



Bellechance
A Commander's Haven

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A Historic Setting

*Dr. Stewart's favorite
"Old Fishing Hole,"
one of two ponds
behind Belle Chance,
to the southwest.
Lying just to their
south into the early
1980s, was a third
smaller pond.*

In 1878 historian Dawson Lawrence argued that many factors had combined "to make good the claim of Prince George's County to one of the proudest positions in the sisterhood of counties which constitute the good old State of Maryland." He then enthusiastically supported his point with a long list of the area's virtues, among them "its picturesque scenery; its undulating surface; its numerous and abundant springs of clear, cold water; its running streams, tributary to its two grand historic rivers." Near the center of this pastoral scene that Lawrence described stood a beautiful country estate, Belle Chance.¹

Colonial Days: "The Chance"

Maryland's story began in 1632, when King Charles I granted the colony to Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore. Two years later his brother Leonard brought two ships, the Ark and the Dove, and 140 pioneers to the New World. They bought a village from the native Americans, named it Saint Mary's City, and made it Maryland's first European community. The Calverts, Roman Catholics from Yorkshire County, England, wanted their domain to become a religious sanctuary as well as a profitable enterprise, and they encouraged more colonists to join the first group of settlers.²

Maryland grew into a prosperous colony that eventually contained twenty-three counties. Prince George's originated with an 8 May 1695 Act of the General Assembly and was constituted on 23 April 1696. It consisted of land taken from Charles and Calvert counties, and was named for Prince George of Denmark, the husband of the future Queen Anne of England. The first county seat was Charles Town (which in the 1690s most locals already were calling "Mount Calvert"), a village on the Patuxent River in Mount Calvert Hundred.³

Upper Marlborough, shortened by a postal clerk to "Marlboro" in 1893,⁴ became Prince George's county seat in 1721. Thomas Truman Greenfield surveyed this village in 1706 and its early settlers named



Detail from a map of the state of Maryland by Dennis Griffith, published in 1794, showing the area around "The Chance" in Prince George's County, east of Washington, D.C.

it in honor of John Churchill, the first Duke of Marlborough. This military leader was well known to his countrymen at the time because just two years earlier he had won a decisive victory over the French and Bavarians at the Battle of Blenheim.⁵ The "Upper" in the town's name distinguished it from Lower Marlboro, an older settlement that stood about a dozen miles farther down the Patuxent River and on the Calvert County shore.⁶ Upper Marlboro prospered and grew to be the social,

cultural, and governmental center of Prince George's County.⁷

To encourage settlement in Maryland's counties and to reward his benefactors in England, Cecil Calvert used his charter from King Charles to award patents of land. His descendants continued this practice, and applicants eagerly tried to get as large a grant as possible. One observer of this process reported that "every man provides beforehand to take up so much at the first Patent, that his

great Grandchild may be sure not to want land.”⁸

In 1719 Clement Hill was awarded one of these colonial patents. In his forties at the time, Hill was a landed gentleman who managed his estates and, like other men of his station in eighteenth century America, sometimes practiced as an attorney.⁹ Following the English tradition of giving a name to real property, the Calverts called the land granted to Hill “The Chance.”¹⁰

Clement Hill’s 1719 patent gave him 428 acres. In 1721 he sold two hundred acres of his new property to two other planters. Edmond Henebree purchased a hundred acres for twenty pounds sterling, and Thomas Price the same amount for eighteen pounds sterling.¹¹

As for the part of “Chance” that Clement Hill retained, he no doubt planted much of it in tobacco, which dominated the economy of colonial Maryland in general, and Prince George’s County in particular. Cultivated by African-American slaves and exported to England, this leaf crop reaped great profits during the seventeenth century. In Prince George’s County and throughout Maryland, taxes were assessed, debts were paid, and land was priced in pounds of tobacco, rather than in pounds sterling. Smoking was a common habit in both the Old and New Worlds. When colonial artists sketched the men of Maryland, they typically showed them puffing on “church-wardens,” long-stemmed clay pipes. Ideas about smoking

and health changed drastically over three centuries, but tobacco remained a major crop in Prince George’s County into the twenty-first century.¹²

