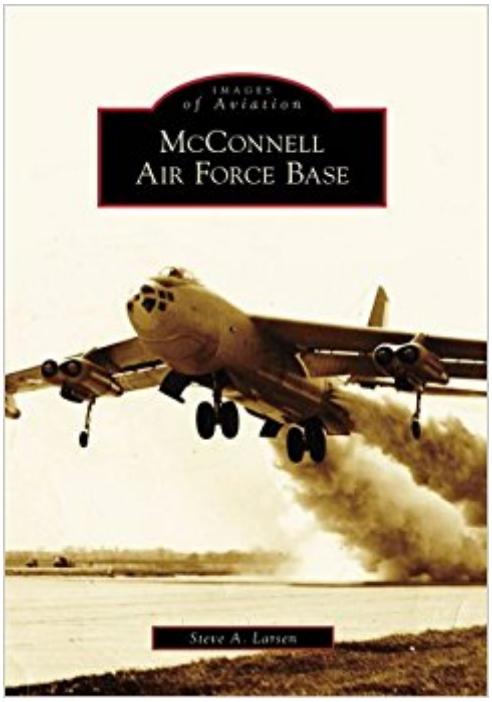
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McConnell Air Force Base (Images Of Aviation: Kansas)



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Synopsis

Beginning from its earliest days as an empty parcel of pasture that became a major hub airport for transcontinental air travel to its present use as the busiest refueling operation in the U.S. Air Force, the slice of land known as McConnell Air Force Base is inextricably connected to aviation to nearly the dawn of manned flight. Its military history began in 1941 with the arrival of the Air National Guard, and the base grew to a multifaceted operation that extends air power globally through intelligence and air refueling missions performed by its three partner units: the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, the 184th Intelligence Wing, and the 931st Air Refueling Group. This book offers a glimpse into the military history of McConnell Air Force Base through many rarely seen or previously unpublished images drawn primarily from the repository of the 22nd Air Refueling Wing Office of History and the Kansas Aviation Museum.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steve A. Larsen is a military historian and adjunct instructor of history at Butler Community College. He has written numerous articles related to air force and American history and contributed to several historical studies for the United States Air Force. He also speaks on topics ranging from air force history to current military operations in Southwest Asia.

Nice book. I am fond of these history books.

This review and these comments are dedicated to the men and women of the United States Air Force, particularly those of the 381st BG(H), the 381st SMW at McConnell, and the 355th TFW with the intent that their service and sacrifices will not be forgotten.While Mr. Larsen's book is a comprehensive history of McConnell, it has some slights and omissions that I think must be addressed.First, as anyone who served at McConnell in the 1960s knows, the 355 TFW was the host unit there. I find little or no mention of the Wing in Mr. Larsen's book.While I understand that this book is indeed a comprehensive history of the base that covers a good portion of the 20th century, it is to me a serious oversight not to mention the sacrifices and loses of the personnel of the 355th TFW both in Kansas and while deployed to Takhli AB, Thailand.Also, those portions of the book dealing with the 381st SMW do not, in my estimation, properly illustrate the extent of the economic or strategic impact that the personnel of the 381st SMW and the Strategic Air Command had upon Wichita, Kansas and The United States.One must understand that the 381st SMW was one of few number of United States Air Force bases in the United States that probably prevented all out global nuclear war during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It was during "The 13 days in October" when john Kennedy, with the knowledge of our defensive ICBM capability, was able to convince Nikita Kruscheve that A Soviet attack from missiles in Cuba was probably not going to be a good idea.Subsequently, war with the United States by the Soviets was again averted during the Viet Nam war and the Soviet invasion of Czechloslovakia in 1969-70 by our strategic strength.On a less serious note, there is an obvious photo labeling error on page 67 in which the author calls an F-4 an F-105 "Thud". (Short for "Thunder-thuds"). 105s were also called "Lead sleds" due to their poor glide slope ratios.I understand that this book was written for a broad audience, many of whom never served in the Air Force or at McConnell, But i feel it necessary to advise those who served in the 381st and the 355th, that you may be disappointed.Wayne, Sgt. 381st SMW, 1966-1968

I bought this for my father, who was an Air Policeman at McConnell Air Force Base in the late 1950's. He loved it so much, he read it from cover to cover in a day, and just had to tell some of his old fellow service men about it. The book is full of pictures and information about the base, that are sure to bring back lots of fond memories for our veterans who've served at McConnell AFB. I'm very glad I purchased a copy.

Most excellent book! Need I say more? The late author Steve Larsen put together a real masterpiece regarding McConnell A.F.B.

fine. All around good product and the customer service is awesome. very patient and helpful. high quality and very value for this price . i need it to change ,

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