

Air Defense of Country Will Rest on Springs Headquarters

Air defense, something unheard of in past years, occupies a major position in the thinking of the United States Air Force, and for the first time in United States aviation history, a separate major command has been established to handle that feature of operations.

During the days of World War II, the Air Force's primary object was carrying the fight to the enemy.

But there is a new line of thought today, and therein lies the basic reason for the formation of the Air Defense Command, which will formally be established on January 1 at Mitchel AFB, Long Island, and shortly thereafter establish headquarters here at Ent Air Force base.

The primary responsibility of conducting the air defense of the continental United States rests with the ADC.

To accomplish this mission, the Air Defense Command has assigned the Eastern Air Defense Force at Stewart AFB, N. Y., and the Western Air Defense Force at Hamilton AFB, Calif.

Under each of these organizations are the many operational units, such as fighter interceptor units and the radar outposts from which will come the early warning of an impending air attack.

The Eastern Air Defense Force is responsible for that portion of the continental U. S. lying east of the 103rd meridian on the eastern fringes of the Rocky mountains. WADF controls the country's air defense machinery west of that line.

Fighter-interceptor wings and squadrons, strategically located throughout the nation, are equipped with the most modern jet aircraft, such as the North American F-86 Sabre, capable of quick climb to high altitudes and high speeds. All-weather fighter-interceptor wings have the Lockheed F-94, one of the USAF's newest interceptors, which carries radar and electronic equipment enabling it to fly and fight in all kinds of weather—day or night.

In addition to maintaining fighter wings at a high level of operational readiness, the ADC will also be responsible for America's radar network, and other facilities in the Air Defense System. These include Air Defense Control Centers and GCI (Ground Control Intercept) Stations which play a vital role in the Air Defense System, not only for active fighter interception of enemy aircraft, but also for warning the general public of impending attacks.

Under an actual air attack on the U. S., warning information would be passed on by the Air Defense control centers to key-point air raid warning centers which have been established across the nation in the Air Raid Warning system. There are 170 key points in the country which have been equipped with air raid warning phones to alert the public.

The Air Defense control center receives its warning information about a coming air attack thru the GCI stations, which work hand in hand with early warning radar stations, filter centers and thousands of observers in the Ground Observers corps to spot aircraft approaching or over the United States.

When an observer spots a flight of aircraft, he calls his area filter center, where his report and that of other observers in the vicinity are compared. The information gained from this comparison is telephoned to the GCI station for identification of the approaching planes.

If the planes are hostile or cannot be identified, the GCI operator orders fighters to intercept them and notifies the responsible Air Defense control center of the coming threat. If necessary, the ADCC can deploy other fighters under its control to intercept the raiders, and then flashes an alert to the key-point Air Raid warning centers to warn the populace in the threatened areas.

In case of all-out war against this country by an aggressor nation, the effectiveness of the air defense system will largely determine ability to maintain vital war production under enemy air assault.

Assuming that some enemy aircraft will penetrate the defense line, the following phases of Air Defense operations will be of great importance:

1. Reduction of the effectiveness of a raid by keeping an accurate track of the raiders, so that fighter-interceptors can be accurately directed to the enemy while enroute to target in order that a maximum number may be destroyed.
2. The population must be warned in sufficient time to permit Civil Defense officials to put planned emergency measures into action.
3. The raid must be plotted as to direction and ultimate destination so that emergency measures can be restricted to threatened areas, while those areas not in immediate danger can go right on producing our war potential in armaments and equipment.

High School Will Present Christmas Program Tuesday

The annual Christmas convocation will be presented by Colorado Springs High school again this year to the public free on Tuesday night at 8:15 p.m. in the High school auditorium.

The program is in three parts: Part I, the prelude; part II the story, and part III the postlude. The prelude is a chorolog of eight famous Christmas carols sung by the combined A Cappella choirs, numbering 175 voices.

The story presents in pageantry and tableaux scenes from the Nativity. During this portion of the program, the reader tells the Gospel story of the Nativity, while the characters of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and Kings appear in the tableaux. Appropriate music is supplied in the background by the choirs.

The program concludes with the postlude, during which the audience departs in silence.

The entire community is invited to attend this program free. It is the gift of the school and the PTA to the community at Christmas time. This convocation has been so well received in the past that it has become traditional.

The program:

- PRELUDE**
- Jesu, Priceless Treasure Bach
 - Brother James' Air Arr. by Jacob
 - Ave Maria Arcadelt
 - Carol Noel Willshouse
 - Jesu, Thou Dear Babe Divine Arr. by Dickinson
 - Willie, Take Your Drum French Carol
 - Lullaby on Christmas Eve Christiansen
 - O Holy Night Adam (The A Cappella Choirs)
- THE STORY**
- Silent Night Gruber
 - The Gospel Story of the Nativity St. Luke
 - How Far Is It To Bethlehem Shaw
 - Here Are We In Bethlehem Willan
 - Our Lady's Gift Morrison
 - Angels We Have Heard On High Arr. by Wasner
 - The First Noel Traditional Carol
 - The Gospel Story St. Matthew
 - The Three Kings Hopkins
 - Balulalow Britten
 - The Sleep of the Child Jesus Gevaert
 - The Old Amaze Crowell
 - Benediction
 - Adeste Fideles
- POSTLUDE**
- Silent Night Gruber
 - Singers — A Cappella choirs.
 - Organist — Joan Hillock.
 - Pianists — Carol Ann Durtschi, Eva Mae Berry, Mary Louise Fenelon and Joan Hillock.
 - Director—Frank H. Gilles.
 - Reader — Skid Pirtle.
 - Pageantry — Helen Kipp, Howard Brown, Zoel Martinson, Harold Shearer, Eugene Lepel, Thomas Binn, Al Ludwig and Tim Reynolds.
 - Stage — Don Roe and stage crew.
 - Arrangers — Mrs. Rowena Roberts, Virginia Shepherd and Harold Felton.

Episcopal Men to Honor Rector at Dinner Wednesday

Dr. J. Lindsay Patton, rector of Grace Episcopal church, will be guest of honor at the dinner meeting at 8:30 p. m. Wednesday of the men's group of the church, in recognition of his 25th year of serving in the ministry. Dr. Patton also celebrated his 50th birthday December 13.

Dr. Patton has served as rector of the local church for seven years, coming here from Berkeley, Calif.

Guest speaker at the dinner will be Dean Paul Roberts of St. John's Episcopal cathedral of Denver. More than 100 reservations have already been made for the event. John Bonforte is in charge of reservations. Head of the committee in charge of the dinner is Mrs. George Grote. Chairman of the men's group is Floyd Padgett.

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