

GADSDEN AIR FORCE DEPOT

MISSION

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Gadsden, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Solomon J. Zoller, #1955

Col Larry N. Tindal, #1957

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Something new in airmunitions functions came to Ogden on 15 January 1958. Closing of Air Force depots prompted transfer of these functions to Ogden: (1) From Gadsden AF Depot Ogden picked up prime supply and maintenance and specialized supply and procurement for FSC 8140, ammunition boxes, packages and special containers. Gads-den transferred 14 stock listed items and 712 square feet of material in storage there to Ogden. Supply's Ammunition Division assumed full responsibility as soon as records arrived. Gadsden depleted stocks as rapidly as possible by disposal action or shipment of boxes to the Ordnance Corps Depot of the

Army. (2) From Topeka AF Depot Ogden gained prime maintenance and supply and specialized procurement for FSC 4925, ammunition, maintenance and repair shop specialized equipment (formerly in Class 17-C and 18-C). This class involved about 25 stock listed items valued at about \$20,000. Most of the material in this class covered items provisioned for the MB-1 Genie Rocket. The AF Ammunition Services Office assumed the maintenance responsibility for them. (3) AMC reassigned the MA-1 Field Surveillance Laboratory to FSC 6640A 1 January 1958. (It was formerly included in the old Class 17-C, laboratory and shop test inspection equipment.) Effective 15 January 1958 it transferred from Topeka AF Depot to Ogden's AF Ammunition Services Office prime maintenance responsibility for this class. At the time of transfer there were three laboratories in the inventory, two in use and one under fabrication. Prime supply functions went to the Ammunition Division in Supply Directorate. No personnel came with the functional transfer.

By the mid-1950s, the Air Materiel Command had decided to overhaul its depot structure in the U.S. to reflect changes in the Air Force weapon inventory and to reduce costs. In 1957 cutbacks in manpower and funding that had been directed from above made it appropriate to proceed with such a consolidation. Already, two depots had been discontinued during 1952 and 1953, namely, the Kansas City Air Force Specialized Depot in Kansas and the Spokane Air Force Depot in Washington. Marked for phase-out by July 1960 were five of the seven remaining major depots--Maywood, California; Memphis, Tennessee; Topeka, Kansas; Shelby, Ohio; and Gadsden, Alabama--and nine storage sites, along with several lesser installations. Altogether, the installations slated for elimination constituted nearly one-fourth of the command's storage space and managed 230,000 items, some 20 percent of the Air Force total; some 11,000 people worked at the sites. The Air Materiel Command calculated that closing the five depots and shifting their missions to the receiving air materiel area depots would slash costs from some \$29 million annually to less than \$6 million. Phasing out these depots was possible because faster transportation, transceiver networks, and electronic data processing allowed the command's managers to control commodities which were dispersed to base level, reducing the need for depot stocks and warehouse space. The first of these depot closings to occur was Gadsden in March 1958; Maywood followed in January 1960, then Memphis in May 1960, Topeka in November 1960, and Shelby in January 1961. With the Rome depot being redesignated an air materiel area in November 1958, this left only a single independent depot, the Dayton Air Force Depot at Gentile Air Force Station, Ohio.

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