In addition to tobacco, the plantations of Clement Hill and his neighbors no doubt also supported good-sized herds of livestock. Cattle and hogs could roam and forage for themselves on the large tracts of empty land that were a feature of every early colonial plantation. During the 1600s settlers in Maryland commonly owned more livestock and ate more meat than the farmers in western England.¹³

By the mid-1700s the colonists had developed Prince George’s County into a region that was well cultivated and “civilized” by European standards. “By the midpoint of the [eighteenth] century,” historian Alan Virta summed up, “not a section of the county was unsettled. . . . Prince George’s County had become a populous, well-established agricultural community, where all the amenities of civilized colonial country life could be found.” By the 1750s this area, and the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal rivers, boasted sizeable populations, while in contrast central and western Maryland remained wild country.¹⁴

The Darcy Family

In 1772 Clement Hill owned 128 acres of his original “Chance” award, acreage that he called “Part of Chance.”

That year he sold this property to “John Da[r]say.” The Darcy or Darcey family (different spellings appeared over the years) would own the “Chance” estate for several decades. In 1775, three years after Clement Hill sold the property to John Darsay, the Revolutionary War began. This conflict probably did not disrupt daily life at “Chance,” since little military activity took place in Prince George’s County during the War for American Independence.¹⁵

After the Constitution was ratified in 1789, the new Federal government conducted its first direct tax assessment. This official appraisal depicted the “Chance” as no more than a modest residence, although it did feature a cluster of outbuildings. The assessment reported that Darcy owned “a dwelling house, 20’x16’; a kitchen 16’x12’; a corn house, 12’x10’; a shop, 20’x12’; a meat house measuring 12’x10’; and a [corn] house, 12’x12’ for a total tax worth of \$125.00.”¹⁶

The War of 1812

While the Darcys and other residents of Prince George’s County saw little of the Revolutionary War, they witnessed a major campaign of the War of 1812, one that produced some of the most dramatic episodes in American military history.

A British fleet commanded by Vice Admiral Sir Alexander Cochrane brought about 4,500 soldiers, led by Major General

Robert Ross into the Chesapeake Bay in August 1814. The redcoats sailed up the Patuxent, debarked near Benedict on the nineteenth and twentieth and marched north toward Nottingham.¹⁷ On 22 August they captured a largely deserted Upper Marlboro and rested there for over twenty-four hours, while General Ross consulted with his informants in the area and considered the best route to his objective: Washington, D.C.¹⁸

Between the American capital and the British invaders stood Brigadier General William Winder and a force of about 2,000 American troops, who had made a camp at the Wood Yard. Today rendered "Woodyard," the name refers to the area around where Rosaryville Road branches off from Woodyard Road (Maryland Route 223). This locality is just off the southeast corner of Andrews Air Force Base and less than five miles from Belle Chance.¹⁹ On 22 August General Winder forayed east from the Wood Yard, learned that the British at Upper Marlboro outnumbered him, and retreated north.²⁰

On that Monday, 22 August 1814, the American troops may have passed near, if not through, Darcy's "Chance." The estate lay on a direct line running from the Wood Yard to Long Old Fields, where General Winder's men camped that evening. The name of the place where the Americans bivouacked suggested a planting area that had been allowed to stand fallow for some time. It was also called

"Battalion Old Fields," perhaps because its open character made it useful as a drill ground.²¹ The surrounding region, in contrast, was densely wooded, which added to the cleared area's value as a training and camp site.²²

Long Old Fields today is known as Forestville,²³ a community around the intersection of Forestville Road and Pennsylvania Avenue (Maryland Route 4), just north of Andrews Air Force Base and Belle Chance. At least one structure in the locality still echoes the settlement's earlier name: Longfields Elementary School stands at the end of Orleans Avenue in Forestville.

