

MICOM:



3 DECADES OF MISSILE AND ROCKERTY EXCELLENCE

Material prepared by the U.S. Army Missile Command Historical Division. Mr. Michael E. Baker, Division Chief

Dr. Kaylene Hughes, Senior Historian; Mr. James D. Bowne, Historian; Mr. Claus R. Martel, Historian/Archivist; Mrs. Patsy A. Thomas, Editorial Assistant

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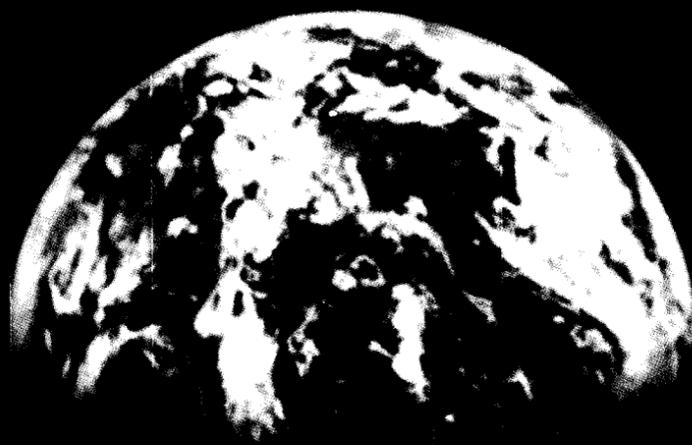
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The U.S. Army Missile Command:



Former RSA Headquarters, Building 7101

A Brief History

The genesis of the present-day U.S. Army Missile Command (MICOM) can be traced to October 1948 when the Chief of Ordnance designated Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, as the center for Ordnance research and development in the field of rockets. Redstone Arsenal had come into being as one of two U.S. Army arsenals established in 1941 on a 40,000-acre tract near Huntsville, Alabama, for the production of rounds of conventional chemical ammunition.

The Chief of Ordnance officially activated the arsenal as the site of the Ordnance Rocket Center on 1 June 1949. In the interest of economy and efficiency, the Secretary of the Army approved the transfer of the Ordnance Research and Development Division Sub-Office (Rocket) at Fort Bliss, Texas, to Redstone Arsenal on 28 October 1949. Among those transferred were Dr. Wernher von Braun and his team of German scientists and technicians who had come to the United States under "Operation Paperclip" during 1945 and 1946.

