3096th AVIATION DEPOT SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS
Travis AFB, CA,
Nellis AFB, NV, 15 Feb 1970

ASSIGNMENTS
3083rd Aviation Depot Group
San Antonio AMA, 1 Jul 1962

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers
Campaign Streamers
Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers
Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS
Since the early 1950's, San Antonio Air Materiel Area's Directorate of Special Weapons managed and repaired the Air Force's nuclear ordnance commodity items; but prior to 1962, the 3079th Aviation Depot Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio controlled the weapons located at the two aviation depot squadrons (AVDS), the 3096th AVDS at Travis AFB in California and the 3097th AVDS at Westover AFB in Massachusetts. Personnel at these two sites maintained and stored the
On April 18, 1962, as part of an effort to reduce personnel at the headquarters level, AFLC announced the inactivation of the 3097th; Kelly's Directorate of Special Weapons would pick up its responsibilities on July 1. On that date, SAAMA activated the 39th Logistics Support Group, assigning to it the two logistics support squadrons which provided airlift support (the 7th at Robins AFB, Georgia, and the 19th at Kelly) and the two aviation depot squadrons. The 39th was short-lived, however; on July 1, 1963, SAAMA deactivated the group; the 7th and 19th Logistics Support Squadrons were reassigned to the Military Airlift Transportation Service, and the aviation depot squadrons were assigned directly under the Special Weapons Directorate.

The aviation depot squadrons' work load increased during the 1970s. On February 15, 1970, the 3096th AVDS completed its move from Travis AFB, California, to Nellis AFB, Nevada. Located outside Las Vegas, Nellis had more space for expanded facilities and construction of a new air freight terminal needed by the 3096th. On July 1, 1971, AFLC activated a new AVDS, the 3098th, at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico. This was part of an overall reorganization of nuclear responsibilities which came about as a result of the redesignation of the Defense Atomic Support Agency to the Defense Nuclear Agency. Two years later, on September 1, 1973, the 3097th AVDS completed its move from Westover to Barksdale AFB, Louisiana, with the phase down of Westover. The 3097th remained at Barksdale until October 1, 1988, when the unit was inactivated and its responsibilities assumed by the other two aviation depot squadrons.

Stony Brook Air Force Station (AMC) was one of the seven (five Air Force, one Army and one Navy) Operational Storage Sites (OSS) located within the United States. Stony Brook performed the vital functions of providing maintenance, storage and provision of nuclear weapons for the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War. The Operational Storage Sites represented a period of tactical transition from the large, centralized structures of the National Stockpile Sites (NSS) to the physically smaller alert facilities in closer strategic proximity to Air Force bases. This transitional period spanned approximately 10 years, from 1952 to 1962. The National Stockpile Sites continued in operation throughout most of this period, but the strategic importance of the OSS became primary.

3079th Aviation Depot Wing

On 17 March 1954, a 3084th Aviation Depot Squadron was organized at Westover AFB. It was initially manned with personnel from the 1091st Special Reporting Squadron out of Sandia Base, New Mexico.

On 1 July 1954, the 3084th Aviation Depot Squadron was redesignated the 3084th Aviation Depot Group. At the same time, three squadrons were organized and assigned to this Group. One was the 3084th Operations Squadron, the others were the 3084th Support Squadron and the 3084th Security Squadron. On 1 November 1954, Stony Brook Air Force Station was designated as a separate station under the Air Materiel Command (Air Force Logistics Command).
The 3084th Operations Squadron was redesignated the 3097th Aviation Depot Squadron on 1 March 1957.

Stony Brook and the other Operational Storage Sites were assigned to the 3079th Aviation Depot Wing, Air Materiel Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. This Wing remained active until July 1962.

During the approximately 19 years of its operations, Stony Brook AFS carried out its primary Cold War mission to maintain the United States' capability of launching a sustained attack in a nuclear encounter. The 3084th Aviation Depot Group's prescribed mission was to "(a) operate and maintain special weapons storage activities for the Department of Defense as well as to maintain the capability to assemble, modify, maintain and perform the custodial transfer of complete weapons and/or components to combat or storage organizations, (b) to provide command and staff supervision over assigned units and to exercise such control as may be prescribed over attached units, (c) to provide services to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) as agreed upon between the AEC and the Air Materiel Command (AMC), and to receive weapons from the AEC for training exercises, maneuvers, execution of the Emergency War Plan, or as directed by higher authority, (d) to correlate the required station D-Day ground defense support with the commander of the appropriate Army area, and (e) to maintain disaster control plans as necessary to cope with emergency and disaster situations and to execute such plans as required.(1) Stony Brook's Q Area was associated with Westover AFB of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) and it was focused upon the stockpiling and maintenance of atomic and thermonuclear bomb components, both nuclear and non-nuclear.

On 1 July 1962, Stony Brook and the other Operational Storage Sites were transferred from the Air Materiel Command to the Strategic Air Command (SAC). One Westover/Stony Brook veteran describes this period: "I was at Westover from 1964 to 1967. SAC ran everything outside the Q area - motor pool, firehouse, and security. They also took over the mess hall, clubs and recreation areas. The 3097th ADS, AFLC (Air Force Logistics Command), ran the Q area. We supported the SAC wing with all their nuclear weapons needs. SAC inspected and maintained the bomb release racks but we loaded the clip-in assemblies and delivered them to the bomber alert ramps using the old straddle carriers. We still had a handling section on duty in the Q area 24 hours a day. The first underground bunker was used for ops control, QC, maintenance officer and training. It was connected to Plant A via a tunnel. Maintenance and training was done in Plant A and sometimes we uploaded and downloaded clip-ins. Most maintenance was performed in Plant B - LLC exchanges, parachute swaps, etc. We received weapons from Europe and also shipped weapons out to other bases. We did some modifications, alternations and demilitarization's." (Wines, Glenn, SMSGT, retired)

The 3097th Aviation Depot Squadron at Stony Brook, and the 3096th Aviation Depot Squadron at Fairfield Air Force Station (Travis AFB, CA) were the only two aviation depot squadrons of the Operational Storage Sites that were not discontinued on 1 July 1962. They were both reassigned on that date to the SAAMAS (San Antonio Area Materiel Area), per Special Orders G-38, Air Force Logistics Command, Wright-Patterson AFB. The Stony Brook physical site, however, was transferred to SAC, per Special Orders G-46, AFLC, WPAFB. The Fairfield Air Force Station site was transferred to the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).
The 3097th Aviation Depot Squadron was eventually transferred in 1973, along with all of its equipment, nuclear weapons, etc. to Bossier Base, Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana when Stony Brook Air Force Station was closed down and sold to private entities in the early 1970s.

The nuclear weapons stored and maintained on Stony Brook and other Operational Storage Sites, as well as the National Stockpile Sites, were transported world-wide (utilizing the C-124 Globemaster, primarily) by three Logistic Support Squadrons, the 7th LSS out of Robins AFB in Georgia, the 19th LSS out of Kelly AFB in Texas and the 28th LSS from Hill AFB in Utah. The LSSs were organized in the period from 1952 to 1954 and were assigned to the 3079th Aviation Depot Wing, Air Materiel Command, headquartered on Wright-Patterson AFB in Ohio. Upon the deactivation of the operational sites and the 3079th ADW in 1962, the LSSs were reassigned to the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

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Sources