About 2 p.m. on 23 August the British ended their rest stop at Upper Marlboro and started west toward Long Old Fields. The Maryland summer heat, which at times reached 100 degrees, slowed the redcoats. General Ross soon halted and camped in the area of—perhaps well to the west of—the "Melwood" plantation,²⁴ an estate over three miles southeast of the Americans at Long Old Fields.²⁵

Today the name "Melwood" appears in the vicinity of the intersection of Marlboro Pike and Woodyard Road. The plantation's identity survives in the Melwood Mall, west of this crossroads, and in the names of the Melwood Pond Community Park, Melwood Elementary School, and many other places in the area along the Woodyard Road.²⁶

Northwest of the British at Melwood, the Americans remained at Long

Old Fields during 23 August. At sundown General Winder ordered his outnumbered troops to withdraw toward Washington. Shortly after 8 p.m. they crossed the Eastern Branch, today's Anacostia River, and the exhausted soldiers spent the night in the capital.²⁷

General Winder's command alone was outnumbered by the British, but on the twenty-third other American forces began marshaling along the Eastern Branch. By the end of that day, perhaps 6,000 soldiers had gathered to defend their capital, and it was the British who stood at a numerical disadvantage.²⁸ Most of the American force, however, was made up of hastily mobilized militia units, who were short of both food and sleep.²⁹

Around 5 a.m. on 24 August the British left their camp in the Melwood region and began a march that would take them to Bladensburg and Washington. Feinting toward Alexandria, the redcoats at first headed west along a route that carried them north of the Darcy plantation.³⁰ They then moved north to Bladensburg, where they arrived about noon.³¹

That same Wednesday afternoon the British attacked and defeated the Americans in the Battle of Bladensburg, an engagement witnessed by Secretary of State James Monroe and Secretary of War John Armstrong.³² General Winder estimated his casualties at 30 to 40 killed and 50 to 60 wounded. The Americans also lost 120 men captured,³³ including

Commodore Joshua Barney, who was wounded. The British attackers had suffered higher casualties, but they had won an open road to Washington.³⁴

The redcoats rested several hours and marched into the American capital that night, after President James Madison and other officials had fled the city.³⁵ The British burned the Capitol, the White House, and other public buildings, setting fires that blazed all night. On the night of 25 August the invaders left the smoldering city and began an unopposed return to the ships waiting for them at Benedict. The British withdrew on a direct line from Bladensburg to Upper Marlboro, a route that took them northeast of "Chance."³⁶

No doubt the Darcy family knew at first hand about these stirring events of the Washington campaign and of the one against Baltimore that followed it.³⁷ This second operation culminated in the British fleet's bombardment of Fort McHenry and Francis Scott Key's composition of the "Star Spangled Banner." The Americans, despite the humiliating destruction of their capital, continued the war against Great Britain and negotiated a satisfactory peace treaty, which the Senate ratified in 1815.

The Civil War Era

In 1818 Edward Darcey inherited the "Chance" estate from his father John.³⁸ Edward had married Hannah Peacock in 1799, and they had at least three children.



Nineteenth-century headstones marking the graves of Edward Darcey and his wife, Hannah, on the grounds of Belle Chance.

Hannah or "Hanner" Darcey died in 1807 and was buried in the family cemetery, on the grounds of the present-day Belle Chance. Mary Darcey, a daughter of Hannah and Edward, married Coleman Fry in 1821, and the couple had at least one son, William. County tax assessors in 1828 listed the family's ownership of three slaves and 193.5 acres.³⁹

On 8 April 1842, when Edward Darcey was seventy years old, he deeded "Chance," which by then had grown to a 272-acre plantation, to this grandson, William Fry. Edward Darcey died about three months later, on 30 June, and was buried next to his wife, Hannah, in the family cemetery.⁴⁰

This Darcey family burial plot stands less than three hundred feet southeast of today's Belle Chance, and is one of several private Prince George's County cemeteries that survived into the twenty-first century. The remains of Edward and Hannah Darcey rest there, surrounded by a white picket fence over three feet high and enclosing an area roughly fifteen feet square. The wife's stone reads: "Hanner Darcey D.T.L. ["departed this life"] Jany 12, 1807." The husband's headstone, more professionally inscribed, is engraved: "Sacred to the memory of Edward Darcey who departed this life June 30th, 1842, aged 70 years." A footstone stands a little more than eight feet away from this marker.⁴¹

The Darcy family may have another twenty-first century legacy, in the name of a Prince George's County thoroughfare. Darcy Road makes a semicircle of about fifteen miles through an area just north of Andrews Air Force Base. Winding through the community of Little Washington, it connects the Ritchie and Westphalia Roads. This road has followed roughly its present path since at least 1861. In 1967 this route was given the name "D'Arcy Road," but many signs omit the apostrophe and the Alexandria Drafting Company's maps label it "Darcy Road."⁴²

