

AIR RESERVE PERSONNEL CENTER



LINEAGE

Established as Air Reserve Records Center, 30 Nov 1956

Activated, 1 Jan 1957

Redesignated Air Reserve Personnel Center, 1 Sep 1965

STATIONS

Denver, CO

ASSIGNMENTS

Continental Air Command

Air Force Reserve, 1 Jul 1978

COMMANDERS

Col Leland A. Walker, Jr., #1966

Col Benjamin S. Catlin, III, #1970

Col Franck D. Hardee, #1978

Col Frank P. Cyr, Jr., #1995

BG Kevin E. Pottinger, #2010

Maj. Gen. Mark Kyle, who has led Air Force Reserve Command's 4th Air Force at March ARB, Calif., since March 2011, is moving on to his next assignment as head of 22nd AF at Dobbins ARB, Ga., according to an Air Force Reserve release. Kyle will succeed Maj. Gen. Wallace Farris, who has led 22nd AF since September 2011 and is retiring from the Air Force after 39 years in uniform. Replacing Kyle at the helm of 4th AF is Brig. Gen. John Flournoy, states the

Sept. 9 release. Flournoy has commanded the Air Reserve Personnel Center at Buckley AFB, Colo., since January. 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Established as Air Reserve Records Center on 30 November 1956 Activated on 1 January 1957, assigned to Continental Air Command Redesignated Air Reserve Personnel Center on 1 September 1965. With the inactivation of CONAC on 1 August 1968, was given status as a separate operating agency. Reassigned to Air Force Reserve on 1 July 1978, losing SOA status. Returned to SOA status on 1 May 1983.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC) at Lowry AFB, Colo., provides personnel support to every member of the Air Reserve Forces. Often called "The Manpower Bank of the Air Force," ARPC keeps track of more than a half million Reserve members, and, in terms of numbers, is one of the largest personnel operations in the Air Force.

ARPC is emphasizing better communications with Reservists. A new quarterly newsletter, UPDATE, reports additions and changes in personnel policy to the Reservists who receive base-level personnel support from the Center. Briefing teams visit key areas of the United States to inform Reservists on personnel policy and management programs, and explain how Reservists can help the Center be more responsive to their needs.

Initiating flextime, which allows Center employees to choose their own eight -duty hours between 0630 and 1700, increased customer service coverage for WATS line queries by two and a half hours a day, Monday through Friday. Special "how to" features in various publications tell Reservists how to use the ARPC system to their advantage.

Using a Mailgram mobilization order has greatly reduced mobilization response time. If the President or Congress orders mobilization, up to 10,000 orders an hour could be transmitted to Reservists through Western Union's Mailgram system.

Selection for Professional Military Education now coincides with ROPA promotion boards convened at the Center. The top ten percent selected for ROPA promotion to the grades of major, lieutenant colonel, and colonel will be considered by a Central Schools Selection Board (CSSB) along with Reserve volunteers.

ARPC has finished converting Air Force Reserve records to microfilm. During FY 77, approximately 24,000 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard officer records and 40,000 Air Force Reserve enlisted records were converted. This has allowed ARPC to reduce active file storage space from approximately 14,000 square feet to 1,500 square feet. Converting ANG enlisted records to microfilm is under way.

Internal management improvements for ARPC's approximately 700 civilian and 175 military employees included two pilot projects in Job Enrichment, and hiring a full-time education and training officer to develop and implement a centerwide training program.

Throughout last year, better service to men and women of the Reserve Forces was ARPC's primary concern. Continued improvement is the goal for coming months.

PERSONALIZING the administration of its half million "customers"—Air Force Reservists not on active duty—has become the Air Reserve Personnel Center's (ARPC) major goal, second only to its primary mission of mobilization.

To maintain a mobilization capability, ARPC continues to perform all types of personnel actions and to search for newer and better ways to do the job. At the same time, it has launched an all-out revitalization effort aimed at giving the individual reservist more opportunity for participation, a greater voice in his own program, and a more active role in the Air Force "total force" concept.

Individual reservists and the Air Force will benefit from many changes made at ARPC during the year. Last July, a new Directorate of Individual Reserve Programs was established at ARPC to provide information and assistance to major commands in meeting their Air Force Reserve through recruiting requirements. The ARPC Office of Information took over management of the Air Force Reserve Information Squadrons and Flights throughout the country.

