

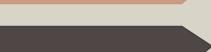
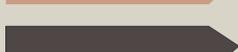
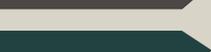
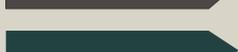
*Cold War Landscapes  
at Fort Hood, Texas*



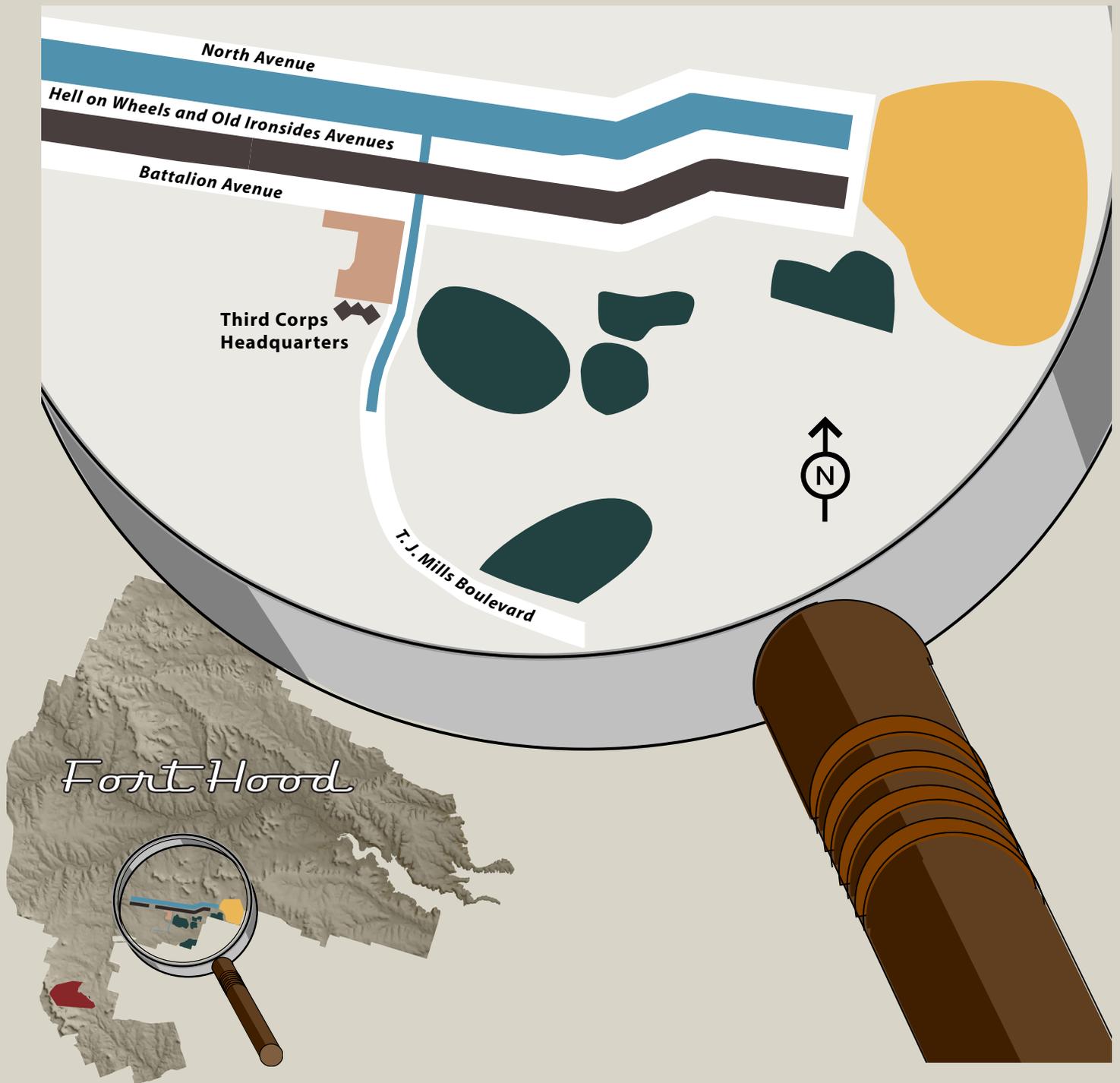
# *Cold War Landscapes at Fort Hood, Texas*

**Dedicated to the indomitable spirit of the soldiers  
who built Fort Hood with unwavering allegiance**

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The United States and the Soviet Union competed as superpowers on an international stage from about 1946 until 1991, a period known as the Cold War. During this time of escalating global tension, Fort Hood provided thousands of soldiers with modern living and training spaces. These logically arranged corridors of activity placed headquarters and administration buildings near the entrance, followed by long rows of barracks. Motor pool operations and training ranges extended beyond the barracks. A network of interior roads bordered these functional corridors and linked them to the railroad. Cold War-era special use areas included Hood Army Airfield, Killeen Base, and neighborhoods built for Army families. As the installation continues to evolve, older landscapes will be modified or demolished. This publication preserves a record of Fort Hood's historically significant Cold War landscapes.



# From Camp to Fort

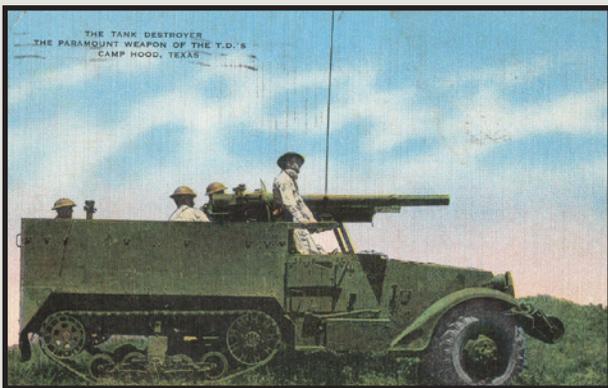


**Camp Hood** was established in 1942 to train the tank destroyer battalions that eventually triumphed over Axis forces in Europe during World War II. Designed to eradicate enemy combat vehicles, tank destroyers were heavily loaded with powerful weapons and able to penetrate most targets. Training required wide-open spaces for large-scale maneuvers and mock battles, and the 160,000 acres carved out of Bell and Coryell Counties fulfilled this purpose.



In 1943, soldiers marched in review along Central (now Old Ironsides) and Park (now Hell on Wheels) Avenues, the major thoroughfares used for mustering, parades, and parking.

**The 4,000-acre cantonment** was arranged in a series of long rectangular corridors to maintain efficient flow of activities. By the end of 1943, the Army had 5,630 wood-frame temporary buildings in use as motor pools, warehouses, headquarters, and barracks for the 95,000 troops stationed at Camp Hood. A uniform military design was developed for each type of building. When the Army shifted its focus from tank destroyers to more powerful tanks, 50,000 field artillery soldiers were training on base.



The specially developed M-3 tank destroyer had 75-millimeter antitank guns on armored halftracks, with wheels on the front for steering and weight-bearing continuous tracks—also known as caterpillar tracks—at the back for propulsion.



A small combat unit poses in front of their tarpaper headquarters building.



**Fort Hood** was designated a permanent military installation in 1950, foreshadowing its growth to a sprawling 208,000-acre military base. The Second Armored Division, deployed to Fort Hood in 1946, was joined by the First Armored Division in 1951 and the Fourth Armored Division in 1954, which bolstered the base with 40,000 more soldiers by 1961. The Third Corps headquarters also arrived in 1954 to direct mobilization and training exercises for combat units; it became part of the Strategic Army Corps in 1962. With the advent of new long-range tank guns, the Army enlarged its mission at Fort Hood and acquired additional land. The linear cantonment quadrupled in size during the Cold War to almost 16,000 acres. Cold War training evolved to match the ever-changing needs of a modern army.



Crews snap away from their mortars as weapons fire in 1961.



