

# **1501<sup>st</sup> FLIGHTLINE MAINTENANCE SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Establishment of Air Forces Proving Ground Command.

Commanding Generals, Army Air Forces, Air Force Materiel Command, Air Corps Flying Training Command and Southeast Air Corps Training Center.

The Air Forces Proving Ground Command is established under the jurisdiction of the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, with headquarters at Eglin Field, Florida.

The functions of the Air Forces Proving Ground Command are:

To make such tests, special studies, and investigations as are directed by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, and, within the limits of available facilities and priorities, as may be requested by the Commanding General, Air Force Materiel Command.

Furnish such services, facilities, and assistance to the Air Corps Flying Training Command necessary to carry out the gunnery training conducted in the Proving Ground area insofar as

possible without unduly interfering with the carrying out of the Air Forces Proving Ground Command mission.

Furnish such services, facilities and assistance to the Air Force Materiel Command as are necessary to complete engineering and development tests for which other suitable areas and facilities are not provided the Materiel Command, insofar as is possible without unduly interfering with the carrying out of the Air Forces Proving Ground Command mission.

Subject: Organization of an Arctic, Desert, and Tropic Information Center.

There will be organized and operated by the Commanding General, Air Forces Proving Ground Command, at Eglin Field, Florida, an Information center for the purpose of collecting, recording, coordinating, and disseminating all pertinent data concerning the Arctic, desert, and tropic areas that may be of value to the Army Air Forces personnel now serving or contemplating duty in these regions.

Information will be gathered by the Center from all available sources. This will include reports from personnel in and returning from posts in the regions concerned, books and scientific publications, reports, and the results of experiments by all the different agencies and commissions, both Federal and private, which have been engaged in exploration and experimentation in these regions.

The Information Center will be concerned with all phases of Air Force activities in Arctic, desert, and tropic areas. This will include in its general scope such items as the operation of all Army Air Forces equipment, shelter, food, medicine, and clothing, and selection and care of personnel.

The Information Center will gather geographical, climatological, and all other available scientific information pertinent to prospective operations by the Army Air Forces in Arctic, desert, and tropic regions and to the locations of air ferrying routes.

The Information Center will be prepared to familiarize Army Air Forces personnel with the regions to which they may be assigned as to the climate, effect of climate on physiology, flora, and fauna; the natives, a rudimentary knowledge of their language, their conception of life, and their methods of adapting themselves to difficult environments. Special attention will be given to developing the best procedures to be used in case of forced landings and to emergency kits for the maintenance of personnel in the case of forced landings.

The Information Center will be prepared to make recommendations regarding tables of organization and tables of basic allowances.

The Information Center will not perform tests of any nature, but will make suggestions regarding research to the proper agencies.

The Information Center will furnish, such information as may be available to the interested divisions, directorates, and commands of the Army Air Forces. It will also collect all possible information on air operations under the unusual weather conditions of the Arctic, desert, and tropics and will prepare this information for publication and dissemination to the service in appropriate forms, such as Technical Manuals, Technical Orders, and Training Manuals. The manuscripts for these publications will be submitted to the Director of War Organization and Movement for approval and publication. The Information Center will also undertake such other studies as may be directed to it by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

The Information Center will maintain close liaison with the Cold Weather Testing Detachment and the Army Air Forces activities at the Desert Training Center in regard to the exchange of information pertinent to their activities.

Attention is invited to the attached A.A.F. Regulation No. 20-14 establishing the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics, the attached copy of a directive from this Directorate to the Commandant, A.A.F. School of Applied Tactics outlining the functions to be accomplished by the School of Applied Tactics, the attached copy of Headquarters Office Instructions outlining the liaison with the A.A.F. School of Applied Tactics, and the attached copy of the Director of Military Requirements Office Memorandum establishing the procedure for handling reports from A.A.F. School of Applied Tactics.

Fundamentally, the purpose of the Proving Ground Command is to test the suitability of individual items of equipment to meet military requirements. The requirements and the tactical use to be made of equipment is determined by the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics or this Headquarters. It is desired that the Army Air Forces Proving Ground Command maintain constant and close direct liaison with the Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics in order that maximum benefit may be derived from both activities with minimum duplication effort. All projects at the Proving Ground Command which affect the development of tactics, and the suitability of equipment to meet military requirements, will be closely coordinated with the School of Applied Tactics.

Except upon the specific request of the School of Applied Tactics, the Proving Ground Command will restrict its activities to those outlined in previous directives. When advisable, facilities of the Proving Ground Command and the School of Applied Tactics will be used concurrently and jointly in accomplishing projects carried on by the two organizations.