In 1848 Edward Darcey's grandson, William Fry, sold the "Chance" plantation house and 108 acres around it to Charles F. Calvert. A direct descendant of the famous colonial family, the buyer was a member of the prominent Calverts of Mount Airy. Charles F. Calvert acquired land beyond his original purchase and eventually expanded the estate to 360 acres. He gave the property the name that it would carry into the twenty-first century: "Belle Chance."⁴³

Calvert, like every other American of his generation, was engulfed during the 1850s by the debate over slavery. For some abolitionists, who were a scorned minority, this Southern institution represented a sinful violation of human rights. The great majority of Northerners, however, focused on a narrow political question: Should slavery be allowed to spread into the new territories that were opening up in the western United States after the Mexican



Chapel 2, Andrews Air Force Base. Forest Grove Church, the chapel's original designation, was built in 1854 by members of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

War? It was this controversy that eventually led to the secession of eleven Southern states and to the Civil War, the bloodiest conflict in American history.⁴⁴

The slavery debate divided many families, the major political parties, and some religious institutions, as well. During the 1850s mainline Protestant churches split along Northern and Southern lines. The Methodist General Conference, for example, declared that its membership was

open only to churches that endorsed abolition. Incensed by this position, many churches below the Mason-Dixon line left the General Conference and formed the Methodist Episcopal Church South.⁴⁵

Maryland lay on the border between North and South, and its people held divided opinions about slavery and secession. The state's laws permitted the "peculiar institution," but the legislature voted against leaving the Union. Maryland's



The cemetery at Chapel 2.

Protestant churches were likewise divided. The Baltimore Conference, for example, voted to accept the General Conference's condemnation of slavery. But in strongly pro-Southern Prince George's County, which would give Republican Abraham Lincoln only three votes in the election of 1860, many churches rejected this position. A number of congregations in the Bladensburg circuit decided to leave the Baltimore Conference over this issue and declared themselves part of the Methodist

Episcopal Church South.⁴⁶

A church located not far north of Calvert's Belle Chance offered one example of these state and local patterns. The congregation of the Old Fields or Forestville Methodist Church, today's Forest Memorial United Methodist Church at 3111 Forestville Road, dated back to 1816 or earlier. Provoked by the anti-slavery stand of the Baltimore Conference, some of its members broke away and formed a Southern institution. They moved to a

location less than two miles east-southeast of the Darcey house and built Forest Grove Methodist Church, a chapel of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.⁴⁷

The congregation dedicated their new building in March 1854, and secured the deed for its small lot the following year. The *Planters' Advocate*, an Upper Marlboro newspaper, reported at the time: "Church Dedicated - The new Methodist Church South, near Centreville in this county, was dedicated on Sunday last in the presence of a large congregation. Reverend Mr. Davis was the officiating clergyman. It will be hereafter known as Forest Grove Church." The village of Centreville mentioned in this article was a small settlement, which, by the early nineteenth century, had grown up along the road from Upper Marlboro to Long Old Fields.⁴⁸

During the Civil War Union troops were stationed around the Methodist Church South, no doubt to the dismay of its pro-Southern congregation. The Washington defenses, a ring of fortifications that protected the District of Columbia, included several forts that stood east of the Anacostia River. The Federal soldiers encamped at the Methodist Church South probably were assigned either to one of these installations, such as Forts Baker, Wagner, or Ricketts, or to their outposts.⁴⁹

Descendants of area families later contended that Union troops barred the church's minister from his own pulpit and that wartime sermons were given by an

Episcopal minister from Upper Marlboro. Another local tradition related that some of the Federal soldiers were buried in the church cemetery. The graveyard remains, but its stones do not bear out this claim. They show interments beginning in 1874 (John E. Randall) and ending in 1938 (William T. Beall).⁵⁰

Encircled by this cemetery, today's Chapel 2, Andrews Air Force Base, stands on the site of the Methodist Church South.⁵¹ Impressive oaks and other hardwood trees shade this handsome building and its cemetery. The churchyard burials include members of the Beall, Pumphrey, and other prominent local families.⁵²

Belle Chance, a neighboring property of the Methodist Church South and its cemetery, became the object of a family dispute shortly after the Civil War. Charles F. Calvert died in September 1868, evidently without identifying an heir, and his brothers began a lengthy litigation over his estate. In 1877 an equity court awarded the Belle Chance house and adjoining land to the children of Charles F. Calvert's brother George, and various parcels to other heirs.⁵³



Dr. William G. Stewart with his wife, seated to his left, and a guest relaxing in the living room of his new country home, Belle Chance, 1912.