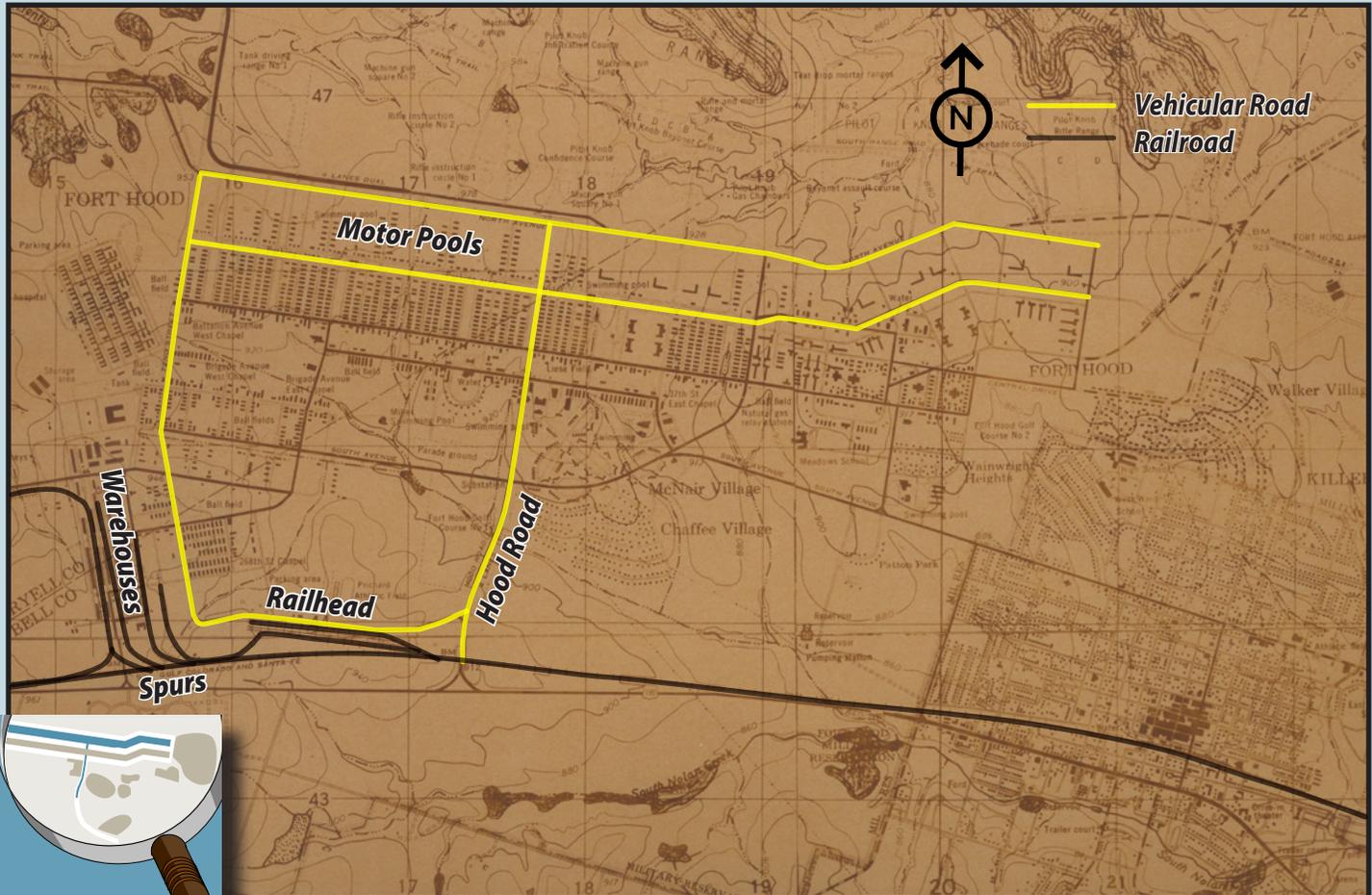
A tank crew prepares for mock battle training exercises during the Vietnam War era.



Soldiers charge from personnel carriers during a firepower demonstration in 1961.



# On the Move



The World War II–era network of roads and railroad spurs flowed so well that it remained unaltered until the 1990s. Fort Hood’s long expanse of motor pool operations extends almost 5 miles, and two north-south roads connect them to the railhead, its spurs, and the warehouse district.

**The First and Second Armored Divisions** tested new combat vehicles and trained the mechanized infantry during the Cold War. As the Army’s mission evolved and Fort Hood expanded, planners capitalized on the existing road system. Three long, broad, parallel east-west avenues established corridors of activity—headquarters, barracks, motor pools, and training range. This created unobstructed access that proved ideal for rapid deployment. The central north-south route, Hood Road (now T. J. Mills Boulevard), linked each corridor to the main entrance and railhead south of the cantonment. The railhead and associated warehouse district had designated areas for loading troops and equipment.



The broad open space between Central and Park Avenues divided barracks (left) from motor pools (right).

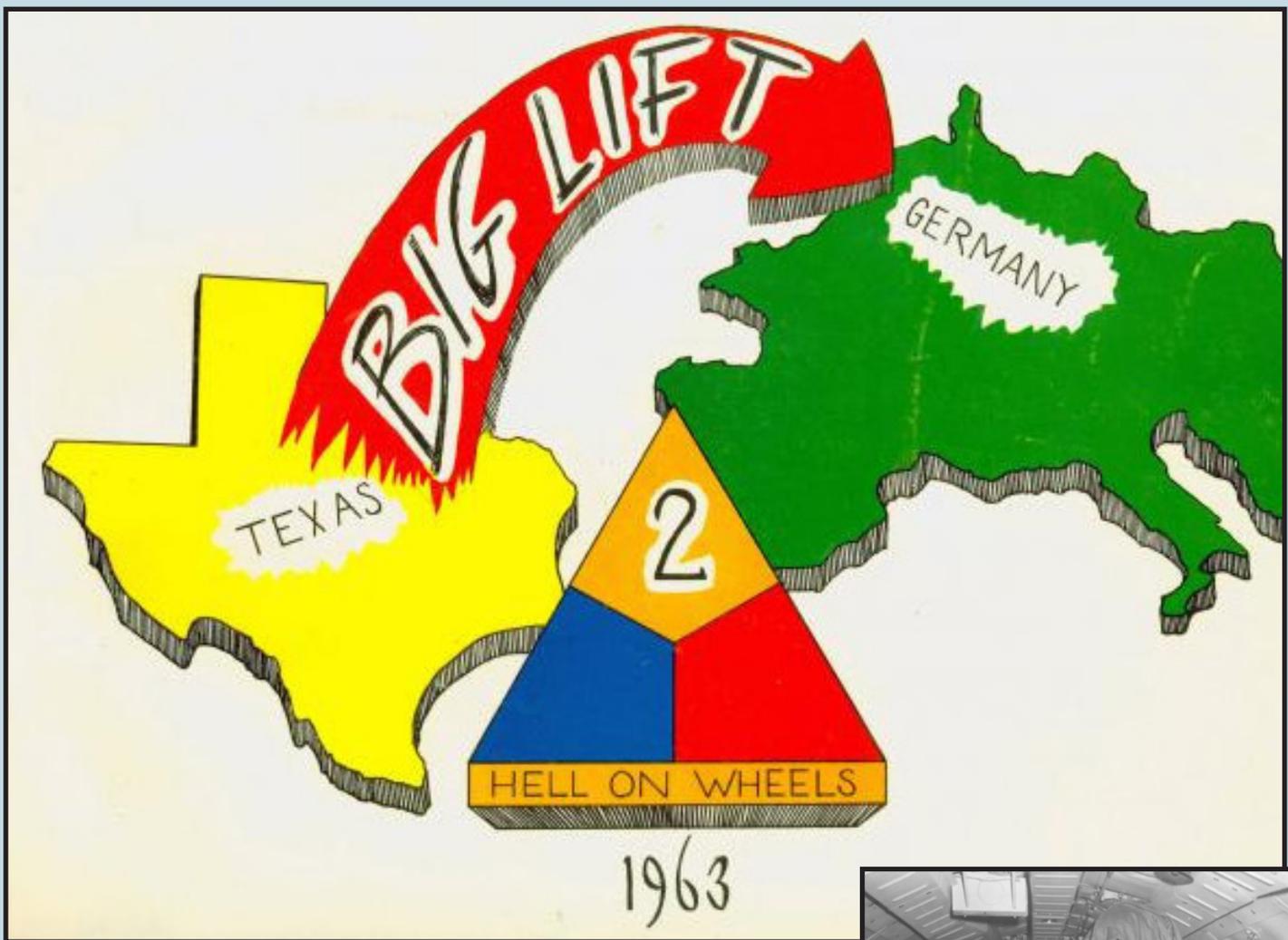


First Armored Division soldiers with the 16th Engineering Battalion secure medium tanks to flatcars for shipment via railroad as part of a mobility test in 1960.

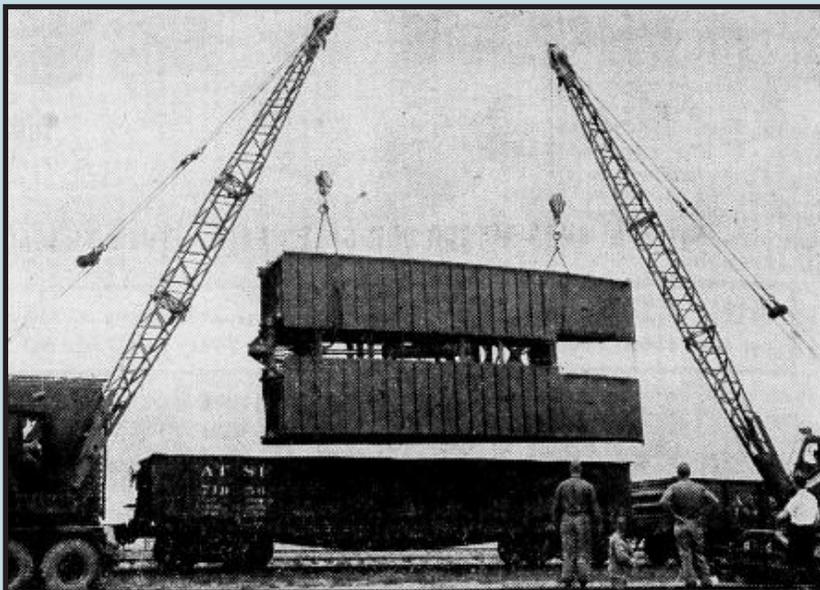


Army wives and children wait at the railhead for First Armored Division soldiers to return after the Cuban missile crisis in December 1962. With 19,000 troops, 2,000 tanks, and an arsenal of surface-to-surface nuclear-capable missiles, it was the only divisional Army ground combat unit deployed for the emergency.





It took 200 Military Air Transport Service aircraft to fly troops to Germany, where they were shuttled to waiting tanks for Operation Big Lift.



A vehicle-launched bridge is hoisted onto a railroad car for transport to Operation Desert Strike. An M-48 tank chassis would erect the portable bridge over obstructions and waterways, and retract it after tanks had crossed.

**Motor pool operations** supported tank training and large-scale mobilization of the Army. Soldiers assigned to motor pool operations had constant work since every vehicle needed regular inspection and preventive maintenance, plus diagnostic analysis for specific problems. Wear and tear on vehicles required body and frame repair, welding, sanding,

and painting in the enormous L-shaped repair shops that rhythmically line the motor pool corridor (below right). The layout and building design of motor pool clusters changed considerably during the Cold War, but continued to serve as the critical transition zone between battalion barracks (below left) and the vast training range.