In September 1970, the ARPC Staff Judge Advocate assumed responsibility for the Judge Advocate General Area Representatives (JAGAR) program. Last October, the ARPC Chaplain came on duty, and responsibility for the Chaplain Area Representatives (CHAPAR) and individual chaplains not assigned to the CHAPAR program or to Reserve units was transferred to the Center.

The Information Program involves Air Force Reserve information officers whose special publications projects provide Reserve training and make use of their talents in furthering Air Force objectives.

In the JAGAR program, Air Force Reserve legal officers perform their Reserve duties by

providing legal services for military personnel and their dependents who do not have access to active-duty legal officers. Liaison with ARPC and with active-duty Air Force bases is provided by coordinators in various geographical areas of the country.

Individuals in the CHAPAR program serve as chaplains in areas where active-duty chaplains are not available, conducting funerals, counseling families, visiting patients in hospitals, and other such duties. The individual Reserve chaplains with mobilization assignments in major air commands also look to the ARPC Chaplain for career advancement through assignments, through schools, and through other training.

Individual Air Force Reservists, who may have felt they were overlooked because they did not belong to units, should have reason to change their minds this year. ARPC's emphasis is on better service and better communication.

To give the individual more voice in Reserve policy-making, a new Air Force Reserve Policy Council has been established at ARPC. This will open an avenue of communication already available to reservists who are assigned to units and major commands. The Council solicits suggestions for better use of the Air Force Reserve and submits recommendations to the USAF Air Reserve Forces Policy Committee.

A new "Action Phone," weekend service, and monthly airlifts by Reserve units are among other changes aimed at providing better service for the reservist. "Action Phone" is a direct commercial line that bypasses the Center switchboard and goes directly to the man with the answers. Introduced to solve the all-too frequent problem of locating the proper individual, Action Phone is manned every day other than official holidays from 7:15 a.m. through 3:45 p.m. (MST) and on Tuesday evening and Thursday evening until 7:00 p.m. If a question cannot be resolved at once, it will be answered either by return call or mail within two duty days. Individual reservists have been urged to make a note of the Action Line number—Area Code 303, 825-2508.

For reservists who cannot call or come to ARPC during regular duty hours, the Center is open during the weekend and the two evenings during the week. Regularly scheduled monthly airlifts bring groups of reservists to ARPC where they have a chance to review their records and discuss personnel problems with Center technicians.

Still another communications channel has been opened, with a series of personnel conferences meeting at the Center to discuss mutual problems and to exchange ideas. Last October, ARPC initiated the first annual inter-service conference of Reserve Personnel Center commanders, with all branches of service represented. The US Army Administration Center in St. Louis, Mo., will be host to the second meeting this year.

Personnel officers throughout the country came to ARPC in December to discuss better communications and to exchange ideas for meeting current and future demands on reserve personnel management. Other meetings and visits to and from ARPC are planned to keep these communications lines open.

Meanwhile, ARPC continues to streamline its mobilization and personnel management procedures. Its most recent tool is microfilm. The Center's 9,200-page roster of Reserve personnel has already been switched to microfilm, reducing the report from ninety pounds of computer printout paper to three ounces of film. The change is saving the Air Force \$26,500 a year.

A ninety-day study to determine feasibility of recording master personnel records on microfilm was completed last fall, and results are now being evaluated. Conversion of the half million records to microfilm could result in space savings of ninety-seven percent, and also could drastically reduce costs of personnel management.

Other new ideas are still in the planning stage. Col. Benjamin S. Catlin III, ARPC's Commander since February 1970, is determined that the Center shall be the first to try out new procedures, to become the proving ground for important new ideas. Under his leadership, the Air Reserve Personnel Center and the individual Air Force Reservists are moving toward greater responsibility in the Air Force "total force" and in the nation's defense structure.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

1976 Sep 1 The Air Reserve Personnel Center and the Air Force Accounting and Finance Center began moving into Lowry's Gilchrist Building.

Lowry's Last Stand: The Air Force will end 73 years of history at the former site of Lowry AFB, Colo., as the Air Reserve Personnel Center, its last remaining military tenant, shifts to Buckley Air Force Base, also in the Denver suburb of Aurora, next month. Opened in 1938 as a training base for Army Air Corps bomber crews, Lowry famously served as Dwight Eisenhower's summer office during his time as President, and hosted the Air Force Academy from 1955 until completion of the present facilities near Colorado Springs in 1958. The base has been steadily re-developed as commercial and residential space since its closure in 1994, reports the Associated Press (via Westport News). ARPC personnel are due to move from Lowry to the center's new \$17 million, 80,000-square-foot headquarters at Buckley on Aug. 1. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new facility took place on Tuesday. 2011

Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver, Colo.