Frequent conference and visits with the Commandant of the School of Applied Tactics will be made to insure that functions outlined in previous directives to the Proving Ground Command and the functions outlined in the attached directives to the Commandant of the School of Applied Tactics are being complied with to the maximum extent and with the minimum duplication of effort.

It is desired that copies of all final reports and copies of Army Air Forces Proving Ground Command semimonthly progress reports be forwarded direct to the Commandant, Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics.

#### AAF PROVING GROUND COMMAND

A reorganization within the Headquarters, Army Air Forces has recently been effected which necessitates a reissue of instructions relating to the duties and responsibilities of the Army Air Forces Proving Ground Command. All directives and instructions previously issued to the Air Forces Proving Ground Command in conflict with this directive are hereby superseded and cancelled.

In accordance with policies, plans, and programs established by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, the Army Air Forces Proving Ground Command:

Conducts tests, special studies, and investigations of Army Air Forces equipment as a basis of establishing military requirements.

Conducts tests and special studies designed to develop improved operational techniques.

Furnishes such services, facilities, and assistance to the Materiel and Air Service Commands as is necessary to complete engineering and development tests.

Maintains an Information Center for the purpose of collecting, recording, coordinating, and preparing for publication pertinent data bearing upon specialized operating conditions which might be encountered by air force units in arctic, desert and tropic areas.

The primary mission of the Proving Ground Command is to test the operational suitability of individual types of airplanes and equipment to meet military requirements.

The Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics, on the other hand, is charged with testing operationally the tactical suitability of airplanes and other major items of equipment in combat units. This includes comparative performance tests and the development of tactics best suited to the type airplane and equipment. To prevent duplication of effort and to insure that maximum efficiency is obtained from both installations, you will maintain close liaison with the Commandant, Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics, consonant with the proper discharge of your responsibilities.

Administrative procedure will be in conformity with basic principles indicated in attached chart from, "U.S. Army Air Forces Organization and Functions." It will be noted that special emphasis has been placed on the decentralization to the various Commands of all purely operating functions.

Questions of major policy and problems concerning division of responsibility between the respective commands and matters of similar nature will be referred to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

It is the expressed directive of the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, that decentralization of all operating functions to the Commands will be effected to the maximum possible extent; therefore, all Proving Ground Command operating functions now exercised by this Headquarters will be transferred as rapidly as possible to your Command.

It is the responsibility of all commanding generals to affect continuous liaison with other commands and air forces in order to accomplish their mission with a minimum of delay. Judicious short-cuts of procedure for this purpose will be encouraged.

One of the primary purposes of the reorganization of the Army Air Forces is to impose greater responsibility on the commands and air forces. This Headquarters will tell you WHAT to do but NOT HOW to do it. You will be held responsible for performance of the responsibilities listed in paragraph 2 above and will govern yourself accordingly.

#### Proving Ground Command

**Establishment.** There is hereby established the Proving Ground Command, an exempted activity, under the Commanding General, Army Air Forces. Supervision over the Commanding General, Proving Ground Command will be exercised for the Commanding General, Army Air Forces by the Army Air Forces Board. The Commanding General, Proving Ground Command, will be appointed by the Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

**Mission.** The Commanding General, Proving Ground Command is responsible for: Conducting tests, special studies, and investigations of AAF aircraft and equipment in accordance with directives of the Army Air Forces Board, as a basis for determining operational suitability of individual aircraft and items of equipment as to type, developing improved operational techniques, and completing engineering and development tests for the Materiel and Air Service Commands

Maintaining an Information Center for the purpose of collecting, recording, coordinating, and preparing for publication pertinent data bearing upon specialized operating conditions which might be encountered by air force units in arctic, desert, and tropic areas.

**Staffing.** The Commanding General, Proving Ground Command is authorized to secure such personnel as are necessary to the performance of his assigned mission, subject to the approval of the Army Air Forces Board and the Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

**Location.** The Headquarters, Proving Ground Command is hereby established at Eglin Field, Florida, with such satellite fields, units, and installations at such places as may be determined by the Commanding General, Proving Ground Command and approved by the Army Air Forces Board and the Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

## COMMANDS

AAF Personnel Distribution Command, Hq - Gibbs-Inman Bldg, 9th & Broadway, Louisville 3, Ky.

Miami District - Hotel Cadillac, Miami Beach, Fla.

AAF Proving Ground Command, Hq - Eglin Field, Valparaiso, Fla.

AAF Training Command, Hq - Texas & Pacific Bldg, Fort Worth 2, Tex.

Air Technical Service Command, Hq - Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio

Air Transport Command, Hq - AAF Annex #1, Gravelly Point, Washington, D. C.

Ferrying Division, Hq - 309 Vine St, Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Antilles Air Command, Hq & Hq Sq - Borinquen Field, P. R. (845 MIA)

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources