

A BRIEF HISTORY
OF
BUILDING 714
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL



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Building 714 was constructed in 1931 and is part of the historic core at Maxwell AFB. The historic district consists of 81 structures generally grouped around Austin Hall (Bldg. 800). These buildings, which include the installation's oldest permanent structures, were constructed between 1928 and 1938. In laying out the new facilities on Maxwell, the primary objective was to create "one great social organization," which would provide healthful conditions, positive social interaction, and meet the more practical needs to properly train the troops.



Bldg 714 under construction, 1 July 1931

City planning had been successfully employed in American cities, and, in 1928, Quartermaster General Benjamin Cheatham thought it time to apply the same principles to an Army post. As a district, the area was designed to emulate the planning ideals of early twentieth century civilian suburbs, reflecting the influence of the City Beautiful Movement in urban planning that extended throughout the 20th century. The historic core featured curving streets, spacious areas of natural landscape, and recreational amenities convenient to housing. The arrangement of buildings reflected a conscious decision by the installation's planners to order land areas according to function, while keeping all buildings convenient to Austin Hall (Air Corps Tactical School).



Building 714 January 1932



Maxwell Base Hospital 1947

The initial construction cost amounted to \$83,147.56. Improvements to the facility continued to be made throughout the 1930s, and, in 1941, a new wing was added to the south end of the building, increasing the capacity from 30 beds to 186 beds. A year later, another wing was added to the north end of the building. By the latter part of the 1950s, the sprawling medical complex that had evolved over the years was no longer sufficient to meet the needs of the base as many of the support facilities were in less than optimum condition.

In 1960, Congress authorized the construction of a new 225-bed hospital for Maxwell AFB in the Fiscal Year 1961 Military Construction Program. During congressional hearings, the Air Force made a commitment to dispose of all of the old hospital buildings, except for Buildings 711, 712, and 714. Arbitrary retention of these buildings was not possible. Thus, on 31 October 1962, Headquarters United States Air Force (HQ USAF) stated that "a request for retention of any building committed for disposal during Congressional committee hearings must be justified in terms of changed requirements." Consequently, there was a good deal of correspondence between Air University (AU) and HQ USAF regarding retention of the former hospital buildings.

In May 1964, the new 225-bed hospital was completed to replace the old and deteriorated medical facilities on Maxwell Air Force Base. While the new medical facility consolidated most of the medical functions under one roof, administrative functions, laboratories, and the Aero Evacuation Mission were slated to remain in the old buildings. HQ USAF then authorized an addition to the new hospital in order to bring all medical functions into a single facility. As it was, the disposition of the former hospital buildings continued to be a problem. Air University had initially concurred in the demolition of only four buildings, 622, 630, 759, and 765. HQ USAF had given special approval to retain eight buildings 710, 711, 712, 714, 755, 756, 757, and 758 with the caveat that these were to be retained for medical use until a new addition to the hospital was completed. Once the new addition was completed, all but Buildings 711, 712, and 714 were to be demolished.

The May 1964 directive allowing for the retention of Building 714 stipulated that once additional space became available it could be changed to other use. At the same time HQ USAF directed AU to develop a contingency plan for the operation of an elementary and secondary school on Maxwell AFB. The emergency plan that was developed called for the use of all hospital buildings which could be released for this purpose, among them Building 714. Be that as it may, Building 714 remained vacant.

On 28 December 1965, HQ USAF directed the relocation of HQ CAP from Ellington AFB to Maxwell AFB during the first quarter of FY 1967. The move was necessitated by CAP's need to find an environmentally-suitable facility to house its new IBM computer system. Air University was instructed to provide the best facilities possible at minimum cost in which to locate CAP HQ. USAF authorized direct coordination between Continental Air Command (CONAC), CAP and AU to resolve CAP HQ facility requirements and related alteration projects. AU and 3800 ABW personnel held several conferences with CAP and CONAC representatives. The most economical plan for accommodating HQ CAP was to assign it a single floor in Bldg 714 with the 3825 Support Group (Academic) also occupying a single floor. Additional space as required by HQ CAP was to be made available through the use of additional single story ward buildings. HQ CAP held that they should be given both floors of Bldg 714 and CONAC concurred. CONAC reiterated their support of this position to the Air Staff and for reasons of prestige the Air Staff chose to support the CAP request, even though this arrangement was more costly. There were numerous telephone calls involving the Vice Commander, CONAC, members of the Air Staff and the Commander AU on this subject

The Air Staff assured AU that the necessary funds would be available to carry the entire project out if both floors were assigned to CAP. The AU Commander acquiesced. On 16 May 1966, two floors of building 714 and three ward buildings, 747, 749, and 751 were assigned to HQ CAP. On 28 May 1966, CONAC requested approval from HQ AF to change the movement date for HQ CAP to 1 April 1967. The change was approved on 7 June and the move was rescheduled to the 4th quarter of FY 67. HQ AU submitted a P-341 project to HQ USAF on 23 June 1966 that requested approval for conversion of the four buildings in question. The cost of relocating the 3825 Support Group (Academic) to three ward buildings (750, 752, 754) was included in the project since space previously intended for the 3825th in Bldg 714 had been allocated to HQ CAP. Total P-341 fund requirement for converting the seven buildings amounted to \$112,400.00. The contract for the conversion was awarded in early 1967 and substantially completed by 30 June 1967.

The relocation of HQ CAP from Ellington AFB in Texas to Maxwell prompted a number of meetings between CONAC and AU officials. The programmed strength of HQ CAP USAF was 18 rated officers, 18 non-rated officers, 46 airmen, and 46 civilians for a total strength of 128 officers, airmen, and civilians effective during the 4th quarter of FY 67.

A support agreement IAW AFR 11-4 was staffed within the 3800 ABW. Ultimately, HQ CONAC authorized the relocation of CAP from Ellington AFB, Texas to Maxwell AFB, effective on or about 15 June 1967. The movement of personnel was as follows:

	<u>Departure date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Airmen</u>
Project Officer on or about	15 May 1967	1	
Advance Echelon	5 June 1967	5	11
Main Body	12 June 1967	23	26
Rear echelon	19 June 1967		3
		29	40

The movement order issued by CONAC also stated that authorized material in the possession of the unit and required at the new location was to be moved. The Commander CAP, USAF, was instructed to make every effort to alleviate any personal hardships that might result from this move.

From 1967 through 2010 a number of minor and three major renovation projects were completed. The minor projects included the construction of the Conference room on the first floor of the south wing in 1970. The major projects included the replacement of windows and the installation of a new heating system in 1983. The second major renovation took place from October 1990 through May 1991 when Building 714 underwent asbestos abatement. This marked a milestone in the installation's history as it was the first instance in which an Air Force asbestos removal team, rather than an outside contractor performed such work. The asbestos abatement was followed by the installation of new windows, doors, carpets, and lowered ceilings in the first floor portion of the south wing.

The third, and by far the most extensive renovation to the more than 70 year old building, began in November 2008. The \$4.8 million project, was completed in the summer of 2010. The scope of the FY2009 project included the upgrade of the mechanical, electrical, fire suppression, architectural, and other system components of the building. The renovation resulted in the replacement of the HVAC system, plumbing fixtures, restroom facilities, lighting fixtures, power circuits, distribution and breaker panels, ceilings, carpeting, and interior finishes. Moreover, the refurbishing of Building 714 resulted in the reconfiguration of available interior space for efficient use.



Building 714 in March 2009 at the beginning phase of renovation



Building 714 nearing completion of renovation April 2010