The Air Reserve Personnel Center is a direct reporting unit to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command. The mission of the center is to “Provide 21st Century life-cycle personnel services to all Air Reserve Component members ... A Total Force provider servicing the needs of the Nation.” Established Nov. 1, 1953, the center was designed to centralize the custody and maintenance of master personnel records of Air Force Reserve Airmen not on extended active duty. Today, the center has about 400 military and civil servants who work alongside about 220 contractors and is responsible for a wide variety of personnel actions, including administrative capability for mobilization of the Air Force Reserve. Also, the center maintains personnel records of Air National Guard officers and enlisted Airmen as well.

In fulfilling its mission, the Air Reserve Personnel Center is in constant contact with the Air Staff, the director of the Air National Guard, the chief of Air Force Reserve, major commands, field operating agencies and individual reservists. During contingency operations or war, the center receives direction and guidance through the Air Force Crisis Action Team. The center orders individual Air Force Reserve personnel and members of the Retired Reserve and Retired Regular Air Force to extended active duty, as required during national emergencies and as provided by law.

The center provides life-cycle personnel support to Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members throughout their military careers. These actions include officer and enlisted Airman career management, master and field personnel records maintenance, appointment, classification, point credit accounting, promotion, career development, discharge and retirement. The center manages central selection boards for Air National Guard and Reserve officer promotions. These boards consider Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve officers for promotion and determine qualifications of Airmen to retain their Reserve status. The center also convenes boards to select Air Force Reserve officers to attend developmental education schools and force development initiatives. Enhancing its Web-based applications, the center is working to provide better customer service with 24 hour-a-day, seven day-a-week accessibility for the Reserve Airmen. The virtual Personnel Center - Guard and Reserve, or vPC-GR, allows Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen to access and correct records from any computer with Internet access. The Readiness Management Group is a direct reporting unit to Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command and co-located with the command at Robins AFB, Ga.

The group is commanded by a colonel who is responsible for administrative control of approximately 9,000 Individual Mobilization Augmentees throughout the U.S. and around the globe. Because IMAs are directly assigned to Regular Air Force units for performing the Regular Air Force mission, they are in the Regular Air Force chain of command for their duty performance. However, every IMA belongs to the Air Force Reserve Command administratively and receives policy, guidance, training objectives, and readiness monitoring from the Readiness Management Group.

Brig. Gen. Jay Flournoy, commander of the Air Reserve Personnel Center at Buckley Air Force Base, Colo.,

CONAC comprised only 58,000 participating Reservists with an additional 315,000 non-participating members by 1950. Readiness was a concern for some members of Congress, so in 1948 the secretary of defense appointed a committee to review the status of reserve forces. Known as the Committee on Civilian Components, officials found reserve forces were unable to carry out their missions due to a surplus of officers in higher grades, a shortage of enlisted men, too few armories, a shortage of instructors and a lack of funds. However, the prevailing wisdom of most politicians and even some military leaders was that the United States could depend on its nuclear forces and would not need a large reserve force. From July 1950 through June 1953, CONAC mobilized nearly 147,000 Reservists in the Korean conflict, almost evenly divided between officers and enlisted members. In addition, about 46,000 Air National Guardsmen were mobilized. Unfortunately, serious flaws in the structure and capabilities of the reserve forces quickly became apparent. Unit-level reports revealed poor record-keeping procedures and a general lack of preparedness. To confirm and correct these problems, CONAC launched an investigation in late 1950 under the direction of Brig. Gen. Clyde Mitchell. Mitchell's committee investigated the unit and individual recall programs and recommended corrective action in recall procedures as well as more effective command and control of reserve forces. The committee concluded that the greatest problem involved deficiencies in Reservists' basic personnel records, which in most cases lacked accurate personnel and career information. These deficiencies made successful mobilization nearly impossible because it was difficult to contact Reservists, determine their physical condition and assess the level of their skills. Most importantly, it illustrated the need to standardize all records administration and to review the data in the records periodically. The experience of the Korean mobilization convinced Air Force leaders that Reservists' records needed more centralized administration. In November 1951, CONAC officials took the first step when it established a locator file at the headquarters. The file listed the locations of master and field records for all inactive Reservists, but the records themselves were maintained in eight separate locations. Air Force leadership considered a centralized location for all personnel records as the ideal solution. Lt. Gen. Leon W. Johnson, CONAC commander and Medal of Honor recipient for valor in the Ploesti Raid, decided that the location of a records center should be in the interior of the country. Planners at CONAC eventually chose surplus facilities at the Air Force Finance Center in Denver, Colo., based entirely on availability and economics. On Nov. 1, 1953, the command established Detachment 1, Continental Air Command and named it the Air Reserve Records Center. A cadre of experienced personnel technicians arrived at ARRC in October 1953 to set up a workable organization. They devised proper filing and handling procedures, hired and trained 800 new employees, and prepared for the arrival of more than 250,000 records from other locations. The facility contained 3,162 filing cabinets that occupied 30,000 square feet of floor space. ARRC opened its doors March 1, 1954. Members of the new organization quickly moved to correct the records problems that had plagued the Air Force Reserve. In 1955, the center's staff launched the officer and warrant officer record reconciliation project. This process, which took several months to complete, involved address research, rank investigation and time-in-grade determinations for more than 152,000 people. During the next year, a similar process was completed for enlisted records. On Jan. 1, 1957, the center was re-designated as Headquarters Air Reserve Records Center, a sub-command within CONAC and the equivalent of a numbered air force. Because the filing cabinets

