class graduated from Lowry Field. |
| May 21 | Denver voters approved a bond issue to purchase the land and buildings of the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium for donation to the Army as site of the Air Corps Technical School. | Jun 30 | Aircrews ferried nine aircraft from Denver's Municipal Airport to Lowry Field. |
| | 1937 | Aug 13 | The Army began a four-year, \$3.5-million program of new construction at Lowry Field. |
| Aug | Congress approved establishing a branch of the Air Corps Technical School in Denver. | Oct 10 | Lowry Field began instruction in its clerical school. |
| Aug 27 | President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed legislation authorizing funds for an Army technical school in Denver. | | 1939 |
| Sep 1 | Captain Harold D. Stetson began working at the Air Corps' new facility in Denver. | Aug | Construction of Hangar No. 1 was completed. |
| Oct 1 | Captain Harold D. Stetson raised the American flag over the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium, making the Denver Branch an active Army Post. | Dec | Construction of Lowry's north-south runway was finished. |
| Oct 4 | The Works Progress Administration began converting the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium into a military facility. | Dec 13 | Colonel Jacob H. Rudolph, Lowry's Commanding Officer, landed the first aircraft on the north-south runway. |
| Dec 8 | The City of Denver donated the Agnes Memorial Sanitorium to the Army. | | 1940 |
| | 1938 | Jan | Lowry Field personnel numbered forty-four officers and 1,350 enlisted men. |
| Jan 8 | Major William J. Flood arrived in Denver from Air Corps headquarters to accelerate the acquisition of land for a bombing range. | Jul 15 | Lowry Field began training its first group of bombardier instructors. |
| | | Sep | Construction of the "Brick Barracks," Building 349, was completed. |

1941

- Feb 1 Fort Logan became a subpost of Lowry Field.
- Mar 3 Lowry's Department of Clerical Instruction began classes at Fort Logan.
- Mar 26 The Army Air Corps formed the Technical Training Command, with headquarters at Chanute Field, Illinois.
- May 9 Lowry Field published the first issue of its newspaper.
- May 15 Lowry Field began instruction in its School for Bakers and Cooks.
- May 23 Lowry Field published the second issue of its newspaper, now called the *Lowry Field Rev-Meter*.
- Jun 19 Lowry's auxiliary landing field became known as Buckley Field.
- Jun 20 The Army Air Corps became the Army Air Forces.
- Jul During the week of July 13, over 1,200 men came to Lowry Field for training, more than in any previous week.
- Aug 18 Lowry Field adopted a two-shift, eighteen-hour training day as part of its program to provide more skilled technicians for the Army Air Forces.
- Dec 19 With the United States at war with the Axis powers, Lowry Field conducted a drill to evaluate its ability for repelling an aerial attack.

1942

- Jan The War Department tasked Lowry with training 55,000 men annually.
- Feb The photography school moved into a new three-story brick building.
- Jul Lowry Field No. 2 opened on the northwest side of the post with transfer of the 363rd School Squadron.
- Jul 1 Lowry Field established Armament School No. 2 at Buckley Field.
- Oct 18 Lowry began a seven-day training week, with three daily shifts.

1943

- Jan Lowry officials reduced the number of class hours from eight to six.
- Jan There were over 20,000 people at Lowry, and the population continued to increase throughout the year.
- Jan 28 The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (redesignated the Women's Army Corps on

September 1, 1943) sent its first group to Lowry for training in photography.

- Feb Marines from the aviation base at Cherry Point, North Carolina, arrived at Lowry for instruction in power-operated gun turrets.
- Apr 24 President Roosevelt visited Lowry during his tour of the nation's military facilities.
- Jun 1 The Colorado National Bank opened a Lowry branch with full services for military and civilian personnel.
- Jun 7 Lowry began field training operations at Camp Bizerte, on the northwest corner of the bombing range.
- Jul 7 The Army merged its Flying Training and Technical Training Commands, forming the Army Air Forces Training Command at Fort Worth, Texas.
- Oct The Army transferred the Flight Engineers School to Lowry from Smoky Hill Army Field at Salina, Kansas.

1944

- Jul 24 Lowry Field began instructing copilots in the Department of B-29 Crew Training. This was the first Lowry course devoted entirely to the pilot phase of training.

1945

- Mar There were 104 aircraft, including seventy-two B-24 bombers, assigned to Lowry.
- Apr The Crash Fire Fighting and Rescue School moved to Lowry from Buckley Field.
- May 18 Lowry received its first B-29 aircraft.
- Sep 19 All Lowry schools resumed a five-day training week, with one shift per day.

1946

- Jul 1 The Army Air Forces Training Command became Air Training Command.

1947

- Jul 15 The Air Intelligence School transferred to Lowry from Keesler Field, Mississippi.

1948

- Jun 13 Lowry Field became Lowry Air Force Base.

1950

- Jul 17 Lowry adopted a six-day training week to support increased manpower requirements for the Korean War.

1951

- Jan Eleven Air Force specialists assembled at Lowry to start a missile training school.
- Jan 1 The United States Army Medical Depot facility in Denver became the Air Force Finance Center.

Jun 7 Lowry activated a Department of Guided Missiles.

Jul 31 The Air Force Finance Center at 3800 York Street in Denver became fully operational.

1952

Mar 3 Lowry B-29s completed a training mission over the nearby town of Longmont.

1953

Aug 8 President Eisenhower established his first Summer White House at Lowry.