The Stewarts

In 1902 Marian Wilson, a niece of Charles F. Calvert, sold the Belle Chance residence and 168 acres around it to Dr. William G. Stewart, a remarkably successful Washington, D.C., professional man. Born in 1857 in Cincinnati, Ohio, young Stewart grew up in Pennsylvania's Lykens Valley and attended the University of Pennsylvania as a medical student. In 1881 he was graduated as a doctor of dental surgery and practiced dentistry for more than twenty

years. Not content with one profession, in 1894 Dr. Stewart entered Georgetown University Law School and three years later was graduated with a bachelor of laws degree and, in 1895, a master of laws.⁵⁴

In 1898 Dr. Stewart was admitted to legal practice before the District of Columbia Supreme Court. He was by then a Washington resident and pursuing professional careers as both an attorney and dentist. His dental practice eventually

dwindled, and Dr. Stewart increasingly gave his time to the law and to investments. In 1901 he erected the “Stewart Building” at the corner of 6th and D Streets in northwest Washington, D.C., and leased its offices largely to attorneys. The following year he purchased Belle Chance, and in 1903 he retired altogether from his dental practice.⁵⁵

After Dr. Stewart bought the former Calvert house in 1902, he spent his happiest hours on the estate. Devoting considerable attention to its landscaping, he improved its already beautiful appearance. The doctor also experimented with mushroom planting in an area northeast of his house.⁵⁶

Dr. Stewart loved the country life, particularly hunting and fishing. The largest of the three spring-fed ponds near the Belle Chance mansion, the one just southwest of it, became known as the owner’s “Old Fishing Hole.”⁵⁷ The doctor’s wife Blanche evidently preferred living in the District of Columbia and resisted the move from the city, but she eventually became strongly attached to their new home in the Prince George’s countryside.⁵⁸

After making his initial acquisition in 1902, Dr. Stewart continued to purchase acreage in the surrounding area. He eventually became the largest land owner in the region and referred to his entire estate—not just his home—as “Belle Chance.” His holdings stretched from Meadows to Camp Springs, an area that now forms part of Andrews Air Force Base.⁵⁹

Meadows, a small African-American settlement surrounding a Freedmen’s Bureau school and a black Methodist church, developed south of Centreville during Reconstruction. The only vestige of this historic community is the graveyard of the Saint Luke’s (Niles) African Methodist Episcopal Church. The area today is a mix of residential, commercial, and government properties and lies immediately east of Andrews, toward the northern end of the base, about two miles from Belle Chance.⁶⁰

Although the name “Camp Springs” has a military ring, it derived instead from the Methodist camp meetings held in that area during the nineteenth century. Local residents referred to it in the singular case, as “Camp Spring,” until as late as 1878.⁶¹ It remained a quiet rural locality until World War II or somewhat later.⁶² Today’s Camp Springs community lies just west of Andrews, beyond the parallel roads Branch Avenue (Maryland Route 5) and Old Branch Avenue.

A New Belle Chance

The house that Dr. Stewart had purchased was a wood frame structure dating back to the Darcey family. In 1910 one of the charming features of the Belle Chance residence, its isolated wooded location, abruptly became a liability. A forest fire burned the old Darcey house to the ground.⁶³

Dr. Stewart, determined that this episode would never be repeated, proposed to build a fireproof, all-concrete structure on the site of his burned out home. Although his wife, daughter, and neighbors expressed skepticism about his plan, the doctor persisted with it. He constructed one of the first poured-concrete houses in his region, using forms that were quite expensive by the standards of their day. Dr. Stewart’s chosen building material prevented future alterations, but proved its sturdiness and durability into the twenty-first century.⁶⁴