Each repair shop has several bays with overhead metal garage doors and tool, equipment, and office areas.



**Motor pool personnel** performed a variety of tasks during the Cold War, from studying suspension systems (left) to power washing M-48 tanks returning from training exercises on the range (below).





# The Army in the Air



**Hood Army Airfield** complemented the World War II tank destroyer mission and became a fundamental component of the Cold War training mission. Soldiers at Hood Army Airfield pioneered Army aviation, combat helicopters, and combined arms training.



Observation airplanes could hedgehop, spot the enemy, and indicate adversary positions during World War II.

An aerial photograph of Fort Hood, Texas, showing a large military installation with numerous buildings, parking lots, and a runway. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid in the upper left quadrant of the image.

**With the rise** of an independent Air Force focused on fixed-wing aircraft, the Army dedicated its airborne operations to rotary-wing aircraft. Helicopters—able to move vertically, horizontally, laterally, and hover in place—transported army troops to reconnaissance, medical evacuation, and fire support maneuvers and operations during the Cold War.

*Fort Hood pioneered Army aviation.*

# 1ST AD ORDERED TO REACTIVATE

78-274



own and  
of the

8 Pages

## is Nucleus Division

### in Next Week Pacesetter Sets Firing Exercises

"Pacesetter" of Combat Com- in action and will be fired with  
mand C, 2d Armored Division, live ammunition including arti-  
are making final preparations for- lery and mortar fire directed by  
ward firing exercises to be con- forward observers. The test will  
ducted during January. be operated under actual combat  
The 6th Army will lead the conditions.



**Semi-permanent metal hangar**

The only STRAC Armored command in the United States, CCA, 1st Armored Division commander, pres-  
ents to the Co. A, 13th Cavalry, CCA, 1st AD in p  
man's tank gunnery competition. (left to right) SP  
Sp-5 Ricardo E. Cruz, and PFC Francis Yaskbelch  
aid E. Brown of Bq. Co., 13th Cavalry, member of t



**Maintenance hangar**

is same period, the  
ry will be preparing to  
the Infantry Platoon Fir-  
the last week in  
the battalion will com-  
pens. Squad and platoon  
systems will be conduct-  
finishing touches ap-  
operations.  
field training will be  
during the next three  
units of the battalion on  
unit level. On Jan. 29  
will begin live firing

**Arrives  
In 1962**  
...the first dependent of  
Year, when the stock  
minute 1962 coffee  
then winged his way  
Hood United States  
initial on the first of  
many trips.  
"Little Tanker" ar-  
at 12:01 a.m. Jan. 1.  
parents of the five-  
and three-quarter ounce  
and Mrs. Lawrence  
Mitchell is a mem-  
& Hq. Co., CCA,  
young Mitchell sign-  
Lawrence Mitchell.

**1ST ARMORED DIVISION TOP TANK GUNNER**  
(right), CCA, 1st Armored Division commander, pres-  
ents to the Co. A, 13th Cavalry, CCA, 1st AD in p  
man's tank gunnery competition. (left to right) SP  
Sp-5 Ricardo E. Cruz, and PFC Francis Yaskbelch  
aid E. Brown of Bq. Co., 13th Cavalry, member of t

**Year Brought Many Chang**  
**Buildup Highli**  
**1961 Major Ne**

Any attempt to recall the ma-  
strengthened CCA's o  
for news happenings of the past posture.  
year at Fort Hood brings to mind  
certain names and events which  
stand above all others in the past  
year of change and world crisis.  
Exercise Thunderbolt Postair 81-  
5, killed as the first ja  
Air Force exercise ever  
ed in the continental  
States, kicked off the y  
je events at Fort Hood  
28. The exercise lasted  
and involved 5,000 troops  
from CCA, 1st Armored  
With Air Force supp  
threw the Aggressors o  
prog in what Brig. Gen  
H. del Mar, then CCA c  
er termed, "an exercise  
a gratifying success, a

**Post Oper**  
**From Econ**  
Fort Hood is one of t  
military installations in  
approximately 27,000 m  
personnel are assigned to  
and it is the place of em  
for 2,000 civilians.  
It is understandable  
the payroll for military  
in personnel here plus  
tenance and construction  
to small figure.  
For the 1st calendar  
and a-half million dolla  
the government treas  
paid out for these nee  
This figure excludes some  
ser expenditures.  
In 1961 military person  
Fort Hood were paid a  
forty-five million, nine-hundred  
thousand dollars. This figure does

In the first of many com-  
mand changes, Gen. Wright  
Mar left Fort Hood Oct. 13,  
to take over a new assign-  
ment as commander of the  
2d Armored Division.

ed battalions. These will be  
formed into brigades.  
Division Artillery composed of  
105mm, 160mm, 8-inch howitzers  
and Honest John rockets will  
provide fire support to the tank  
battalions.

North Fort Hood will be used  
in part. A number of plans are  
being considered. It is possible  
that some support units now at  
Fort Hood may be transferred.  
It is also being planned to re-

### Gen. Wright Cuts Ribbon

## Control Tower Opened At Fort Hood Airfield

When the new Control Tower at  
the Fort Hood airfield was com-  
pleted Dec. 22, 1961, Fort Hood  
could boast of one of the most  
modern and well-equipped struc-  
tures of its type in the Army.  
At ribbon-cutting ceremonies  
that day, Maj. Gen. W. H. S.  
Wright, Fort Hood and 2d Ar-  
mored Division commander,  
donned a set of earphones and  
called in the first aircraft through  
the tower's modern radio system.  
Maj. W. B. Cooper, who was  
spending his last week as post  
aviation commander, assisted the  
general in bringing in the L-  
20 Beaver.

Through the control tower's new  
radio consoles, first contact with  
the aircraft is made about five  
statute miles out. Shortly after  
that, the aircraft comes into view  
through the tinted glass observa-  
tion windows that span the cir-  
cumference of the seventh and  
top story of the building. A clear  
and unobstructed view of the en-  
tire airfield offers little chance for  
error.  
Just before Gen. Wright took  
the controls he sliced the tradi-  
tional ribbon, officially opening  
the tower. Refreshments were  
served after the ceremonies for  
some 30 officers who were pre-



Construction was begun on the  
new control tower in September,  
1960. It was built to replace the  
older tower which was based on  
a wooden frame and about half  
the height of the new brick struc-  
ture.  
Besides having new and more  
efficient radio consoles, the new  
tower includes a meteorology con-  
trol which was lacking before,  
plus other equipment that adds an  
extra margin of safety.  
KLEN radio in Killeen was s  
present at the ribbon cutting ce-  
remonies with a mobile unit for a  
live broadcast and running com-  
mentary of the control tower's  
opening. The present post avi-  
ation commander, Lt. Col. Albert  
F. Myers, was on hand for the  
ceremonies. He succeeded Maj.  
Cooper a few days after the tow-  
er's opening. Also present was  
Col. Cecil Himes, Fort Hood de-  
puty post commander.

### Safety Lectures Scheduled Here

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, the Tex-  
as Department of Public Safety  
will present an informative and  
educational traffic safety orienta-  
tion at Theater No. 1.  
Capt. Sam J. Gardner of the  
Waco District of the Texas High-  
way Patrol, assisted by Sgt. Joe



**Operations building**

where he headed a panel of of-  
ficers conducting broad-scale  
Army organizational studies.  
He returned to Fort Hood Oct.  
16.

**FORT HOOD**  
T. CC. T. 11

operations from Oct. 27, 1961.  
Peoples Hall (formerly 5700) is  
named in honor of Lt. Arthur F.  
Peebles Jr., 67th Armored Regi-  
ment, cited for heroism during  
operations from Oct. 27, 1961.

**Hood Army Airfield** was substantially improved during the Cold War with hangars, aircraft and avionics maintenance shops, an operations building, and a seven-story control tower. New radar surveillance and ground-control approach systems enabled bad-weather landings. Pictured here, many of the buildings incorporate International Style architectural design with flat or low-pitched roofs, smooth unadorned exterior surfaces, and lack of ornamentation.

**Gen. Wright Cuts Ribbon**

## Control Tower Opened At Fort Hood Airfield

When the new Control Tower at the Fort Hood airfield was completed Dec. 22, 1961, Fort Hood could boast of one of the most modern and well-equipped structures of its type in the Army.

At ribbon-cutting ceremonies that day, Maj. Gen. W. H. S. Wright, Fort Hood and 2d Armored Division commander, donned a set of earphones and called in the first aircraft through the tower's modern radio system. Maj. W. B. Cooper, who was spending his last week as post aviation commander, assisted the general in bringing in the L-20 Beaver.

Through the control tower's new radio consoles, first contact with the aircraft is made about five statute miles out. Shortly after that, the aircraft comes into view through the tinted glass observation windows that span the circumference of the seventh and top story of the building. A clear and unobstructed view of the entire airfield offers little chance for error.

Just before Gen. Wright took the controls he sliced the traditional ribbon, officially opening the tower. Refreshments were served after the ceremonies for some 30 officers who were present at the occasion.

Construction was begun on the new control tower in September, 1960. It was built to replace the older tower which was based on a wooden frame and about half the height of the new brick structure.

Besides having new and more efficient radio consoles, the new tower includes a meteorology control which was lacking before, plus other equipment that adds an extra margin of safety.

KLEN radio in Killeen was present at the ribbon cutting ceremonies with a mobile unit for a live broadcast and running commentary of the control tower's opening. The present post aviation commander, Lt. Col. Albert F. Myers, was on hand for the ceremonies. He succeeded Maj. Cooper a few days after the tower's opening. Also present was Col. Cecil Himes, Fort Hood deputy post commander.

