

4225 AIR BASE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

4225 Air Base Squadron

STATIONS

Little Rock AFB, AR, 1 Feb 1955-1 Aug 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On February 1, 1955, the first operational organization was assigned to the base. The 4225th Air Base Squadron of the 2nd Air Force would serve as a catalyst for the formation of the 825th Air Division. During the next few weeks, the 4225th moved into the only 'finished' building on the base, a small structure that had been the Corps of Engineer's project office during initial construction.

Things were going well on base, but an unfortunate accident almost put the 4225th out of business. On April 26, while working on the pipes in the new structure, a plumber accidentally ignited a fire with his torch. The headquarters building was partially destroyed, as was the adjacent unfinished squadron operations building. Since no fire fighting equipment was on the base, construction workers fought the fire with water from the contractors' water tanks until help arrived from Jacksonville. The fire caused an estimated \$25,000.00 in damages and forced the 4225th to move to the newly finished communications building.

With these officers in place, the Air Force activated Little Rock Air Force Base on August 1, 1955 under Strategic Air Command General Order Number 47. This order was actually dated Jun 24, but had not yet been issued. The order dissolved the 4225th Air Base Squadron and officially created the 825th Air Division from the 4225th's components. As August came to a close, there were 65 officers and 398 airmen stationed at Little Rock Air Force Base.

As these two wings awaited movement orders, Colonel Joseph A. Thomas arrived as the first base commander (4225th Air Base Squadron) in February 1955. His primary duties were to oversee the construction, coordinating with various levels of government. Tragically, barely five months after assuming command, Colonel Thomas died in a crash of the base's only aircraft, a C-45 assigned for administrative transportation. Before his death, Colonel Thomas was able to oversee the completion of numerous projects, including the gas distribution system, several buildings, and the railroad system.

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