

# USAF AEROSPACE MEDICINE CENTER

## MISSION

Accomplish basic and applied medical research; teach doctors, nurses and technicians; and practice specialized aerospace medicine according to the most modern concepts.

Additional missions: administration and supervision of brooks AFB; provision of administrative and logistical support to tenant organizations; conducting flying training to maintain proficiency of assigned and attached rated personnel; and participation in reserve training program.

Also was responsible for provision of specialties: diagnostic hearing center; electrocardiogram repository; electroencephalogram repository; cardiac laboratory; renal unit; pulmonary function and diagnostic unit; diagnosis, testing and equipping of partially sighted individuals; surgical tissue bank (to include: corneal tissue, histopathology center, mental hygiene flight, aeromedical review board, whole blood collecting center, air force academy examining center); specialized medical facility for diagnosis and treatment service for armed forces personnel, their dependents and other eligible personnel; and chrome/cobalt dental laboratory for designated satellite bases.

Research mission: research projects in basic sciences which underlie or support usaf mission in the practice of aerospace medicine; conduct research and development in processes or techniques of aerospace medicine to support other department of defense or United States government agencies; primary research mission within USAF for medical aspects of aircraft nuclear propulsion and defense against atomic warfare; administrative and budgetary support of operational air forces for field research in aerospace medicine, including crew effectiveness and other practical health and human engineering problems.

Education and training mission: education of USAF officers and airmen in aerospace medicine and associated sciences; graduate and research training in sciences related to aerospace medicine for selected officers of all branches of the united states and allied military establishments and other united states government agencies; provide other such training; and the aviation medicine specialty training program.

Specialized practice: outpatient consultative service for flying personnel with medical problems affecting flying status; aeromedical consultation and support service to other government agencies in problems, projects, tasks and missions vital to national defense which have medical or psychological aspects; repositories for preservation and definitive study of ecg, eeg and audiograms; diagnostic hearing center for issue of hearing aids; contact lens center for flying personnel; participate in relevant general professional and scholarly activities of the practice of aerospace medicine in other governmental agencies and the civilian community.

#### **LINEAGE**

USAF Aerospace Medicine Center

#### **STATIONS**

Brooks AFB, TX, 11 Oct 1959-15 Apr 1962

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Gen Otis O. Benson, Jr.

#### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

#### **EMBLEM**

#### **MOTTO**

#### **OPERATIONS**

In 1959 the Air Force put medical education and training and space medical research responsibilities under the direction of Air Training Command. Headquarters USAF directed that Continental Air Command transfer Brooks AFB, Texas, to ATC on 1 October. At the same time, ATC activated the USAF Aerospace Medical Center at Brooks, and, concurrently, Air University issued orders reassigning the School of Aviation Medicine at Brooks to ATC and the aerospace medical center. In addition, ATC reassigned the USAF Hospital Lackland from the Lackland Military Training Center to the medical center. The last action, the organization of the 3790th Epidemio-logical Laboratory at Lackland, took place on 1 November; ATC assigned the lab to the medical center. The addition of all of these units increased ATC's assigned personnel strength by 4,965.

On 1 Nov 1961, ATC transferred Brooks AFB to Air Force Systems Command (AFSC). This was all part of an Air Force plan to reorganize aerospace medical research. Along with the transfer of Brooks, ATC passed to AFSC (and its newly formed Aerospace Medical Division at Brooks) control of the USAF Aerospace Medical Center, the School of Aerospace Medicine, the USAF Hospital Lackland, and the 3790th Epidemiological Laboratory. (The School of Aviation Medicine had been redesignated as the School of Aerospace Medicine on 8 May 1961.) The Medical Service School at Gunter remained in the command, reassigned from the medical center to Headquarters ATC on 1 October.

---

USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 19 Sep 2010  
Updated: 19 Oct 2022

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