

# 435th Aerial Port Squadron REUNION NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 5

October 1, 2009

Unofficial Newsletter of the 435th Aerial Port Squadron Reunion Group



## MCCHORD AFB HISTORY

Named for Colonel William C. McChord, an Air Force aviator killed in an plane crash in Virginia on Aug 18, 1937, McChord AFB is widely known throughout the Air Force as one of the most beautiful bases in the world.

Bids were requested for construction in July 1938, and by December, a contract was awarded to construct a 1,285-man barracks, a building know commonly referred to as "The Castle," and which now houses the headquarters of the 62nd Airlift Wing, host unit at McChord.

Construction continued at a steady pace for the next two years. Hangars 1, 2, 3, & 4, officer and enlisted housing, three warehouses, a maintenance building, two wells, a hospital, and a central heating plant sprang up where once herds of sheep wandered.

The original budget to build the base was \$18 million dollars.

In June 1940, the first elements of the 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) began to arrive at the Army Air Force's newest bomber base, and after more than a year of preparation, McChord Field was ready. Formal dedication took place on July 3, 1940. Thousands of people entered McChord to inspect the new buildings and aircraft on the world's largest warming apron.\*

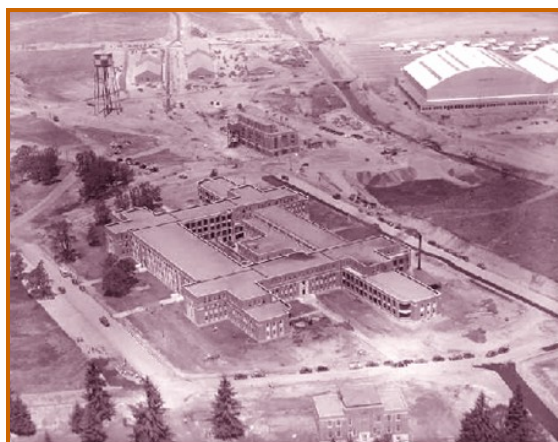
Although a great deal has changed at McChord (Hello, C-17's), we'll find that there is a lot unchanged after 68 years. Our reunion group will enjoy lunch at the base's Co-Located Club, followed by a tour of the base, where many of the original buildings remain, as well as

## WHO PLANS TO ATTEND?

Here's a short list of people who have notified organizers that they plan to attend the reunion:

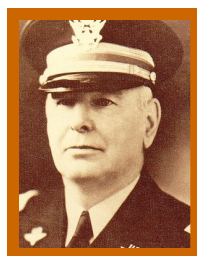
Don & Jean Brewer	Art & Stella Bell
Ray Poole	Susan Difuntorum
Vince Untalan	Chuck & Ellen Ulmer
Mike & Marcia Webb	Carole Lail
Tony Waltzing	Howard & Debbie Smith
Mandy Devine	Jose Jimenez
Mike & Elizabeth Padilla	

*Are you ready to add your name to the list?*



*McChord AFB (then McChord Field) a few days before the official dedication on 3 July 1940, showing a few of the 400 buildings built for the new field.*

McChord's \$13 million aerial port. Like our 2004 Reunion at Rhein Main, we're sure to find that Red Hatters have left their mark here, too.



Colonel  
William C.  
McChord

1881—1937

\* Reprinted with permission of the McChord Air Museum

## REUNION STORE



Purchase reunion merchandise at  
[www.CafePress.com](http://www.CafePress.com)  
/435APSReunion09

Reunion  
Count Down!  
**37**  
Days

## SPECIAL REUNION RATE AVAILABLE FOR APS REUNION

The Courtyard Marriot in Tacoma has offered reunion attendees a special discounted rate for the 2009 reunion. As part of the 435 APS Reunion Group, you may reserve your room(s) at \$118 + tax (reduced from the regular rate of \$219)

For lodging information or to make reservations, go to

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/seatd-courtyard-tacoma-downtown/>

or call 253-591-9101

Ask for reservations under "435 APS Reunion" to access the special rate.

*If you know a former aerial porter who is not registered on our web site, please let us know, or encourage that person to go to our site and register!*

For more Reunion information, please go to [www.435APS.com](http://www.435APS.com)