During the pre-World War I period, a number of American architects and builders advocated fireproof, all-concrete buildings. Shortly before fire destroyed the old Belle Chance, architect E.S. Child published his plans for “A Fire-Proof Cottage,” in the November 1909 issue of *Shoppell’s Owners and Builders Magazine*. He stood confident that “any owner who has experienced the disasters caused by a fire will thoroughly appreciate” the advantages of this design. “Every owner of a home knows,” Child warned, “that fire insurance only partially insures against loss.”⁶⁵

The magazine followed up Child’s article with others promoting concrete construction. In December 1909 it featured “A Modern Indestructible Home,” and the following April, “Reinforced Concrete for Residence Construction.” In March 1910 Child made another contribution, “A Substantial Fireproof House,” accompanied

with an illustration that generally resembles the present Belle Chance. It is possible that Dr. Stewart used plans from articles such as these for his new house.⁶⁶

Workers finished the second Belle Chance in 1912. The handsome new house had elements of Colonial Revival and quasi-Spanish styles, two motifs that enjoyed popularity in early twentieth-century America. Its interior details were impressive, particularly in view of the limitations enforced by its one-foot thick concrete walls. An imposing central stairhall opened into two parlors to the north, and a large living room, later called the sun room, to the south. The interior trim featured simplified Colonial Revival detail. A handsome wooden mantel with shouldered molding, cushion frieze, and dentillated cornice highlighted each of the largest two rooms.⁶⁷



Dr. Stewart's new all-concrete Belle Chance in 1912, under construction and during the summer and autumn. It was one of the first buildings in the area designed to be completely fireproof.





Construction of the concrete retaining wall between Belle Chance and Dr. Stewart's Old Fishing Hole, one of the three spring-fed ponds behind the property, 1920.



Within a few years after 1912, Dr. Stewart had three outbuildings constructed just northeast of the main house, and compatible with it. Farthest north from Belle Chance, a little less than 125 feet from it, workers completed a two-story side-gabled guest house. Like the main residence, it was built of concrete.⁶⁸ A one-and-one-half story hip-roof garage was constructed just south of the guest house, built of the same material and trimmed identically. Its two bay doors were decorated with striking geometric patterns. South of this building and nearest the main house, workers completed a one-story gable-roof garden shed, again in concrete, and with slightly flared eaves. All three outbuildings face a circular drive, which today is connected to Andrews' North Perimeter Road by Maryland Avenue.⁶⁹

The World War II Era

In 1929 local and national leaders discussed the need for a municipal airport to serve Washington, D.C. The area of today's Andrews Air Force Base was considered as a possible site, and a survey was conducted. Then the issue died down until 1936, when Congress approved establishing an airport for the District of Columbia and authorized a District of Columbia Airport Commission to study possible locations.⁷⁰

Dr. Stewart took an interest in this question and suggested to national

lawmakers that part of his land would be suitable for the project. Some members of Congress were receptive to his proposal. Others, and a number of local residents, opposed it, and the idea was dropped.⁷¹

During the summer of 1937 the D.C. Airport Commission made its report, recommending the Camp Springs area for the proposed facility. The Senate approved the site, along with an express highway that would have connected the new airport with downtown Washington. The House did not act on this legislation, and attention shifted to Gravelly Point, a location endorsed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Work began there on what eventually became Washington National Airport, and Camp Springs seemingly faded from the picture.⁷²

Dr. Stewart persisted in his efforts to interest the federal government in his property, however, presenting site proposals and offering some of his land for sale. The choice of the Gravelly Point location seemed to defeat him, but the situation changed dramatically after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II. The War Department then very much wanted to develop a military airfield close to the nation's capital.⁷³

On 26 August 1942 President Roosevelt directed Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson to purchase 3,200 acres in the Camp Springs area, which would become an Army Air Field. The acquisition included a few hamlets in the Maryland

countryside—Centreville, Meadows, Woodyard—and many farms. More than 100 families left their homes on 269 tracts, which ranged from small plots of bottomland to great estates with hundreds of productive acres.⁷⁴

