

BOLLING FIELD COMMAND

MISSION

LINEAGE

Bolling Field, Command

STATIONS

Bolling Field, DC

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On October 2, 1917, the site where the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C., is now located, was turned over to the Aviation Section, United States Army for development as an "Airplane Field." Army Aviation in those years was attached to the Signal Corps.

The present-day site of Bolling Field had been a military installation since the Civil War. The recorded history of this area goes back to 1608, when Captain John Smith sailed up the

Potomac River to find a village of Nacotchtank Indians living in the vicinity of what is now Anacostia.

In 1861, the Federal Government leased 340 acres of Potomac River Bank, which was turned over to the Army of The Potomac for use as a remount station, called the Giesboro Depot. In 1886, the land was purchased outright and continued to be used for military purposes.

In 1917, at the time of World War I, the Giesboro Depot was occupied by the Corps of Engineers, United States Army. On October 2, 1917, the Corps of Engineers turned the Giesboro Depot over to the Signal Corps for its use as an Air Base and Training Station.

On June 28, 1918, a War Department memorandum suggested that the Washington field be named in the memory of Colonel Raynal Bolling, U.S.A. "Killed in Action", March 26, 1918, in the war against Germany. Colonel' Bolling, at the time of his death, headed the aeronautical commission which the Secretary of War sent to Europe to study the type of air equipment the United States should manufacture. Colonel Bolling also served in Europe in charge of aviation affairs in the Zone of the Interior, with the title of Assistant Chief of Air Service.

Bolling Field was expanded in 1930, when 345 more acres were purchased by the Government from the Washington Steel and Ordnance Company, which operated a plant where the present-day runways now stand. Other lands totaling 150 acres were acquired by purchase and condemnation.

Construction on new Bolling Field began in earnest in 1932, and as various buildings were completed, the various groups moved in from the old area and "took over." Negotiations were completed for the Navy to operate old Bolling Field as the Naval Air Station, Anacostia, D. C., in 1940. In October of that year, the Navy assumed complete jurisdiction over all the facilities of the old Bolling Field.

During World War II, Bolling Field had three responsibilities—to serve as a protective base for Washington, to supply trained men for combat organizations of the Air Force, and to supply air transportation and other services for the military and civic leaders of the nation.

In July, 1945, Continental Air Force established temporary Headquarters at Bolling Field, and in the spring of 1946, reorganized into the Strategic Air Command. While attached to Strategic Air Command, Bolling Field also commanded Andrews Field and Richmond Army Air Base.

This year Bolling Field became BOLLING FIELD COMMAND—a separate command of the Army Air Forces.

The present-day mission of the Bolling Field Command is to provide for and supervise administrative and proficiency flying for Army Air Forces personnel assigned for duty in the Military District of Washington, and to provide air transportation for activities designated by Headquarters, Army Air Forces. The first of these missions is accomplished by aircraft of the

First Base Unit, A.A.F., commanded by Colonel William C. Grohs, the second by the planes of the Thirty-fifth Base Unit, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph W. Barren.

In supporting roles are the Fourth Base Unit, commanded by Major Paul J. Kyle; the Forty-second Statistical Control Unit, Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Richard T. Lively; the Tenth Photographic Technical Squadron, commanded by Major Charles F. Wilson; the 700th Counter Intelligence Corps Detachment, commanded by Major Axel V. Granholm; the Station Hospital is commanded by lieutenant Colonel Harold F. Funsch; the detachment of "WAACS" by First Lieutenant Margaret H. Coe; the Supervisor of Motor Maintenance is Major William B. Duty.

The Army Air Forces Band, under the command and direction of Major George S. Howard, is prominently identified with Official and Social Washington, and, nationally, is popular with Radio-America because of its participation in nation-wide broadcasts. Bolling Field Command, its activities, the Band—are maintained in friendly liaison with the general public through the office of Public Information, directed by Captain William J. Lookadoo.

The Civil Air Patrol maintains its National Headquarters at Bolling Field, under the command of Brigadier General Frederic H. Smith, Jr.

Bolling Field becomes a national "show place" without creating changes in its setup. Its facilities are "geared" to perform its mission with marked dispatch and efficiency.

Fittingly styled "America's Military-Aerial Gateway to the World", Bolling Field has served the interests of the Nation in acting as host to "Kings and Queens, Potentates and Military Leaders" of all nations.

The main gate at Bolling Field, manned by highly-trained members of the Military Police, serves as the stepping-stone to the realm within. The visitor quickly senses the importance of this principal air installation, and the buildings and grounds bespeak comfort, convenience and pleasant associations for all who are charged with the maintenance of this Command.

Recreational and amusement facilities are represented in the form of Motion Picture Theaters, Service Club, Officer's Club, Noncommissioned Officers Club, the swimming pool, and playgrounds for all forms of sport. In inclement weather, the spacious gymnasium affords ample space for participation in indoor games, and spacious facilities for spectators. Quarters for commissioned and noncommissioned personnel are modern. Public utilities of the District of Columbia are available at the door of Bolling Field. The personnel of Bolling Field Command—Military and Civilian—is highly trained and specialized to serve the Command and the Nation.

It is important that Bolling Field Command maintains a Chapel—centrally located and equipped to meet the needs of men and women of all faiths, and there, under the direction of the Base Chaplain, Captain George J. Cameron, freedom of religious worship is accorded one and all.

The present Commanding General of Bolling Field Command, is Brigadier General Burton M. Hovey. A native of Halifax, Nova Scotia, General Hovey has a long record of distinguished Army Service.

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