

AEROSPACE GUIDANCE AND METROLOGY CENTER



MISSION

The Aerospace Guidance and Metrology Center has two distinct missions. It is the single-point manager responsible for the repair and modification of inertial navigation and guidance systems used in aircraft and missiles of the Air Force and other DOD agencies. Also, the center provides technical direction and technical management of the Air Force metrology and calibration program and maintains and operates the Air Force measurement standards laboratories for development, calibration, and certification of Air Force reference standards.

LINEAGE

Aerospace Guidance and Metrology Center
Activated, 8 Nov 1968

STATIONS

Newark AFS, OH

ASSIGNMENTS

AFLC

COMMANDERS

Col Morris C. Burkhart, 8 Nov 1968
Col Albert R. Neville, 21 Jun 1972
Col William H. Bush, 30 Jun 1975
Col David W. Huff, 17 Jun 1977
Col Joseph M. Renaud, Jul 1992-Sep 1996

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The Aerospace Guidance and Metrology Center emblem was developed from a design proposed by Harold A. Kaiser, Newark AFS Security Police, in 1964. Selected from about three hundred entries in a contest, it was originally designed for the 2802d Inertial Guidance and Calibration Group.

MOTTO

We Repair the Missiles and Measure Accurately

A Center of Excellence

OPERATIONS

In 1968 a major change took place at Newark AFS. At that time the 2802d IG&CGp was inactivated and replaced by the Aerospace Guidance and Metrology Center (AGMC). Although the organization changed, the mission and the people remained essentially the same. Col. Morris C. Burkhardt, AGMC commander from 1968 to 1972, gave the new organization its motto, "A Center of Excellence." Colonel Burkhardt explained: At that particular time and for a period from maybe 1969 to 1972, there was quite a drive within the Air Force to cut back a number of installations and one criterion that was used in evaluating installations was whether or not they were replaceable. Did they perform a special mission for the Air Force? Were they run of the mill or even poorer than average as far as the skills of the work force? So, to preclude our ever being considered for elimination, it was my contention that we had to be something special because here we were out in the middle of nowhere in the center of Ohio. We were in the middle of some fields and always suspect. You can picture someone sitting in the Pentagon and saying, "Hey we've got to cut some money and we've got to cut some installations, what's this little thing out here in the middle of Ohio? It must eat up a lot of overhead. What does it do for us?" Well, if we wanted to stay in business, the thing that we had to do was be something special, the Cadillac of the repair business. With a reputation as the "Center of Excellence," I thought we had a better chance to stay in business and that was the reason I pressed for that.

Aug 1969 A new maintenance facility was opened for Minuteman III IGS repair as an addition to the north end of Building 4.

The tribute "A Center of Excellence" seemed appropriate since AGMC's expertise in the area of inertial navigation/guidance repair led to a number of interservice workloads in the 1970s.

Moreover, the Directorate of Metrology improved the extent and quality of its standards as well as strengthening its role in the management of the PMEL system. Thus, AGMC enhanced its reputation as a leader in the field of inertial systems and calibration.

Throughout the 1970s there was a gradual growth in the number of staff offices. As an independent organization, Air Force regulations often required AGMC to have such staff offices. For example, AGMC acquired a staff level historical office. Elevated in August 1970 to an autonomous office, the historian's primary function was to write an analytical history of each year's significant events. This was followed two months later by the removal of safety functions from the Directorate of Supply and Support and the establishment of a Safety Office.

In April 1971, the short-lived Depot Maintenance Activation Office was established. Three months later a Headquarters Squadron Section was created. The following October the Office of Information was elevated from a branch under the Services and Administration Division, Directorate of Supply and Support, to a staff level office. Organically, therefore, there was great fluctuation as well as proliferation of staff offices. Indeed, throughout the 1970s, there was a steady growth in the number of staff offices reflecting the center's specialized needs.

May 1971 AGMC opened a new Data Automation Center adjacent to Building 4.

A significant reorganization occurred in 1973 under AGMC commander Col. Albert R. Neville, Jr. During Newark AFS's early years, commanders had to devote most of their time and energy to establishing the facility, assembling the people and equipment, and adapting the facilities. Support functions, therefore, took up much of their time. However, as AGMC's facilities neared completion and the acquisition of workloads required more attention from the commander, Colonel Neville felt that a new organization was necessary to free his command section from the myriad of support functions and allow it to focus upon planning and directing AGMC. In addition, Colonel Neville wanted to more closely integrate the various elements of the directorates and staff offices to make AGMC run more efficiently and effectively. In order to achieve these objectives, Colonel Neville suggested to HQ AFLC that a subordinate command, an Air Base Group (ABG), be established at the center.

Following this major reorganization, smaller changes were made to further enhance AGMC's ability to perform its mission properly. They were, in part, necessary adjustments resulting from AGMC's creation. The 2802d IG&CGp had been deliberately structured to be dependent upon Middletown AMA for its administrative support (e.g., medical services, contracting). With the transfer to HQ AFLC in 1965, the 2802d gained control of some of these areas. However, control over legal matters, real property accountability, personnel and administrative support had been given by HQ AFLC to the 2750th Air Base Wing (ABW) at Wright-Patterson AFB. The establishment of AGMC in 1968 largely terminated the 2750th ABW's responsibility for Newark AFS.

Jul 1972 The elevation and audit of all PMELs was assigned to the Directorate of Metrology at AGMC.

26 Oct 1973 AGMC was redesignated from a Specialized Repair Activity to a Technical Repair Center for inertial measurement units used on missiles and aircraft.

In September 1974 HQ AFLC granted AGMC the right to establish a Staff Judge Advocate Office that would provide the center with its own legal services. This was eventually done in April 1975. Three months later a separate Social Actions Office was established as well. Previously it had been combined with the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, a part of the Civilian Personnel Division.

Mar 1975 The city of Heath transferred ten acres of land to Newark AFS extending the area of the station to fifty-six acres.

Apr 1976 A new supply warehouse was opened at the station.

On 23 January 1976 HQ AFLC approved a reorganization of AGMC's Directorate of Service Engineering which included a change in nomenclature as well. In order to more accurately reflect the directorate mission, the directorate was renamed Inertial Engineering.

10 Nov 1977 AGMC received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 January 1974 to 31 December 1975.

In addition; long-range planning was culminated in October 1978 when AGMC enlisted the first fourteen members of its reserve force. Organized to ensure production during surge situations, the requirement for 157 Category A Mobilization Augmentees was approved by HQ USAF in January 1981.

26 Oct 1981 AGMC received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period 1 January 1979 to 31 December 1980.

Although under various names, there had been an organization committed to inertial engineering from the very beginning of the air station. Colonel Lawton, the first commander explained the reasoning for this: We were dealing in very technical areas. We had problems on the floor that required engineering decisions on what tolerance you could permit and what deviation or variation you could accept from the norm ... Moreover, in order to prepare for future workloads, we had to have an engineering capacity to look at what was coming in the future, to understand what the Research and Development people were developing. This would enable us to prepare for equipment and training needs. It wasn't sufficient just to have people who were technically capable of handling the repair aspects of a workload. You had to prepare for the next one and that took engineering. Also, quality control took engineering. That is basically why we had it set up this way.

In April 1977, HQ AFLC approved AGMC's plan to elevate the Plans and Programs Office to the level of a directorate. This allowed it to function as an equal with other directorates as well as with its counterparts at the other ALCs.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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