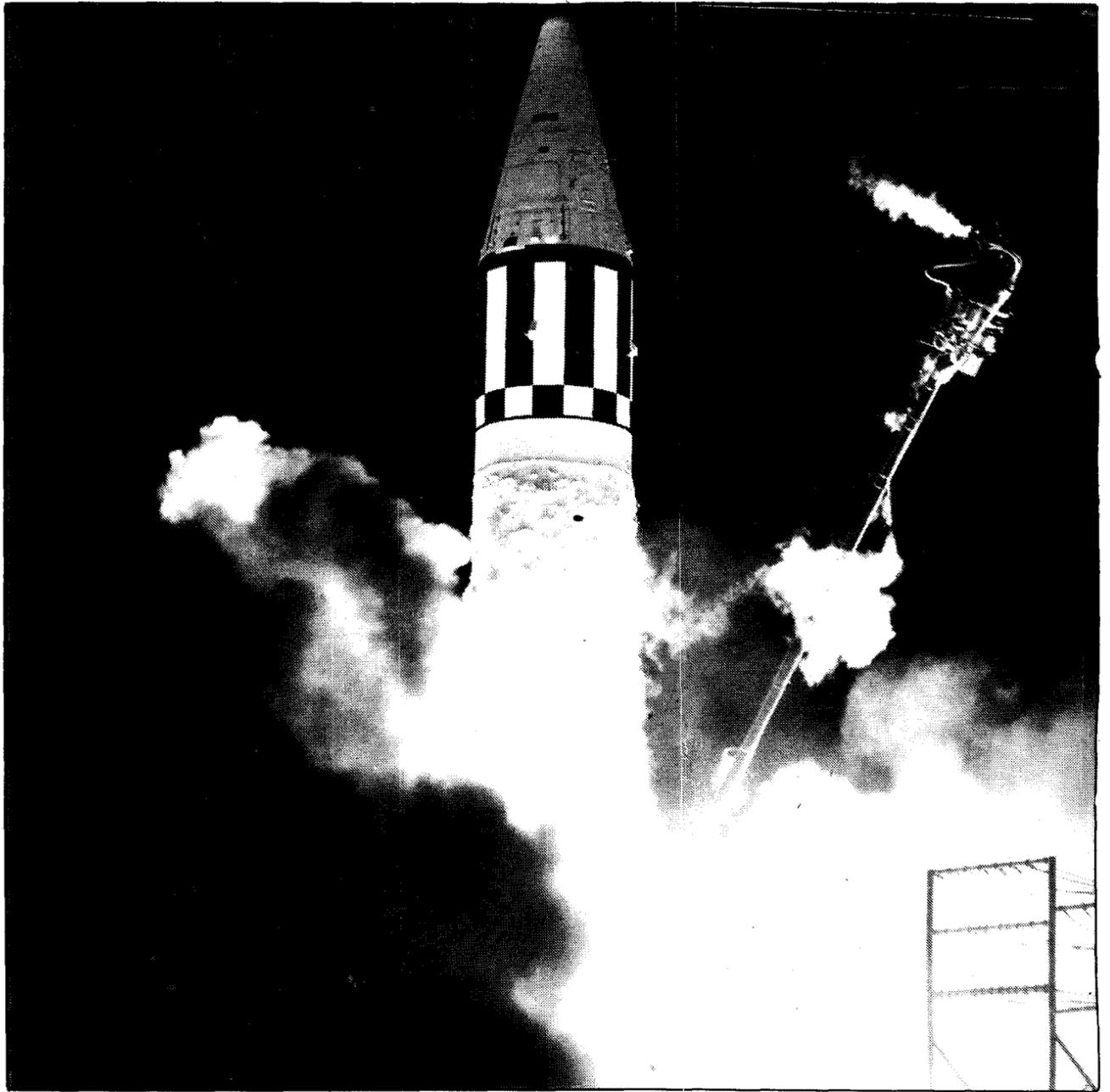
After its transfer to Redstone, the sub-office was redesignated the Ordnance Guided Missile Center on 15 April 1950. Redstone Arsenal thus became the nerve center not only for research and development but also for the procurement, storage, maintenance, and repair of the entire family of Ordnance missile systems.



The Von Braun Team

The proven success of the REDSTONE missile program led the Department of the Army to select Redstone Arsenal as the site of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency (ABMA) which was established on 1 February 1956. This agency, which was under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance, was initially responsible for the REDSTONE missile program and the Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) program. The PERSHING missile program was later added as a mission responsibility in January 1958. The Army satellite program, for which ABMA is best known, was not actually assigned as a mission of this agency. Rather, it was executed under special orders.

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To achieve the most effective use of all the resources available to the Army in the missile field, the Department of the Army created the Army Ordnance Missile Command (AOMC) at Redstone Arsenal on 31 March 1958. It too was under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Ordnance. The command embraced the key installations engaged in Army rocket, missile, and satellite programs in Alabama, California, and New Mexico. Subordinate elements of the command were ABMA; the Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency

(ARGMA), which was activated on 1 April 1958 and assumed the technical missions formerly assigned to Redstone Arsenal; the Jet Propulsion Laboratory; the White Sands Missile Range; and Redstone Arsenal, whose mission included providing support and housekeeping services for the entire arsenal complex.