### Safety Lectures Scheduled Here

On Wednesday, Jan. 10, the Texas Department of Public Safety will present an informative and educational traffic safety orientation at Theater No. 1.

Capt. Sam J. Gardner of the Waco District of the Texas Highway Patrol, assisted by Sgt. Joe A. Perry of the Safety Education Service of the Department of Public Safety, will present three lectures on this date for all officers and all enlisted grades of E-7 E-8, E-9 of Fort Hood.

The purpose of the presentation is to give strength to the accident prevention program of Fort Hood and to emphasize the importance of individual responsibility in accident prevention and in upholding the traffic laws and regulations. Local traffic problems will also be given attention.



Aircraft maintenance shop



Airfield control tower

**With air cavalry infrastructure** in place, the Army tested combat readiness, combining the strengths of modern helicopters, traditional tank destroyers, and foot soldiers. Air cavalry combat and air mobile brigades were united with a typical armored brigade, division artillery, and support units. While tanks stunned opponents on the ground, transport helicopters quickly moved small groups of troops to specific locations, and attack helicopters offered platforms for machine guns. The HueyCobra was the premier attack helicopter in

1967, and it remained the backbone of the Army's fleet until the 1990s. The two-engine, tandem-rotor Chinook, essential for artillery replacement, battlefield resupply, and recovery of downed aircraft, could carry a 7,000-pound payload. Images of helicopters came to symbolize loss during the Vietnam War, and the First Cavalry Division suffered more casualties than any other unit. Yet these images also represented the epitome of survival, with courageous medical evacuation crews saving countless lives.



Under Vietnam-like conditions, soldiers practice ingress and egress from transport helicopters in simulated hot zone and aerial assault landings in the 1960s.





The First Cavalry Division tests the newly adopted HueyCobra attack helicopters for the triple capabilities of armored, air mobility, and air cavalry brigades at Hood Army Airfield in 1966.



A Chinook helicopter prepares to airlift an M-54 Chaparral launching station, which used short-range surface-to-air missiles to combat low-level enemy aircraft.



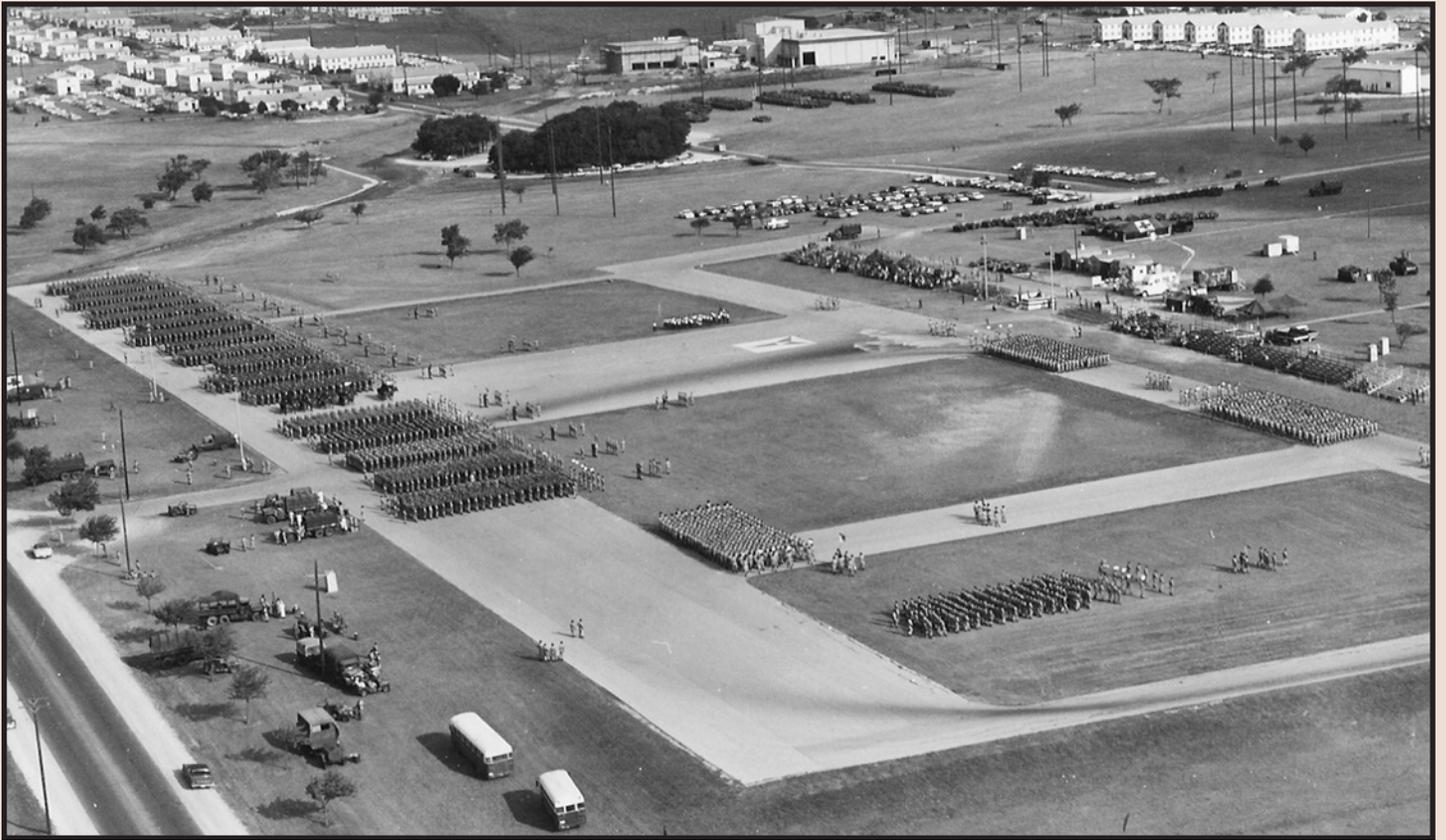
HueyCobra helicopters controlled by a pilot and a co-pilot/gunner hover low to the ground to prevent enemy detection in 1971.



# Ceremonial Places



**Landscapes and architecture**, including parade grounds, headquarters buildings, churches, and museums, honor institutional traditions at Fort Hood. The World War II-era parade ground formed a distinctive semicircle next to the otherwise rectilinear street grid (above). It deviated from typical Army design, which placed parade grounds in a centrally located rectangle anchored by key buildings. During the Cold War, a redesigned parade ground replaced the older arrangement with a more modern setting (facing page).



Sadowski Field was one of the first parade grounds that accommodated large tanks and aircraft.



The First Armored Division receives its colors at Sadowski Field in March 1962.

**With the shift** to a more mechanized military, traditional parade grounds became obsolete. Sadowski Field was one of the first parade grounds designed for troop reviews that accommodated oversized armored tanks and aircraft. Three M-48 tanks could traverse the broad concrete thoroughfares past the review stand, and its proximity to nearby roads allowed parades to expand beyond the already large perimeter.



The First Armored Division's unique jeep-mounted band makes the rounds at Sadowski Field in 1966.

# ARMORED SENTINEL

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VOL. 24, NO. 9

FORT HOOD, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MAY 20, 1966

—16 Pages—

## Biggest Hood Armed Forces Day Ever!

### 1st AD To Fire Rockets

By PFC BOB ANDERSON  
Five 1st Armored Division senior commands, Division Headquarters and the 501st Aviation Bn., are all pitching in to insure that Fort Hood's 1966 Armed Forces Day celebration Saturday, May 21, is the biggest and best ever held in the history of this mammoth military installation.

The highlight of the day's activities will be two firings of the Honest John Rocket by the 1st Armored Division's 3rd Bn., 2nd Artillery. Two lucky Fort Hood visitors will get the opportunity to press the button that will launch the giant missile skyward. The firings are scheduled for 1:30 and 3:30 p.m., Saturday, east of the Fort Hood Rod and Gun Club.

Two days this week, the massive Honest John Rocket and its mobile launcher toured area towns. On Wednesday, the rocket was displayed in Belton, Temple and Elgin. The following day, the giant missile visited Copperas Cove and Lampasas.

The two persons who fire the Honest John rocket will be selected by a drawing of tickets distributed to the public.



SPIC AND SPAN—Two members of the 2nd Armored Division's 124th Maintenance Bn., PFC Darrell Volper (sitting) and PFC Thomas Compton get things ship shape in preparation for "Crown



VISITORS WILL FIRE—Two lucky visitors to Fort Hood Armed Forces Day will be selected to push a button and send skyward one of the two Honest John rockets to be fired by the 1st AD's 3rd Bn., 2nd Artillery. The firings are scheduled for 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. at a launching site east of the Fort Hood Rod and Gun Club. Visitors will fill out tickets and a name will be selected a half hour prior to each firing. (U.S. Army Photo)



### 2nd AD To Feature Tank Rides

By PFC LES GOLDBERG  
"... The Armed Forces of the United States serve as a unified team, at home and at outposts throughout the world, insuring our own security and the security of our friends abroad, and fostering the settlement of international differences by peaceful processes."

In his Armed Forces Day proclamation President Lyndon B. Johnson states why we have an Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Contributing to Saturday's Armed Forces Day activities, which focus on the men and might that serve to guard our rights and freedoms, is the 2nd Armored Division.

Hell On Wheels will combine with Old Ironsides, the 1st Armored Division, III Corps and Fort Hood in showing the public the honor and pride inherent in their tradition and evident today.

May 21, 1966 has been declared a training holiday for all III Corps and Fort Hood units. Duties will be suspended on this date except scheduled ceremonies, Armed Forces Day activities, necessary duties, and guard and fatigue details. Military personnel are encouraged to wear the uniform and attend scheduled Armed Forces Activities. The day will begin with an Armed Forces Review at 8:30 a.m. at Sadowski Field with Governor John B. Connally as honored guest. The review will conclude at 10:00 a.m.

