

Fort Crook of Early West Changed into Global Command Station

By DONALD R. PIEPER
 United Press International
 Omaha, Neb. — A century ago, at a place called Fort Crook, perched on a Missouri river bluff, the men of the U. S. Cavalry protected the Nebraska prairies against marauding Indians.

Omaha. It was a small place, but it was a key installation in the string of outposts guarding wagon trains and sodhouse homesteads against the painted warriors of the plains.

Today, the same ground where the yellow-kerchiefed cavalrymen once tied their mounts is the headquarters of a military command with the entire globe to protect.

The theory is the same. The awesome strength of the missile-bomber armada of the U. S. Air Force's Strategic Air Command (SAC) deters aggression — not from Indians on spotted ponies, but from international Communism and the threat of thermo-nuclear warfare.

Fort Crook has become Offutt Air Force Base, the home of SAC.

At the south end of the sprawling grounds is a three-story office building housing some of the world's most fantastic electronic equipment and the men who would quarterback the free world's supersonic answer to aggression.

So devastating is SAC's aerospace punch and so swift is its ability to react to aggression and throw this punch that peace has been preserved

during a long line of cold war crises.

It was SAC's power which lurked in the background during the crisis over Cuba and helped provide President Kennedy with a position of strength from which to deal.

Gen. Thomas S. Power, the 57-year-old commander-in-chief of SAC, has said his men are "dedicated to making it instantly unprofitable for an enemy of the United States to resort to that oldest military tactic known to man — the surprise attack."

Every bit as important to power as SAC's military hardware are the 270,000 officers and men who comprise the SAC force. He has called them the "very keystone of SAC's strength."

Global Command Post

Offutt Air Force Base is just one of about 80 SAC bases strung around the world — from Guam to Spain, from North Africa to Alaska. In addition to serving as a command headquarters, Offutt is home for the 34th Tanker Squadron, whose KC135 jets serve as flying gas stations for SAC's bombers, and the 549th strategic missile squadron, which mans a ring of Atlas

rockets capable of reaching Russia.

But it is the global command post buried 45 feet deep in the rich Nebraska soil which is Offutt's heart. From this nearly bomb-proof war room SAC controls its bomber fleet and missile crews.

In this underground nerve center the famous SAC red telephone sits at the elbow of a controller. Should an attack be detected, half of SAC's ever-ready bombers would be sent on their way toward the pre-determined targets on orders dispatched around the globe on this telephone.

A gold telephone gives the controller a direct line to the joint chiefs of staff and the President in Washington. Only the President can give the orders which would allow the bombers dispatched by the red telephone to continue toward their targets.

The staff in the war room is kept up to the second with information fed from computers which assimilate statistics on operational status of aircraft and missiles, current training exercises, force deployment and the weather.

Giant white projection screens almost 20 feet high line one wall of the command post. Information needed to direct the global force in peace and war is projected on these screens.

Power and other SAC chieftains would scurry to the command post in case of war. From a "press box" — a glassed-in room overlooking the command post — they would call the plays for the retaliatory action.

But SAC doesn't settle for half-safe measures in anything. It tries to figure out the worst that could possibly happen — and then prepare to handle it.

Take Direct Hit
 It would take a direct hit — or a very near miss — by a nuclear weapon to knock out the underground headquarters. But it's bound to be one of the choicest targets for an aggressor, and SAC has widely dispersed alternate

Court Records

MEDFORD MUNICIPAL COURT
 Orville Albert Hostien, disobeyed traffic signal \$10.
 Emil Attilio Clatti, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 Ralph Gerald Bross, no operator's license in possession, \$5.
 Jack Wilton Buscholtz, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
 Chester Hardy Wright, failure to obtain Oregon operator's license, \$50; improper left turn, \$10.
 Gene Marian Kellenger, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 Blossom Head Flury, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
 Earl Richard Gilmore, improper left turn, \$10.
 Richard Dale Nelson, improper left turn, \$10.
 Alma Maria Culver, defective brakes, \$10.
 John Ernest Johnson, improper right turn, \$10.
 Edith Wood Davis, improper left turn, \$10.
 Jean Lois Grimes, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
 Jerrel Norman Kirklin, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 James Stanly Foley, failure to yield right of way to a vehicle to the right on a through street, \$25.
 Donald Lee Young, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
 Frank Sousa, failure to yield right of way to vehicle on the right, \$25.
 Ellis Leroy Cornutt, defective equipment, headlights, two days in city jail each; inadequate equipment, muffler, two days; emerging from private property onto public highway without stopping, three days; excessive noise, two days each; obstructed vision, driving with shattered windshield, two days, \$5 warrant charge.
 Larry Gene Bangs, violation of basic rule, \$25.
 David William Niemi, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
 William Wiley Gash, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 Rose Taverner Robinson, wrong way on a one-way street, \$10.
 Rose Mary Young, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
 Kenneth Lynn Bradford, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 James Melvin Davis, racing \$100, (suspended) driver impounded at school and 10 hours work probation.
 Neal Parmelee Smith, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10.
 Damon Moran, failure to yield right of way to pedestrian in crosswalk, \$7.50.
 Allan Emmett Pingle, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 Johnnie Duane Edwards, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 Barbara Jean Peery, failure to yield right of way to vehicle on a through street, \$25.