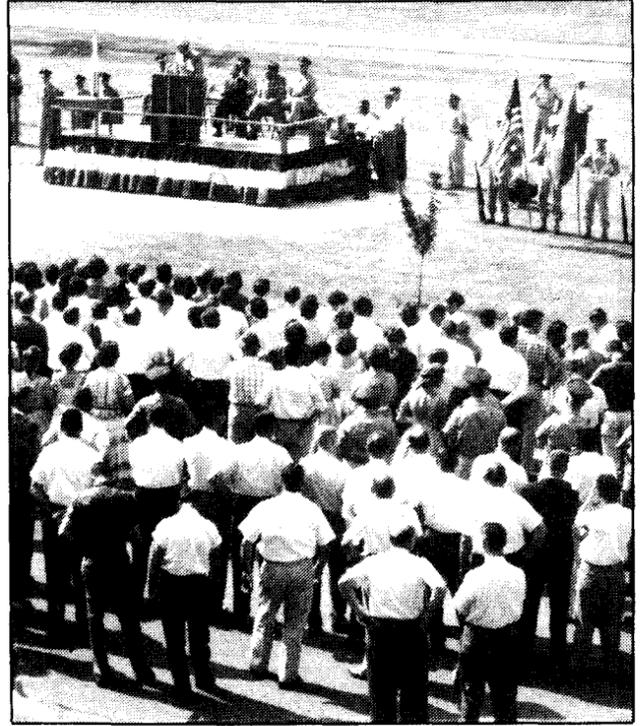
The Jet Propulsion Laboratory was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on 3 December 1958. Then, effective 1 July 1960,

AOMC/ABMA lost all of its space-related missions, along with some 4,000 civilian employees and \$100,000,000 worth of buildings and equipment at Redstone Arsenal and Cape Canaveral, Florida, to NASA's George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, which was officially opened that day at Redstone Arsenal.

On 1 June 1961, Redstone Arsenal became a geographical location only when it was replaced as a support element by the Army Ordnance Missile Support Agency (AOMSA). The latter is a forerunner of today's Redstone Arsenal Support Activity (RSA) which was created on 4 January 1971.



MG John B. Medairs, 1st Commander of ABMA and AOMC



Army-NASA transfer ceremonies



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LOW EQUITY S.E. 2100 sq. ft. 2 story features den and rec room, formal dining, detached double garage. 1 year warranty. Motivated seller wants \$7800 equity and assume 9% VA loan. Call Jerry Nicholson 881-9080. (305M)

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PRIVATE WOODED HOMESITE. Approximately 1.42 acres on quiet cul-de-sac. Only minutes from Research Park in restricted subdivision. Reduced to \$17,000. Call Carol at 852-0815. (118S)

GREEN MTN. Beautiful wooded lot near Nature Trail. Almost an acre, only \$28,500. Call Carol McNamee at 852-0815. (DR)

10 ACRES mostly wooded on Blake Bottom Rd. Reduced \$20,000 to \$80,000. 1 mile from planned Rideout Rd. extension. Call Carol at 852-0815. (BBR)

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HAVE A COOKOUT. Beautiful 1/2 acre lot features covered patio plus deck with wood privacy fence around backyard. This 3 bedroom, 5 year old home with 2 car garage and fireplace is affordably priced at \$73,900. See it today. Call Ginger at 883-7532. (273R)

REDUCED \$5550. This 3 year old 1820 sq. ft. brick ranch in Madison area has lots of extras! Hickory cabinets in country kitchen, glassed in porch, bay window in dining huge greatroom with stone fireplace and storm shelter. \$99,950. Call Ginger 883-7532. (105B)

