

AIR FORCE ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE CENTER



LINEAGE

Air Force Finance Division established and organized as a separate operating agency, 1 Jan 1951

Redesignated Air Force Accounting and Finance Division, 1 Sep 1957

Redesignated Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, 1 Jul 1959

Inactivated 18 Jan 1991

STATIONS

Denver, CO

Lowry AFB, CO, 8 Sep 1976

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

BG Edward J. Hopkins, 1 May 1958-7 Apr 1959

BG Paul W. Scheidecker, #1960

BG Thomas P. Corwin, #1966

BG Edwin S. Wittbrodt, #1968

MG Lucius Theus, #1978

MG George C. Lynch, #1981

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Air Force Accounting and Finance Center, located at Lowry AFB, Colo., was the focal point for Air Force financial operations. The center's officers, enlisted people, and civilians paid all active, Reserve, and retired members; accounted for all appropriated funds; provided technical guidance for the accounting and finance network; and did all accounting and billing for DoD's foreign military ' sales contracts.

The Center accounted for all money Congress appropriates for the Air Force. Using financial reports from around the world, the center compiled reports to Air Force fund managers, other military services, DoD, Treasury Department, Office of Management and Budget, other government agencies, and Congress.

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 activated 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 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.

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 mail mobiles 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 Air Force Accounting And Finance Center was inactivated on 18 Jan 1991 and replaced by the Defense Finance And Accounting Service Center.



Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 19 Sep 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.