took up too much space, employees in the Records File Division did not have desks. Space was so limited that the chief of the division and his staff moved to an adjacent building. The number of records was growing quickly, and the filing cabinets were old and insulated with asbestos, causing health concerns. For those reasons, in July 1956 Remington Rand Corp. officials conducted a study of ARRC's operations. The study recommended open-shelf filing of records by terminal digits of Air Force service numbers. The plan was approved, and by June 25, 1958, the filing rearrangement was completed. The center had custody of nearly 500,000 records. That same year, ARRC leaders realized that the manual accounting system had reached its saturation point. The amount of data processed required more than 6 million punch cards, which had to be updated and maintained regularly. Routine file updates were taking so much time and effort that other critical processes were not getting done in a timely manner. The only solution was an electronic data processing system. Air Force officials agreed with center leadership and authorized them to purchase a computer system. On Oct. 31, 1959, a new RCA 501 transistorized electronic data processing system was installed at ARRC. The computer was the first one of its kind west of the Mississippi River, costing \$212,000 and sporting a 32K processing capability. The operation of the system required a dedicated computer room and a staff of technicians and programmers. It was the forerunner of many technological advances the center would employ in the years to come. The Air Reserve Records Center was born out of adversity and matured at an early age, but as the 1950s ended, ARRC members were well prepared to serve their country should the need arise. The following decade would test ARRC and prove to be one of the most challenging in the center's history. 2013

People remember the 1960s for different reasons, from President John F. Kennedy to the Beatles to Woodstock to the landing on the moon. For the Air Reserve Personnel Center, it was a decade of mobilizations. Officials at the center executed four mobilizations, more than any decade before or since. These mobilizations were the Berlin Crisis of 1961, the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, the USS Pueblo incident of 1968 and the escalation of the war in Southeast Asia in 1968. The Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States was going strong during those years. In 1961, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev threatened to sign a unilateral peace treaty with East Germany and declared that he would not recognize any American rights in the city. To protect West Berlin and stand up to Soviet threats, Kennedy ordered a gradual military response to the crisis that July. In a televised address, the president asked for mobilization authority, an increase in the military draft and supplemental military appropriations. He also disclosed his intent to mobilize members of Air Force Reserve air transport units and Air National Guard fighter squadrons. Congress approved the president's requests, and the crisis escalated when Soviets sealed the border between East and West Berlin and began construction of the infamous Berlin Wall. Within two weeks, the Air Reserve Records Center, as it was known back then, became the focal point of the mobilization effort. A team screened personnel records from 31 ANG flying units and 16 ANG support units as well as five Reserve flying units. Center officials executed mobilizations for more than 18,000 people for service during the Berlin Crisis. A year later, an even greater threat materialized in Cuba. In October 1962, an Air Force U-2 reconnaissance aircraft brought back photographic evidence of ballistic missile bases in Cuba, and the Kennedy administration was forced to consider all military options to prevent a nuclear war. The Cuban crisis had been brewing since the fall of 1959, when Fidel Castro, a socialist-turned communist, overthrew the government of Cuba. He quickly moved his country closer toward the Soviet Union, and in April 1961, Kennedy supported a poorly planned invasion of