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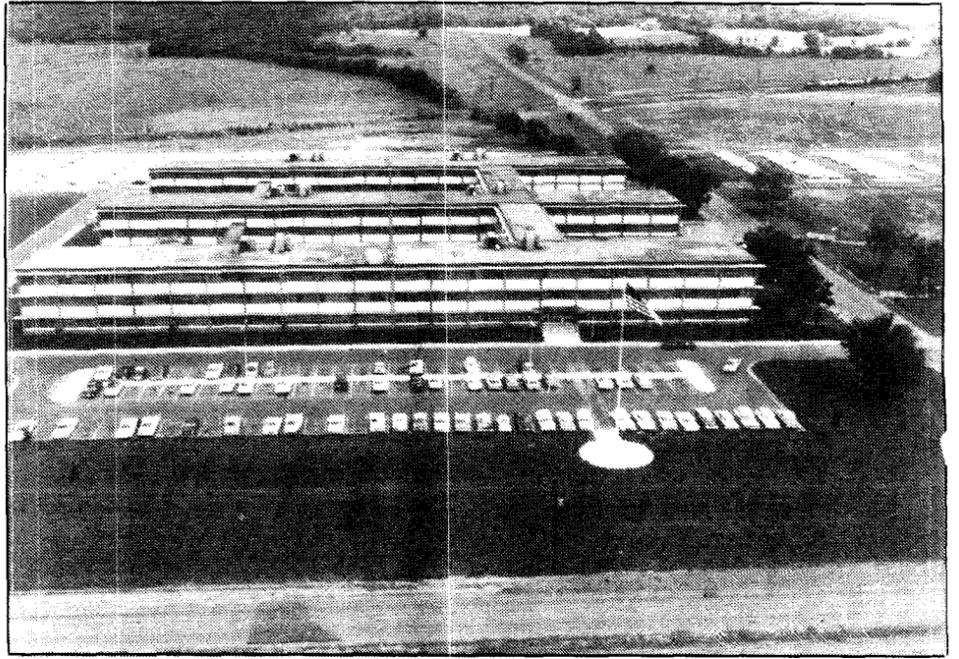
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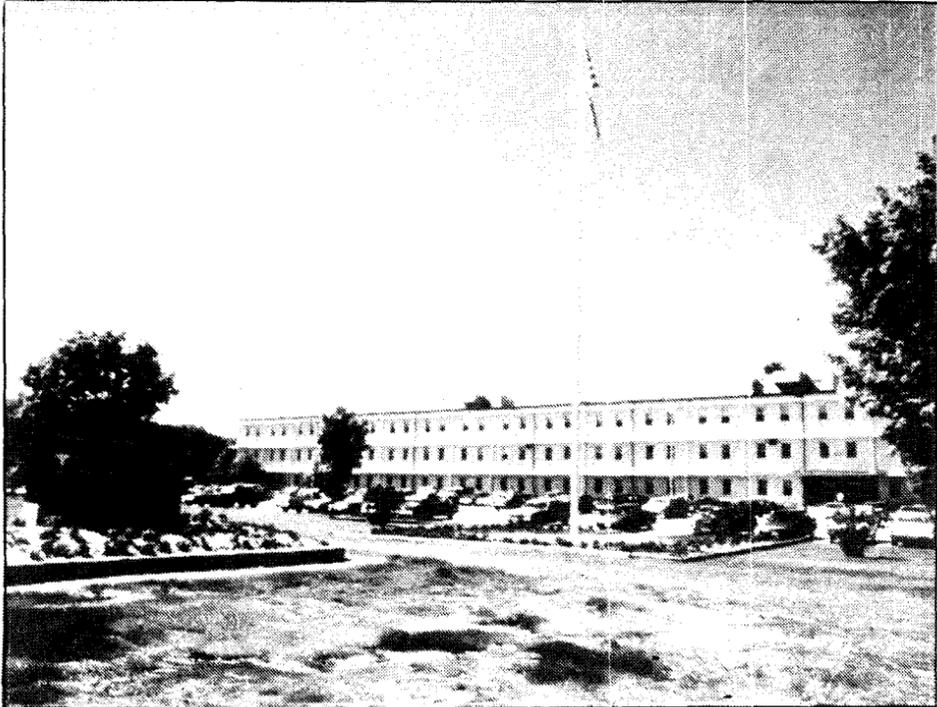
* Some Limitations & Conditions Apply.

Both ABMA and ARGMA were abolished as separate entities on 11 December 1961, and their functions and personnel were merged with AOMC headquarters. Shortly thereafter, effective 1 January 1962, the White Sands Missile Range was removed from the command jurisdiction of AOMC and placed directly under the Chief of Ordnance. These realignments, plus some other organizational changes, paved the way for the transition to MICOM which was established as part of the Army reorganization of 1962.