DA Allocations  
Total 1,364



### 2nd Armored Graduates Driver AIT

Recently, the 2nd Armored Division's 502nd Supply Transport Bn. graduated a total of 57 advanced individual trainees (AIT's).

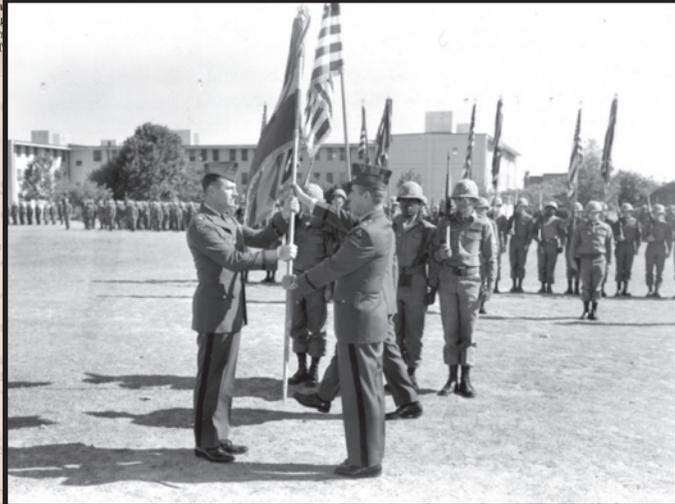
The young soldiers trained in the operation and driver maintenance of light medium vehicles.

Capt. Samuel N. Wake, commander of Co. B and in charge of the AIT training course, commended the graduates and viewed their experiences.

LT Col. Thomas E. ... commander of the 2nd AD ... and LT George E. Hall, 502nd S&T commander, attended the ceremony and gave certificates of appreciation to each young soldier.

Pvt. Otis B. Swanson was the honor graduate of the course, and besides his certificate received a letter of commendation and a cigarette lighter bearing the crest of the battalion.

Support Command Chaplain (Capt.) George Ambrose, Jr. gave the invocation and benediction to the graduation.



In November 1969, the Second Armored Division changes command in a ceremony at the parade ground.

This Time Last Year  
Injuries 49  
Fatalities 10

The colors were celebrated for a variety of events—change of command, launch of a new operation, division anniversaries, and special festivities like Armed Forces Day and Battalion's Organization Day.

The First Battalion's 67th Armor Regiment passes command in September 1969 on the Second Armored Division parade ground.

Another highlight of the parade is the drill team sponsored by the 32nd Infantry Bn. The drill team is made up of advanced individual trainees who practiced long hours during off-duty time to perfect a silent drill sequence.

A former member of the Presidential Honor Guard at Fort Meyers, Va., will lead the 24-man team through their precision movements. P-Set ...

### Month-Long Tour Of Texas Slated

The 2nd Armored Division band will travel all over Texas and perform at various community events for the next month.

May 27th they will be at Sadowski Field to perform at the 141st Signal Bn. change of command ceremony.

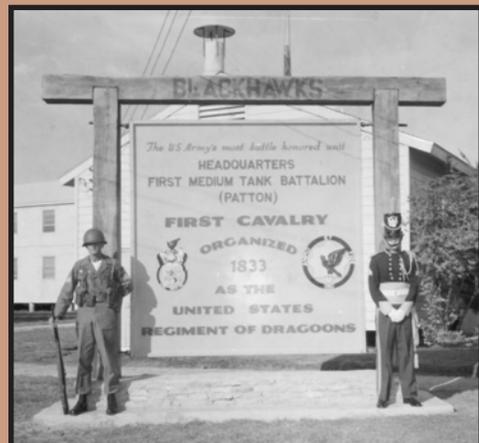
The next day they will be on the road again to attend a retirement ceremony at Fort Worth, Texas. On their return they will play for the 3rd Bn., 2nd Artillery's Organization Day Ceremony.



**The Third Corps headquarters** came to Fort Hood in 1954 with a mandate to test new Cold War doctrines, organizations, and equipment. In 1962, the Third Corps mission expanded to direct training of 137 units for immediate deployment into combat in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. This original headquarters building was replaced in 1989.

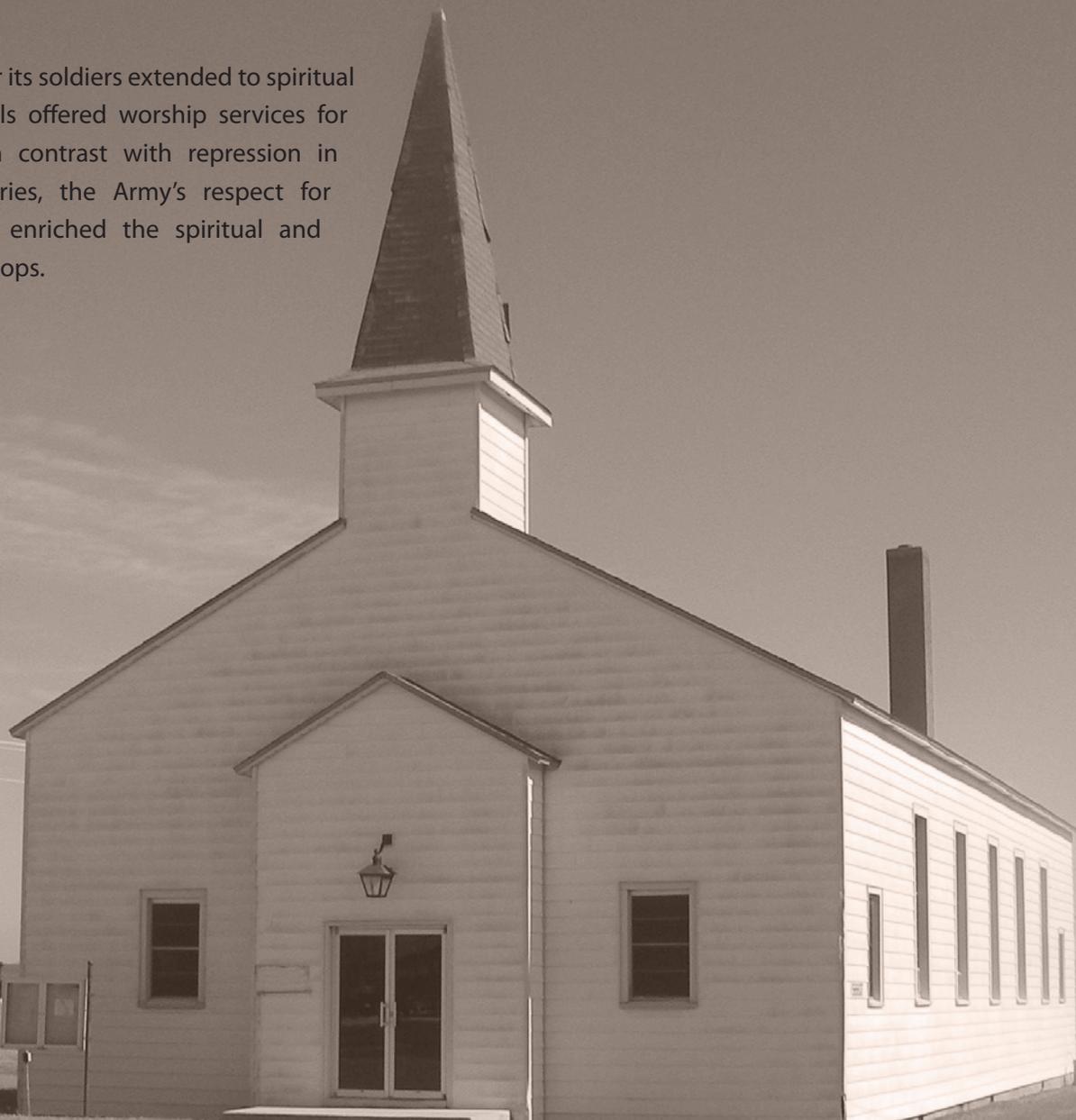


**From the Second Armored Division headquarters,** the Army orchestrated training for heavy armored combat in defense of the North Atlantic Treaty during the Cold War.

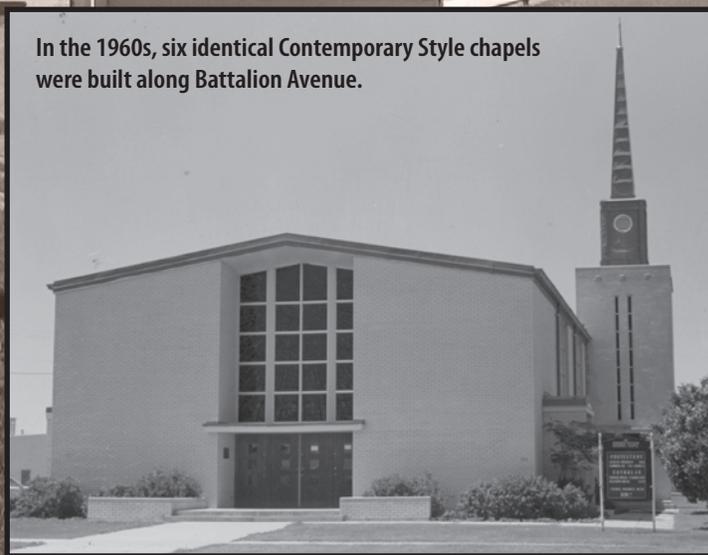


**The First Cavalry Division,** headquartered in a one-story World War II-era wood-frame building beginning in 1971, oversaw the unit's transition from conventional infantry to an air assault unit.