DISTRICT COURT
 Allen Duane Harleman, no public utility commission permit, \$25.
 Helen Borelli, no operator's license, \$5.
 Clinton A. Kissinger, violation of basic rule, \$10; no operator's license, \$5.
 Robert Wesley McGilvray, improper passing, \$20.
 Zenas Arthur Perisho, following too close, \$10.
 Mary Grace Wells, no operator's license, \$5.
 Cleland Duane Wainbourne, violation of basic rule, \$10.
 Gerald Estel Hankins, no light on extended load, \$10.
 Maxine Danny Hanson, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
 Alfred E. Root, violation of basic rule, \$20.
 Robert Del Rio, no operator's license, \$10.
 Richard Charles Allen, violation of basic rule, \$20.
 Nino Arno Lovemore, violation of basic rule, \$5.
 Glenn W. Guzman, disobeyed stop sign, \$10.
 Keith Alwyn Newton, improper headlights, \$10.
 Deloris Lane Illman, excessive noise, \$10.
 June A. Mason, failure to display license plates, \$10.
 Josephine Mary Irey, Coax Ray, driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor, \$20.
 Robert Dean Peck, no trailer license, \$5.

CIRCUIT COURT
 Mildred Alberta Head vs. Rowland Head, divorce complaint.
 Mae K. Murphy vs. Martin J. Murphy, divorce decree.
 Lenora Josephine Cox vs. Deah Evelyn Cox, divorce complaint.
 Leslie May Blusick vs. Richard Dale Blusick, divorce complaint.

MARRIAGE LICENSE
 APPLICANTS
 Burlie Byron Beard, route 3, box 82, Lebanon, Ore. and Rose Ann Brooks, 334 O'Garra st., Medford.

ground command posts, as well as airborne control centers capable of keeping the show running if the headquarters were blasted out of commission.

As proof of the importance of SAC, the joint strategic target planning staff — a unit headed by Power and including top-level representatives of the Army, Navy and Marines — has moved into the SAC headquarters.

This staff is assigned to determine target priorities for

all types of strategic systems — bombers, fighters, land-based missiles, air-launched missiles and missile-armed Navy vessels and submarines. The purpose: A unified retaliatory assault in which each branch of the armed forces would carry out detailed missions.

SAC, with its prime responsibilities in a counterattack, and the headquarters, with its fascinating electronic and human attractions, is constantly being visited by leading

statesmen and military experts from around the free world.

They nearly always comment on the air of efficiency among the men who carry the burden of directing what would be — if it ever has to be unleashed — a rain of nuclear destruction unprecedented in history.

The mushrooming responsibilities of SAC headquarters and Offutt Air Force base — with their high ratio of upper income officers — have provided a adjacent Bellevue,

Neb., and nearby Omaha with an economic stimulus since the headquarters was moved here in 1948.

Livestock Center

Omaha is the world's largest livestock marketing and meat processing center. Beef, pork and lamb are still the foundations of the city's economy. But Offutt and SAC — whose products are peace — have become vital contributors to the economy by pumping hundreds of thousands of dollars into the area.

total assets — including aircraft, missiles, real property, equipment inventory and other facilities — at \$17.9 billion. That compares with an estimated total assets of the Standard Oil company of some \$10.5 billion.

The personnel at Offutt have been good neighbors to Omaha. They helped fight the 1952 Missouri river flood threat. Police Chief C. Harold Oster has said, "Proportionately, they have given us less trouble than our own citizenry."

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