The MICOM was officially established on 23 May 1962, but was not fully staffed and operational until 1 August 1962. It operates under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Materiel Command (AMC) which assumed the missions and functions of the Office, Chief of Ordnance and certain other technical services which lost their statutory status as part of the Army's reorganization. The Army missile program at Redstone continued to be managed by a single command until 31



MICOM Headquarters, Building 5250, 1962



MICOM Headquarters today

January 1977, when the missions and people of MICOM were split between the U.S. Army Missile Materiel Readiness Command (MIRCOM) and the U.S. Army Missile Research and Development Command (MIRADCOM). This realignment was supposed to give equal emphasis to both the readiness and development functions; however, AMC, which was known as the U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command (DARCOM) at that time, soon found that the most logical and efficient way to meet the requirements of the Army missile program was under the single command concept. Consequently, effective 1 July 1979, MIRCOM and MIRADCOM were disestablished and their organizational elements, missions, functions, manpower spaces, and people were combined in place under the reinstated U.S. Army Missile Command.

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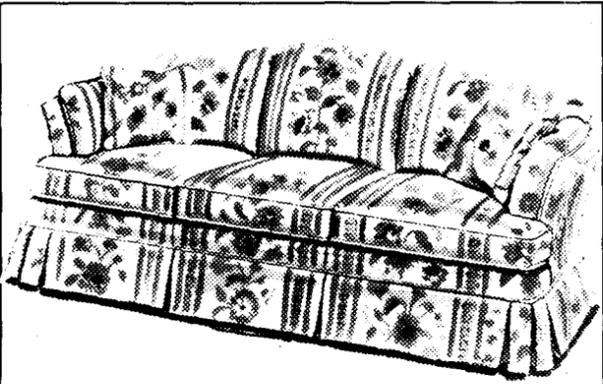
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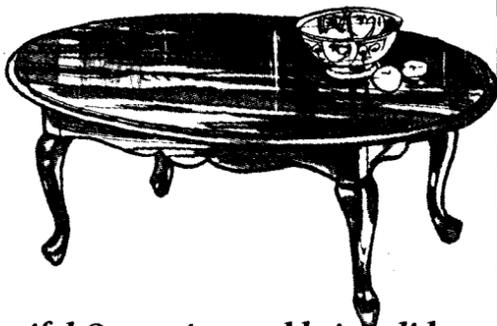


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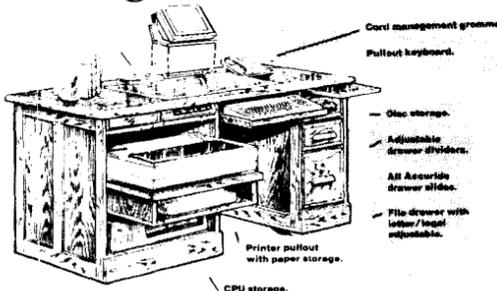


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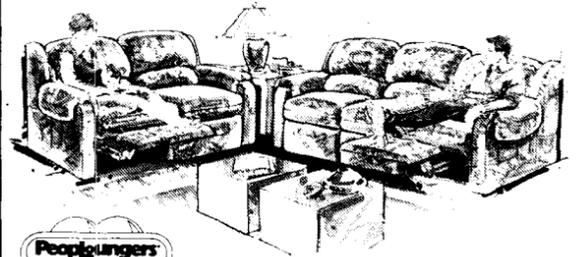
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Deactivation of MICOM

On 1 May 1987, four Program Executive Offices (PEOs) were provisionally established at Redstone Arsenal to direct and control the accomplishment of all assigned programs, including development, production, fielding, product improvements, and follow-on support of the assigned programs/systems. The four PEOs established included Forward Area Air Defense (FAAD), Close Combat Missiles, Fire Support, and High/Medium Air Defense (HIMAD). On 15 September 1988, the FAAD and HIMAD PEOs were merged to form the Air Defense PEO, while the Fire Support and Close Combat Missiles PEOs were combined to form the new Fire Support PEO.