**The Army's care** for its soldiers extended to spiritual fitness, and chapels offered worship services for different faiths. In contrast with repression in Communist countries, the Army's respect for religious freedom enriched the spiritual and moral life of the troops.



Standard World War II-era plans for military chapels emulated the ubiquitous classically inspired small church in America with a traditional towering steeple.



In the 1960s, six identical Contemporary Style chapels were built along Battalion Avenue.

### ***First Cavalry Division Museum***

The First Cavalry Division, activated in 1921, deployed to Fort Hood in 1971. The museum collection commemorates “the First Team’s” many firsts: it was the first American division to enter Manila during World War II, it led allied forces into Tokyo at war’s end, and it guided amphibious landing on North Korea. It was the only division-size unit in the Army to earn a Presidential Unit Citation during the Vietnam War.

### ***Second Armored Division Museum***

Aptly nicknamed “Hell on Wheels,” the Second Armored Division activated in 1940. Troops were fearless in Europe, taking prisoners of war, liberating Allied captives, and destroying thousands of enemy tanks. The collection, established in 1949, is one of the oldest unit museums. Although the division inactivated and transferred in 1995, many documents and photographs remain at the facility, which is now the Third Cavalry Regiment Museum.



The Third Cavalry Regiment Museum is shown here in 1969 when it was the Second Armored Division Museum.



Many small monuments, plaques, and markers on the main cantonment highlight achievements and commemorate units and events. Although it has since been removed, this plaque honored Fort Hood’s 25th anniversary in 1967.



# Barracks Living



Open-bay sleeping quarters in World War II barracks had no interior walls, closets, or curtains. Only the contents of a GI's footlocker were private.

**World War II soldiers** had been accustomed to rustic barracks, but housing the troops in an appealing environment became a priority during the Cold War. Incorporating privacy and relative comfort enhanced living conditions for thousands of GIs. Barracks evolved from rows of bare-bones wood buildings to dormitories of modern design built in clusters with nearby parking lots and open spaces. The Army benefited from the efficiency of arranging an easy linear path for daily movement between the training range, motor pool, and barracks corridors.

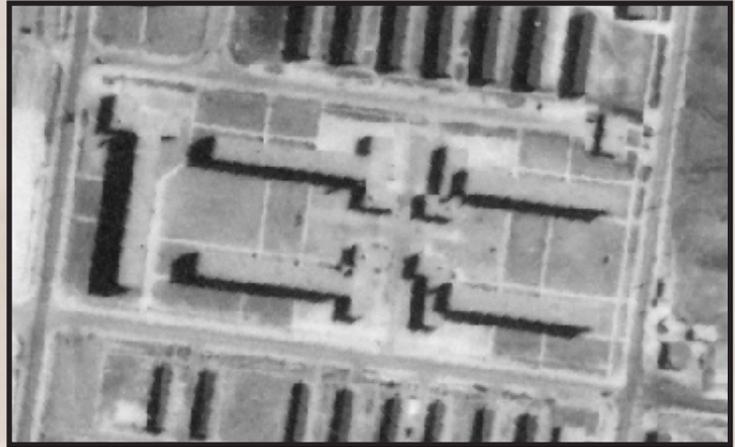


Cold War–era barracks offered soldiers a retreat to private and semi-private dormitory rooms. Accessories like curtains, rugs, lamps, art, bookshelves, televisions, radios, and refrigerators added personality in the 1970s.

*Privacy and comfort were priorities.*

## Hammerhead Barracks

The first new swath of 24 barracks was constructed between 1952 and 1956. Named for the shape of the building footprint, hammerhead barracks were equipped to support a unit. A three-story rectangular wing forms the long handle, with open sleeping bays on the upper floors. The hammer's head is an appended one-story service wing with a mess hall.



## H-Style Barracks

In 1958, barracks complexes in the shape of a gigantic H became the standard. They could each house 326 soldiers, with a company on either side of the building sharing a common mess hall.



## Rolling-Pin Barracks

By the mid 1960s, the Army reverted to dividing living quarters and support services. Between 1966 and 1969, 21 rolling-pin barracks were built with adjacent mess halls, administration, and supply buildings. The building footprints had two skinny "handles" flanking a wider central "barrel." With eight-man squadron rooms, each man had a 65-square-foot area for a wardrobe and bed, luxurious compared to previous barracks.





### **A-Style Barracks**

Eight A-style brick barracks built between 1972 and 1974 were unique to Fort Hood. These buildings had four wings configured in a boxy A shape. They housed the same number of soldiers as rolling-pin barracks but had a smaller footprint. A-style barracks were like dormitories, with five bedrooms sharing a single bathroom. Men and women occupied alternate floors. With wall-to-wall carpet, cable television, vacuum cleaners, and air conditioning, these semi-private rooms offered four-star living quarters.



### **Modular Barracks**

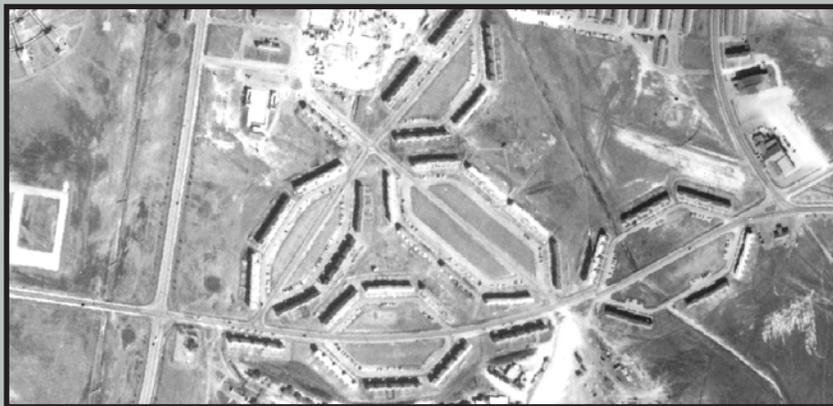
Modular barracks constructed between 1975 and 1978 were designed by Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle, and Wolff to achieve even greater individual privacy. Each could house 3,330 soldiers arranged in clusters of 12-man, 4-bedroom suites with a shared central lounge and living area. Headquarters, mess halls, branch exchanges, dispensaries, and gymnasiums were part of each complex.



# Family Living



**The Wherry (1949) and Capehart Housing (1955) Acts** launched public-private partnerships to build thousands of single- and multiple-family homes at military installations in response to extreme housing shortages after World War II. Wherry and Capehart neighborhoods emulated contemporaneous suburban developments with long blocks of front yard lawns lining curvilinear streets, but they maintained the rigid uniformity of military tradition with practically identical houses equidistant from each other and evenly set back from the streets they faced. Each neighborhood had common open areas and playgrounds. Architectural styles were modest versions of designs popular during the Cold War.



The 34 eight-family buildings at McNair Village, constructed in 1948, were mostly grouped in a hexagonal or octagonal arrangement with carports lining the perimeter of each polygon's central open space. The two-story, 1,080-square-foot units were built for 184 enlisted and 88 officer families.



**Kay Bee Heights**, now known as Montague Village, was built near Killeen Base for airmen and their families. The Minimal Traditional Style houses had symmetrical composition, low-pitched roofs with narrow eaves, and classical- or colonial-inspired details. Richard Bender and his wife resided in this Kay Bee Heights house with their two young sons. They added awnings and a flower box to give their home a personal touch.



**Walker Village** was the first family housing built near the cantonment. The 568 Minimal Traditional Style duplexes and triplexes for enlisted families were complete by 1953, at a cost of about \$8,100 each. Street names in the neighborhood honored World War II heroes with Central Texas roots.



**Wainwright Heights** had 90 single-family homes and duplexes that employed Ranch Style architectural design with asymmetrically composed rambling layouts. Low-slung roofs and wide overhanging eaves emphasized their horizontal appearance.

**BUSY AS BEES**—A beehive of activity surrounds these Capehart housing units being built in Patton Park. Framework for many of the units, like these, is already up and carpenters swarm over the maze of lumber as work continues. All units are expected to be completed by May 8, 1962. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Pellam.)

## To Open Next Year

# New Capehart Construction Going Up Rapidly On Post

Construction on the 800 new Capehart housing units being built here is "a... here is "a... rule, according... resident engine... trict.

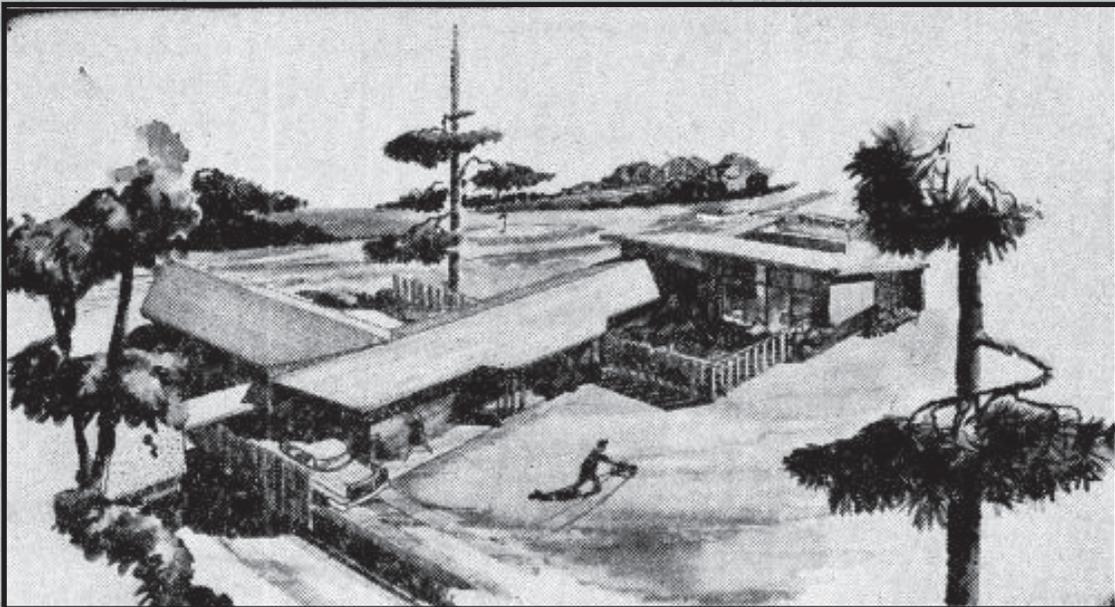
However, th... to be comple... May 8, 1962... quarters Sept.

