



# The Air University

**A**IR UNIVERSITY (AU), postgraduate center of the US Air Force, paced its programs to meet the challenges which 1964 brought to professional military education. Under the guidance of its new Commander, Lt. Gen. Ralph P. Swofford, Jr., the command intensified its preparation of career officers for important Air Force command and staff assignments.

Aerospace activities at Maxwell AFB, main campus of AU, are part of a long tradition. At this site, the Wright brothers established a pioneer flying school in 1910. Thereafter, Maxwell served as an engine-repair depot, as the home of the Air Tactical School, and, in World War II, as the center of aviation cadet training in the southeast.

In March 1946, AU came into being—a hallmark in the concept of professional education. Major elements of the Air Force's professional education system were placed in one command where faculty and students, free of other operational duties, were committed to educational pursuits exclusively. In its eighteen years of operation, AU has emerged as a model military educational system.

Fiscal year 1964 brought significant developments to AU.

Air War College (AWC) recorded a milestone as it conducted the largest class (280 students) since its



**Lt. Gen. Ralph P. Swofford, Jr.**, was named Commander, AU, in January 1964, after tour as Commander, Allied Air Forces Southern Europe. Before that he was Vice Commander at AU for a year. Born in Missouri and graduated in 1930 from West Point, he has also been Commandant of USAF Institute of Technology and Asst. DCS/Development at Hq. USAF.

establishment. The 1964 class graduated in early June. The college also accelerated its two Associate Programs whereby senior officers who cannot attend the resident course may obtain AWC diplomas. Some 730 students enrolled in the Correspondence Program, while sixty groups at selected bases studied under the college's Seminar Program.

A new directorate-type organization, designed to simplify operating procedures, went into effect at AU's intermediate school, Air Command and Staff College (AC&SC). The class of 1964 opened in early September with an enrollment of 595 captains and majors and allied officers of equivalent rank. Graduation took place in mid-June.

Squadron Officer School (SOS) observed its thirteenth anniversary with appropriate ceremonies at Maxwell AFB. Some 2,500 officers completed the three classes conducted by AU's junior school during the fiscal year.

The Air Force Institute of Technology's (AFIT) new School of Engineering building neared completion. Some laboratory areas were occupied in May. Final completion of the building was expected by late summer of 1964. The institute's two-year undergraduate aeronautical and electrical engineering programs were reaccredited for a six-year period.

Air Force ROTC observed its eleventh anniversary as an Air University component in August. That same month, Congressman F. Edward Hébert (D.-La.)



A striking view from above, Air University is laid out in circle, the intellectual and geographical center of which is the modern and well-stocked library. Classrooms and administrative facilities comprise the rest of the plant.

introduced into the House of Representatives a DoD legislative proposal to provide a more flexible ROTC program at US colleges and universities. The bill, HR. 9124, proposed permitting educational institutions to choose either a two- or four-year ROTC program, allowing service secretaries to establish a scholarship program, and raising student retainer fees.

Fifty allied officer students, representing twenty-six free-world nations, attended Class 63-C of the Allied Officer Familiarization Course conducted by the Academic Instructor and Allied Officer School. In late October, the school sponsored the USAF Foreign Training Officer Workshop, attended by 100 officers and equivalently ranked civilians. They represented most major air commands, the Army, Navy, and Surgeon General.

In addition to conducting its courses of instruction on Air Force weapons and their employment, Warfare Systems School (WSS) provided briefings for several military units in Europe. Seven WSS faculty members briefed the RAF College of Air Warfare, RAF Technical College, and Navy Europe Commander and staff in England. They also briefed the USAFE Commander in Chief and staff, USAREUR staff; USAF schools, Europe, in Germany; and the EUCOM staff in France.

Extension Course Institute (ECI) awarded its one millionth diploma in June. The correspondence school of the Air Force activated its first ECI Career Development Courses. Priority went to converting existing ECI courses in the aircraft career field. Sixteen such courses, identified for ready conversion, were made available as interim CDCs.

The AU Board of Visitors, a group of distinguished



Seminar approach, where students and group leaders sit around a table and discuss course study questions, is widely used at Air University. It encourages open discussion, and free exchange of ideas stimulates students and instructors.

educators and businessmen who review and critique AU's programs annually, convened at Maxwell AFB in March. Dr. Andrew D. Holt, President, University of Tennessee, served as the 1964 board chairman. Henry R. Luce, Editorial Chairman, Time Inc., was elected to chair the 1965 board.

Construction continued on Maxwell's new USAF hospital. The \$3.5 million, four-story, composite medical facility was scheduled to open at midyear.

And a pioneer exponent of military education, Lt. Gen. Ralph P. Swofford, Jr., assumed command of AU in January 1964.

As USAF penetrates further into the space era, the need for imaginative thinking is greater than ever before in our nation's history. At AU tomorrow's aerospace leaders continue to grapple realistically with the underlying principles of conflict—past, present, and future. Thus AU maintains its stature as the "intellectual heart of American aerospace power."—END