On 29 July 1992, the Army established the Global Protection Against Limited Strikes (GPALS) PEO, absorbing most of Air Defense PEO's missions. The GPALS PEO assumed responsibility for the PATRIOT Project Office and the CORPS Surface-to-Air Missile Project Office. The Fire Support PEO, reorganized into the Tactical Missiles PEO, assimilated the two projects not transitioned to GPALS: the Air-to-Air Missile Project Office and the AVENGER Project Office.

Combat elements of the U.S. Army have benefited greatly from the numerous weapon systems developed, procured, and fielded by MICOM and its predecessors. Examples include the CHAPARRAL, CORPORAL, DRAGON, HAWK and its improvements, HELLFIRE, JUPITER, LACROSSE, LANCE, LITTLEJOHN, MLRS, NIKE AJAX, NIKE HERCULES, PATRIOT, PERSHING and its improvements, REDEYE, REDSTONE, SERGEANT, SHILLELAGH, STINGER, and TOW and its improvements. In addition, MICOM's predecessors helped lay the groundwork for the U.S. space program. For instance, the EXPLORER earth satellites launched with the JUPITER C vehicle were a joint development of ABMA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Also, several of the Army's REDSTONE and JUPITER missiles were used for flight tests of the manned capsule for Project MERCURY.

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Reactivation of MICOM

Commanding Generals



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5 Jun 62 - 24 Aug 63



MG John G. Zierdt
(MICOM)
23 Sep 63 - 30 Jun 67



MG Charles W. Eifler
(MICOM)
14 Jul 67 - 19 Sep 69



MG Edwin I. Donley
(MICOM)
17 Nov 69 - 31 Oct 73



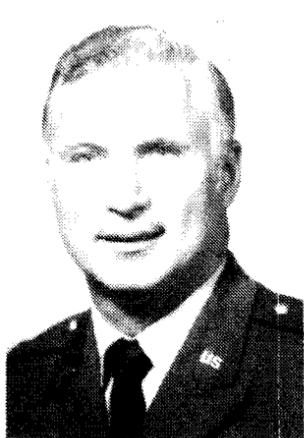
MG Vincent H. Ellis
(MICOM)
1 Nov 73 - 1 Oct 75



MG George E. Turnmeyer
1 Oct 75 - 31 Jan 77 (MICOM)
31 Jan 77 - 30 Sep 77 (MIRCOM)



BG Grayson D. Tate, Jr.
(MIRADCOM)
31 Jan 77 - 15 Jul 77



MG Charles F. Means
(MIRADCOM)
15 Jul 77 - 15 Aug 78



BG Frank P. Ragano
(MIRADCOM)
15 Aug 78 - 30 Jun 79



MG Louis Rachmeler
1 Jul 79 - 31 Jul 80 (MICOM)
30 Sep 77 - 30 Jun 79 (MIRCOM)