Two areas... the homes. Th... sion to Patton... by South Ave... Road on the w... 190 on the w... contain 100 ne...

The other... under const... Highway 190... Fort Hood...

in that area... new village has been selected.

Many units in Patton Park are taking shape rapidly. Framework



Alexander, Dunaway, and Jones of Houston contributed this concept drawing for family housing at Fort Hood in 1955.

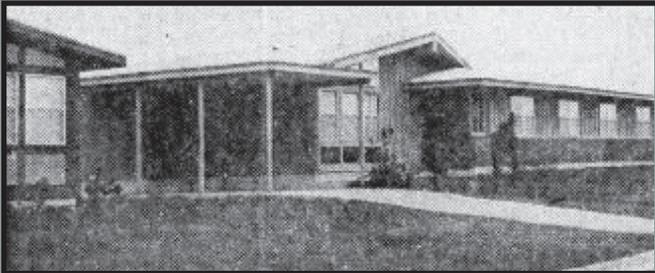
All military and civilian personnel at Fort Hood are eligible to

Nearly 6,000 Fort Hood families

**Contemporary Style homes** in Chaffee Village, Patton Park, and Pershing Park were oblong and asymmetrical with angular geometric massing. Their unusual roof forms often had exposed ridge beams, brackets, and rafter tails protruding under deep eaves. They had no traditional details, but instead featured textured exterior cladding combinations of wood, brick, stone, stucco, and glass. Bands of windows and sliding glass doors connected the interior with the landscape outdoors, a signature characteristic of Contemporary Style design.



**Chaffee Village** provided 238 duplexes for noncommissioned officers and their families. Built to beat the Texas heat, they had deeply overhanging eaves for shade, pale paint colors, and a duct system eventually adapted for central air conditioning. Each two- or three-bedroom interior had an up-to-date utility room with connections for automatic clothes washing machines and dryers.



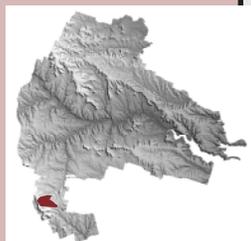
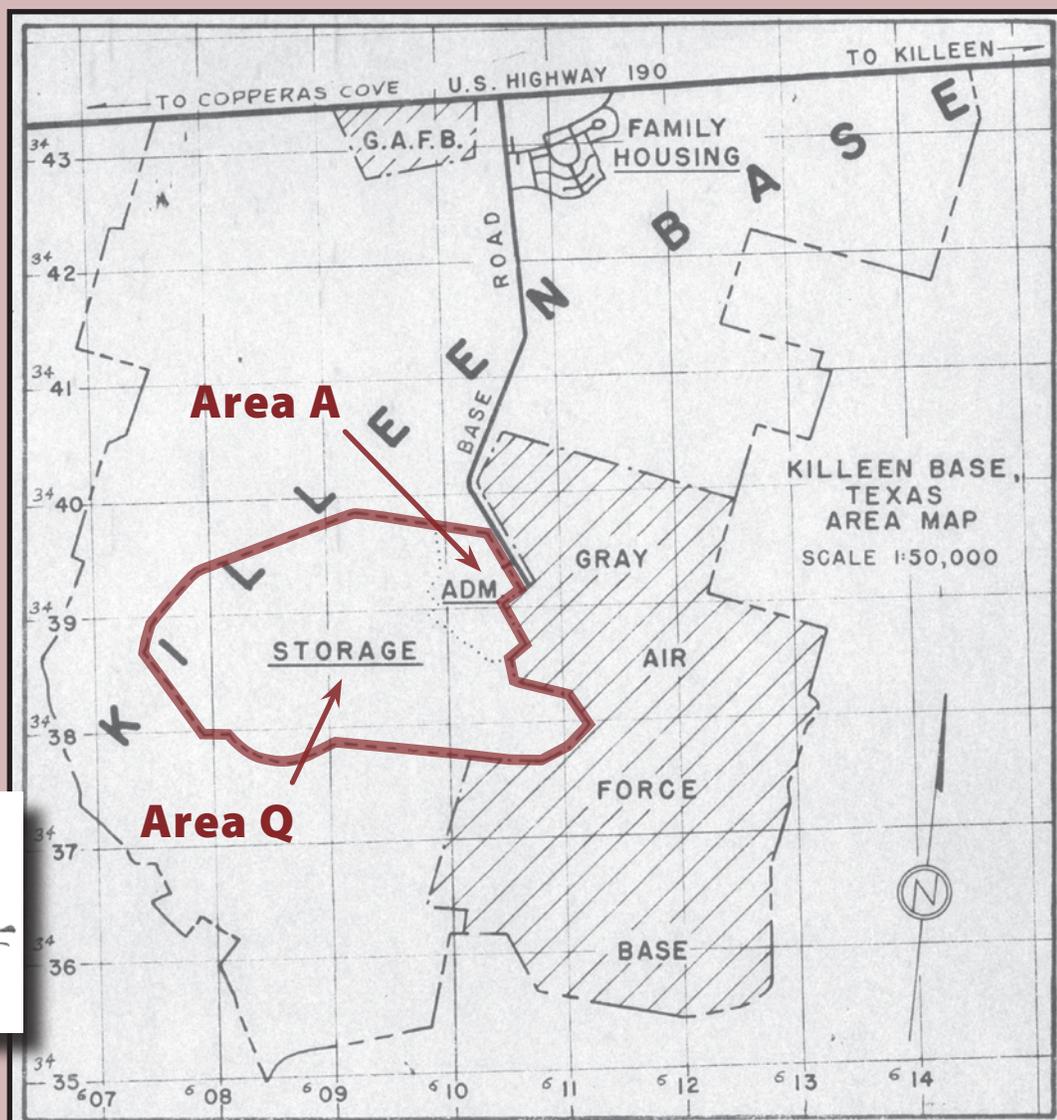
**Patton Park** began with single-family homes developed in 1955 for colonels along 24th Street and for generals on the Patton Drive cul-de-sac. The subdivision expanded in the early 1960s with 100 roomy houses that had three or four bedrooms, a separate study, and an extra-large living room.

**Pershing Park**, built between 1960 and 1962, had 150 two-bedroom and 550 three-bedroom homes, most of them duplexes. This neighborhood was built for company- and field-grade officers and enlisted men.





# A Secret Landscape



**Killeen Base** is a quintessential relic of the Cold War. Stubby hills concealed this 7,000-acre base, which became operational in March 1948 as the first of several national nuclear storage sites. Area A was the cantonment, but the nucleus was Area Q, with two underground atomic bomb plants where personnel maintained and assembled nuclear weapons. Scattered munitions storage igloos—119 of them—were built into bedrock and camouflaged with earth to shelter bomb casings and components. A former Camp Hood air strip was developed into Gray Air Force Base for transporting these “special” weapons. The Air Force operated both bases, and the government-run Atomic Energy Commission and civilian-managed Sandia Corporation directed weapons-related activities for the Defense Atomic Support Agency.



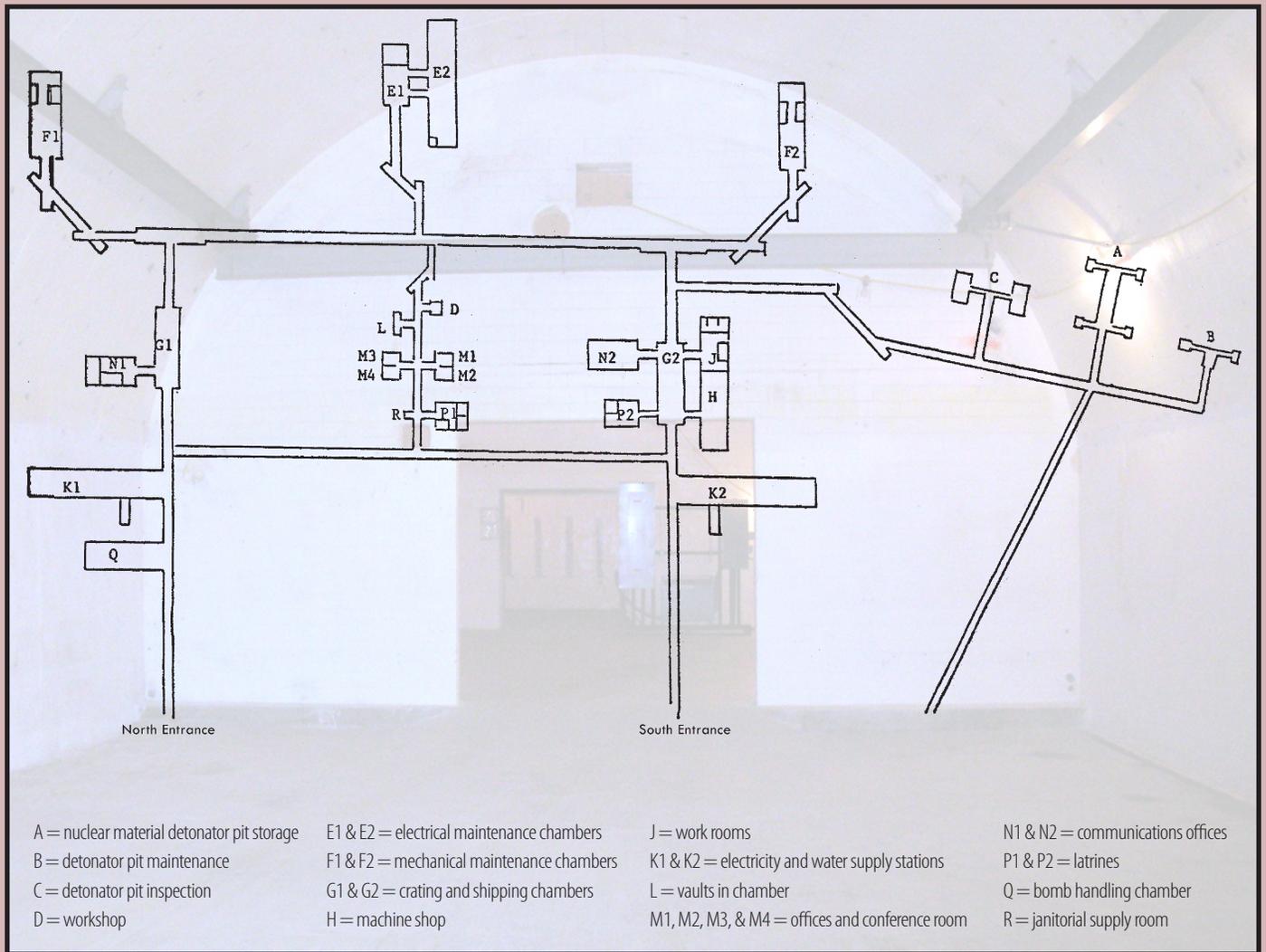
Tucked into the hills, blast-proof entry doors protected access to the atomic bomb plants.