Cuba by a small force of exiles at the Bay of Pigs. An expected uprising against Castro never materialized, and the invasion failed. Castro sought Soviet help in preventing future American attacks on his regime, and in September 1962, the Soviet Union announced a treaty with Cuba. The Soviets agreed to provide defensive weaponry and technicians to protect Cuban sovereignty. Furthermore, Castro and Khrushchev secretly agreed to place Soviet medium-range ballistic missiles in Cuba. On Oct. 22, Kennedy demanded removal of these missiles and ordered a naval quarantine of Cuba. He directed all branches of the U.S. military to prepare for any contingency and launched a mobilization of reserve forces. ARRC mobilization activities included preparing special reserve status reports, identifying all recall-eligible personnel and delivering personnel records to air commands. The secretary of defense ordered 24 Air Force Reserve troop carrier squadrons, one C-123 wing, seven C-119 wings and six aerial port squadrons to active duty. ARRC staff members executed mobilizations for more than 14,000 Reserve members from 238 units utilizing 422 Reserve aircraft to meet the crisis. Fortunately, diplomatic pressure forced Khrushchev to withdraw Soviet missiles from Cuba, and the crisis came to an end. The last mobilized members were released from active duty in December 1962. Because the center had performed yeoman work in the face of these mobilizations, Air Force leaders recognized that ARRC was not merely a records repository. It was involved in all aspects of reserve force management. For that reason, ARRC was redesignated as the Air Reserve Personnel Center on Sept. 1, 1965. As the 1960s wore on, worldwide tensions remained constant. On Jan. 23, 1968, the American intelligence-gathering ship USS Pueblo was conducting a mission in international waters off North Korea's east coast. The vessel came under attack by North Korean naval forces, whose crews alleged the ship was in North Korean territorial waters. The Koreans captured the ship and 83 crew members. Two days later, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered 15,000 Air Force and Navy reservists to active duty as a precautionary measure. As a result, ARPC officials pulled master personnel records on nearly 4,900 reservists and 9,400 guardsmen and mailed them to the U.S. Air Force Military Personnel Center. As a result, 14,220 people were mobilized. In addition, the ARPC staff updated its volunteer file and answered inquiries from Headquarters U.S. Air Force, major air commands and the National Guard Bureau throughout the mobilization process. The North Koreans released the Pueblo's crew almost one year later, in December 1968. The same week the USS Pueblo was captured, a massive communist offensive began in South Vietnam. The Tet Offensive, launched during a Vietnamese religious holiday, was a surprise to American and South Vietnamese forces. Even though communist forces suffered devastating casualties, the offensive forced the president to rethink his previous opposition to mobilizing reserve forces for Vietnam service. On April 11, the secretary of defense announced a call-up of about 24,500 reserve members for all service branches. The Air Force's portion of the call-up was small; ARPC officials processed 776 Air Force Reserve and 1,295 ANG members. By early 1969, mobilized members were released from active duty. During the decade of the 1960s, ARPC leaders refined the center's internal organization and management structure, employing lessons learned from each mobilization to make the organization more efficient. In the mid-1960s, ARPC officials conducted mobilization exercises on a regular basis to refine procedures and develop new ones. One example of refining processes was switching to Social Security account numbers. The center had used the terminal digit sequence of the Air Force serial number since 1958, but in 1967, the Defense Department switched to SSANs. The center launched the change in late 1968, a huge undertaking that affected every personnel record. The project served as a data cleanup since errors in service numbers, conflicting SSANs and other issues were uncovered. After numbers were converted, all records were refiled using the SSAN terminal digit

sequence. The project was completed by July 1969. For the staff, the project was difficult, time-consuming and even frustrating, but it has stood the test of time as ARPC uses the SSAN terminal digit filing system to this day. ARPC was tested during four real-world contingencies throughout the tumultuous 1960s and in each one performed brilliantly. Each mobilization was used as a learning opportunity to better prepare for the future, and members of ARPC demonstrated a proactive, positive response to every challenge. As the 1960s ended, ARPC accepted new challenges as it stood ready to move ahead into the total force concept. 2013

Col. Leland A. Walker Jr., the longest-serving Air Reserve Personnel Center commander

A new sign is featured over the Air Reserve Personnel Center entrance at the York Street building in 1966. Air Force leaders recognized that the Air Reserve Records Center was not merely a records repository but that it was involved in all aspects of reserve force management. For that reason, ARRC was redesignated as the Air Reserve Personnel Center on Sept. 1, 1965.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

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