MG Robert L. Moore
(MICOM)
31 Jul 80 - 26 Jul 83



MG Jerry Max Bunyard
(MICOM)
26 Jul 83 - 2 Aug 85

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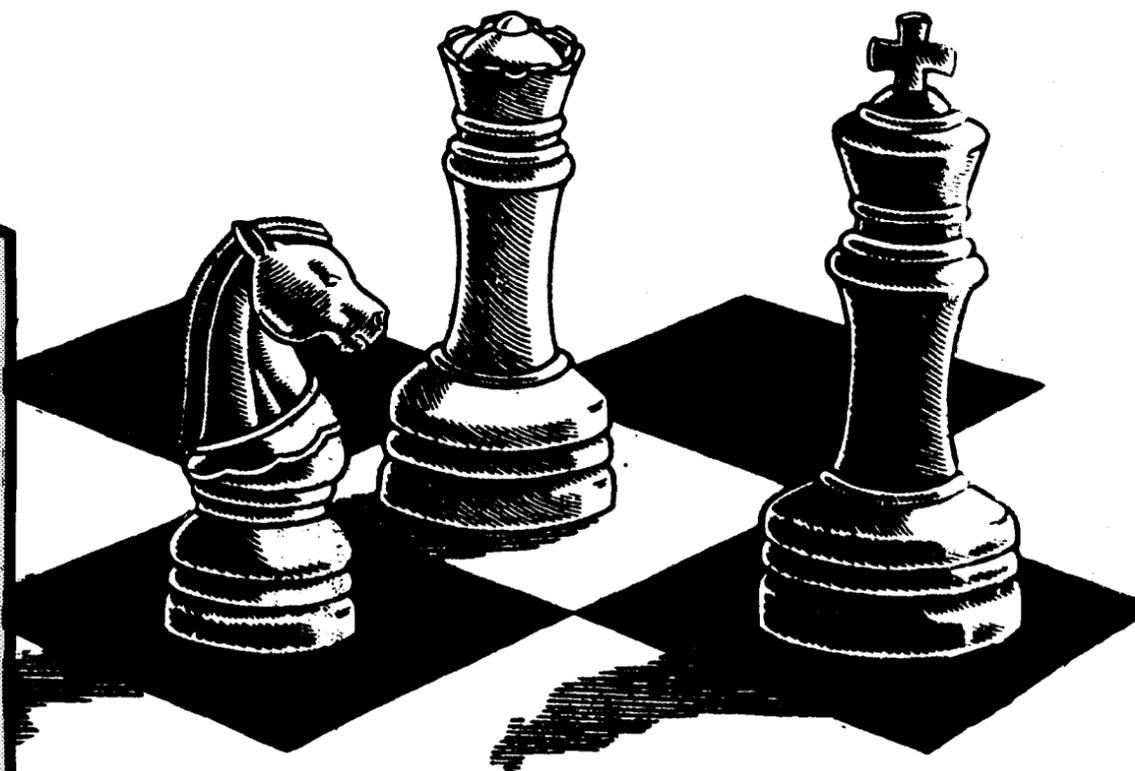
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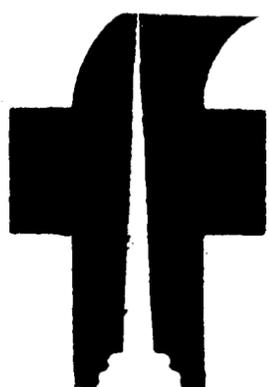
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2 Aug 85 - 12 May 86



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12 May 86 - 13 Jul 88



MG August M. Cianciolo
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13 Jul 88 - 6 Oct 89



MG William S. Chen
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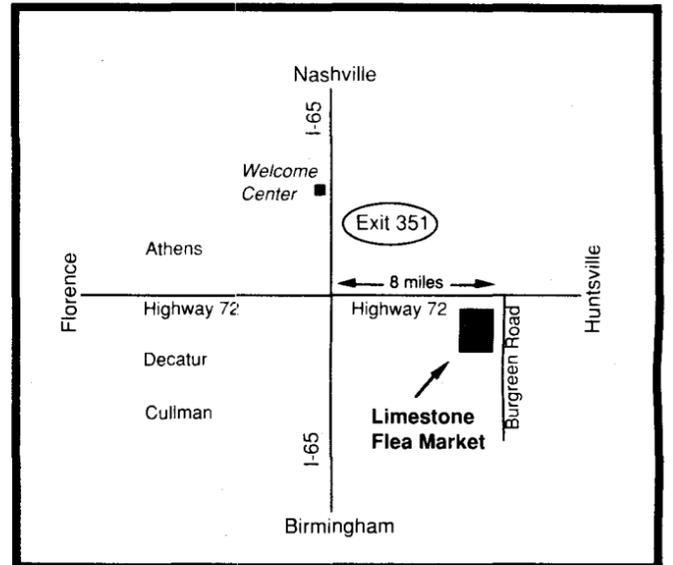
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