

## STONY BROOK AND THE OTHER OPERATIONAL STORAGE SITES

Stony Brook Air Force Station (AMC) was one of the seven (five Air Force, one Army and one Navy) Operational Storage Sites (OSS) located within the United States. Stony Brook performed the vital functions of providing maintenance, storage and provision of nuclear weapons for the Strategic Air Command during the Cold War. The Operational Storage Sites represented a period of tactical transition from the large, centralized structures of the National Stockpile Sites (NSS) to the physically smaller alert facilities in closer strategic proximity to Air Force bases. This transitional period spanned approximately 10 years, from 1952 to 1962. The National Stockpile Sites continued in operation throughout most of this period, but the strategic importance of the OSS became primary. Some of the OSS remained active as solely weapons storage areas up to 1998, and after. See the table below.

The advent of the Operational Storage Sites began in 1952 with the initial operations of Caribou Air Force Station near Loring Air Force Base in Maine. This site was followed closely by similar facilities in South Dakota, Washington, and California. Stony Brook was the last of the Air Force locations, being constructed in 1954. The units assigned to these sites were designated Aviation Depot Groups, with their associated operations, support and security squadrons. The Navy site was located at Skiffes Creek Annex, Yorktown, VA and the Army facility in the North Ordinance Area on the Seneca Army Depot in New York State.

<u>Site</u>	<u>Code Name</u>	<u>Air Force Base</u>	<u>Operational Period</u>	<u>Unit Assigned</u>
Caribou AFS	Easy	Loring AFB, ME	1952-1988	3080th ADG
Rushmore AFS	Fox	Ellsworth AFB, SD	1952-1993	3081st ADG
Deep Creek AFS	George	Fairchild AFB, WA	1952-1998 (?)	3082nd ADG
Fairfield AFS	How	Travis AFB, CA	1953-1970	3083rd ADG
Stony Brook AFS	Item	Westover AFB, MA	1954-1971	3084th ADG

All of the Air Force Operational Storage Sites were assigned to the 3079th Aviation Depot Wing, Air Materiel Command, headquartered at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. The Wing was deactivated in 1962, as the Strategic Air Command required closer command and control over its strategic nuclear weapons inventory.

The functions formerly performed by the OSS were then undertaken by Munitions Maintenance Squadrons (MMS, later changed to MUNS) located on or near the SAC bases themselves. Of course, the rapidly growing impact of intercontinental ballistic missiles and the increasing sophistication of, and the decreasing size of, nuclear weapons led to many basic changes in the operational and organizational functions of the units assigned the task of ensuring that the United States' ability to wage war in a nuclear environment remained strong and viable at all times.