Mural of the Defense Atomic Support Agency shoulder patch that soldiers wore beginning in 1959.



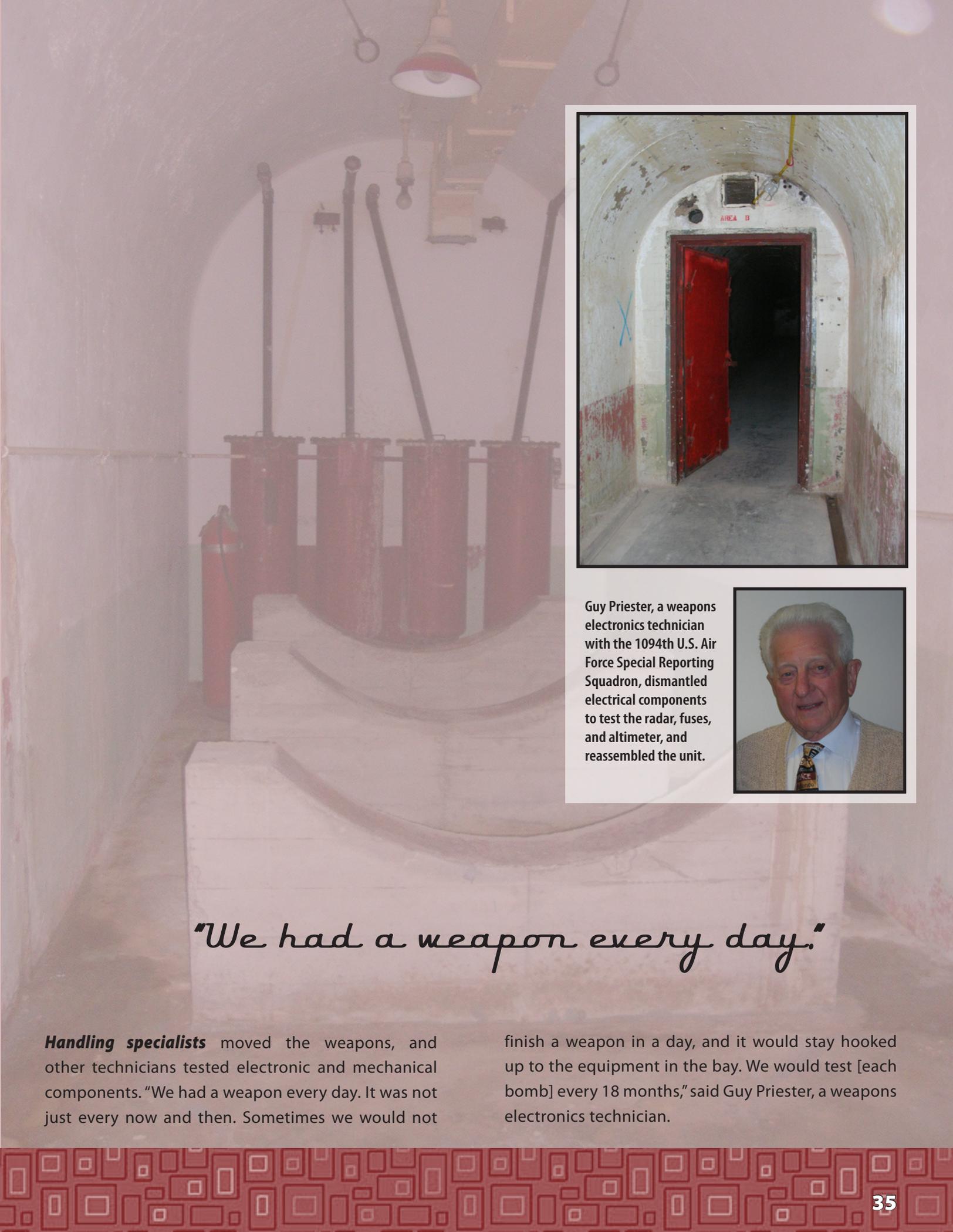
Richard Bender, a handling technician with the 1094th U.S. Air Force Special Reporting Squadron, operated a forklift and other equipment to move bombs and casings through the narrow tunnels of the plants, guided by yellow lines painted on the floor.



**Layout of the atomic bomb plants at Killeen Base**

**Underground buildings** of strengthened concrete and dense steel-reinforced bars and plates were critical to storing atomic materials and bomb casings. Long access tunnels had internal blast traps, blast-proof entry doors, and shock absorption in floors, walls, and roofs. Along the maze of tunnels were rooms for handling bombs, pits, and initiators.

**Chambers for atomic bomb control** had vaults for nuclear material detonator pits. With a half-life of only 138 days, detonator pits needed regular replacement by two men working in the chamber for only an hour at a time. Pits with spent half-lives were transported to another chamber for maintenance before final inspection. The finished pits—grapefruit-sized hollow U-235 and plutonium pits and the smaller polonium-beryllium initiators—were housed in pressurized steel cylinders and stored in protective steel “birdcages.”



Guy Priester, a weapons electronics technician with the 1094th U.S. Air Force Special Reporting Squadron, dismantled electrical components to test the radar, fuses, and altimeter, and reassembled the unit.



*"We had a weapon every day."*

**Handling specialists** moved the weapons, and other technicians tested electronic and mechanical components. "We had a weapon every day. It was not just every now and then. Sometimes we would not

finish a weapon in a day, and it would stay hooked up to the equipment in the bay. We would test [each bomb] every 18 months," said Guy Priester, a weapons electronics technician.

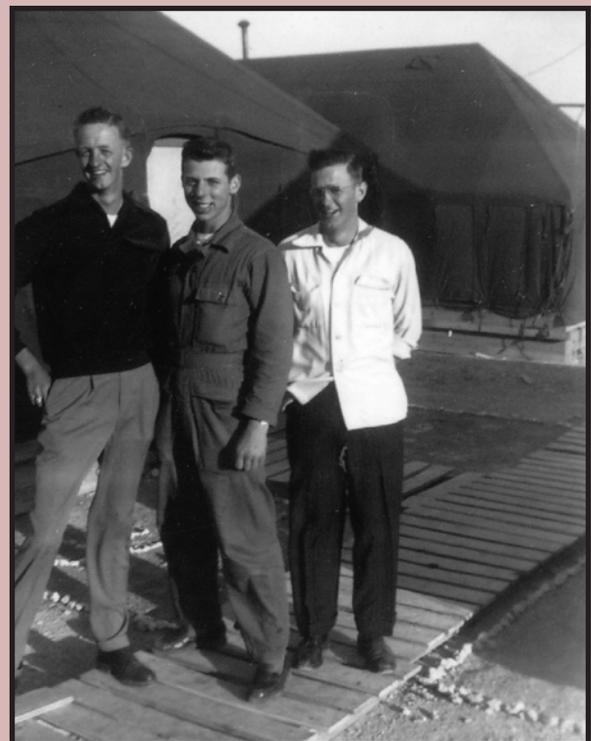




The squadron stands at attention in front of Killeen Base headquarters in 1951.

***The 1094th U.S. Air Force Special Reporting Squadron***

lived and worked at Killeen Base from 1948 to 1952. The Area A cantonment had a headquarters building with four squadron rooms and living quarters comprised of long rectangular sleeping bays lined with bunk beds. Headquarters had a mess hall for enlisted men, a dining hall for officers, barbershop, tailor shop, and recreation room with pool tables, card tables, and television. To alleviate crowding from an influx of new airmen in 1951, a tent city of semi-permanent, 10-man, wood-frame canvas-covered shelters with wood floors was constructed. When the brick bachelor officers' quarters next to headquarters opened later that year, the men moved into the more comfortable barracks.



Posing in front of the 1951 tent city are (left to right) Leland Graves, Galen Tobias, and Milford Graves.

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