Oct 7 Lowry reverted to a five-day training week, following accelerated schedules during the Korean War.

Nov. The Continental Air Command established the Air Reserve Records Center as its Detachment 1 at 3800 York Street in Denver.

1954

Mar 1 The Air Reserve Records Center began operating in Denver.

Aug An H-19B helicopter was assigned to Lowry to provide transportation between the base and the future site of the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs.

Sep 12 The National Security Council met at Lowry in the Williamsburg Room (later named the Eisenhower Room) of the Lowry Officers' Club.

1955

Apr 13 Lowry activated the Department of Special Instruments Training, concentrating on the operation and maintenance of nuclear instruments and special electronic equipment.

Jul 11 The Air Force Academy was formally dedicated and began operations at Lowry.

1956

Feb 21 Lowry discontinued aerial photography training.

1957

Jan 1 The Air Reserve Records Center in Denver became a subcommand of the Continental Air Command, dropping its Detachment 1 designation.

1958

Sep 25 The Strategic Air Command activated the 703rd Strategic Missile Wing at Lowry.

1959

Jan 1 The 3415th Technical Training Wing became Lowry Technical Training Center.

Apr 28 Construction commenced on Lowry's Titan missile complexes.

1960

Jun 1 Lowry Air Force Base terminated service for all transient jet traffic.

1961

Jul 1 The 703rd Strategic Missile Wing became the 451st Strategic Missile Wing.

Jul 7 The headquarters activities for Lowry Technical Training Center began moving to Building 349.

Oct The first Titan missile was installed in its silo.

1962

Apr 18 Lowry's 451st Strategic Missile Wing achieved its initial operational milestone, with three Titan missiles in place.

1963

Apr Demolition of the old sanatorium buildings began at Lowry.

Jul 1 The Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center was activated at Lowry.

Oct 23 Lowry's intelligence school conducted the first joint classes for Air Force and Navy students.

1964

Nov 19 The Department of Defense announced that it was moving Lowry's remaining flying activities to Buckley Air National Guard Base.

1965

Apr 14 The Strategic Air Command removed the last Titan I, closing Lowry's missile range.

Sep 1 The Air Reserve Records Center became the Air Reserve Personnel Center.

1966

Jun 30 Major General Charles H. Anderson, Lowry Commander, flew a T-29 to Buckley Air National Guard Base, ending Lowry's flying heritage.

1967

Jul 1 The Air Force transferred the 3320th Retraining Group from Amarillo Air Force Base to Lowry.

Jul 4 The Air Force shifted supply training to Lowry from Amarillo Air Force Base.

1968

Aug 1 The Air Reserve Personnel Center became a separate operating agency, reporting directly to the Chief of Air Force Reserve.

- 1969**
- Jun 11 Lowry began training South Vietnamese Air Force personnel under the Pacer Bravo program.
- 1970**
- Sep 4 Lowry formally dedicated the first of five dormitories housing 1,000 people.
- 1971**
- Apr 1 The Air Force activated the 3415th Special Training Group at Lowry.
- 1972**
- Aug 1 Lowry's 3415th Technical Training School became the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences.
- 1973**
- Feb Lowry's 3415th Special Training Group began drug rehabilitation as part of its mission.
- Mar 28 Lowry's School of Applied Aerospace Sciences gained accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.
- 1974**
- Apr 15 The 3320th Retraining Group moved into a new facility at Lowry.
- 1975**
- Feb 1 The 3415th Special Training Group merged with the 3320th Retraining Group.
- 1976**
- Jun 15 The 3320th Retraining Group became the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group.
- Sep 1 The Air Reserve Personnel Center and the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center began moving into Lowry's Gilchrist Building.
- 1977**
- Mar 1 The 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group was reduced to squadron level.
- Apr 1 Lowry's technical school became the 3400th Technical Training Wing, and the training departments became Technical Training Groups.
- 1978**
- Feb A prototype of the McDonnell-Douglas F-15 arrived at Lowry for use as a ground trainer by munitions loading classes.
- Feb The 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Squadron closed its Lowry confinement center.
- Sep 1 Lowry adopted an eight-hour classroom day, replacing the six-hour academic day in effect since World War II.
- 1979**
- Mar The Air Force recommended keeping Lowry open, ending months of speculation about closure of the base.
- 1980**
- Jan Lowry acquired a B-52D for weapons loading and release training.
- Jun The Air Force reopened a confinement facility at Lowry Air Force Base.
- 1981**
- Mar 11 Workers dismantled the old control tower atop Building 402, formerly Hangar No. 1.
- 1982**
- May The Tactical Air Command delivered an F-15 to Buckley Air National Guard Base for munitions training by Lowry students.
- Aug Lowry received an F-16 aircraft as a ground trainer.
- 1983**
- Mar Headquarters Air Training Command decided to concentrate air intelligence training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas.
- 1984**
- Oct 1 Lowry established the 3430th Technical Training Group, emphasizing the growing importance of space training for the Air Force.
- Dec 26 Lowry officials accepted the new Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center facility.
- 1985**
- Jul Renovation work began on Hangar No. 1 to meet requirements for B-1B training.
- Oct 21 Lowry officials accepted the new Peacekeeper facility, Building 1491.
- 1986**
- Jul 31 The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center celebrated its 35th anniversary.
- Oct 9 The first class of twenty-five officers began Undergraduate Space Training at Lowry.
- 1987**
- Feb 20 The first Undergraduate Space Training class graduated at Lowry.

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