The displacement worked a hardship on many people. A local newspaper reflected: "Farms that for generations have afforded their owners with the necessities of life will be plowed up; country stores where overall-clad men gathered for the only social life they knew, will come down." Dr. Stewart, who had lobbied Congress to purchase some of his land, was surprised to learn that the War Department was buying out all of it, including his Belle Chance mansion.⁷⁵

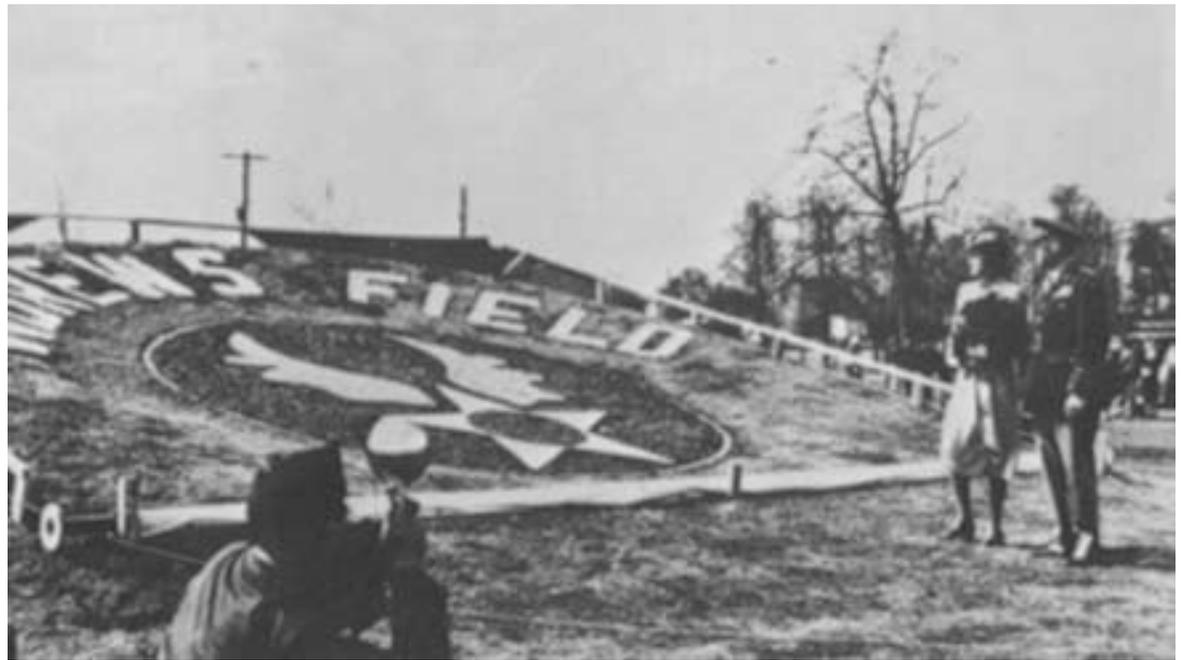
Although some people resented the dislocation, the times promoted a mood of resignation. It was the first summer after Pearl Harbor, and Americans accepted rural land acquisition and other unpopular policies as wartime necessities. The same local paper, which had lamented the government's decision, also reported that "the people of Camp Springs and Meadows aren't bitter. They know the land they love must go, and are resigned." This news article also cited in particular the example of seventy-six year old Ida Mayhew, who had lived on a little tract in the area for sixty-eight years: "There is a war to be won, and Mrs. Mayhew is not one to interfere with its progress."⁷⁶

Early Military Residents

The Stewarts left what had been their longtime home in November 1942. Many years later Connie Yates, wife of General Ronald W. Yates and resident of Belle Chance between 1990 and 1992, reflected that it “must have been devastating” for Dr. Stewart “at the age of eighty-five to lose the house he had built and cherished for over thirty years.” Then she added: “I am sure, however, if Dr. Stewart could see how lovingly each resident has cared for his ‘dream’ in the years since, he would be pleased.”⁷⁷

After the Stewarts departed, Farley and Janet R. Gannett occupied the house for about six months. Mr. Gannett was the president of Gannett, Easman and Fleming, an engineering firm near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, that in March 1942 received the War Department’s contract to make a two-foot contour survey of the site for Camp Springs Army Air Field. After the company successfully completed this effort, the government then engaged it to design and supervise the construction of the new airfield, including its four 5,500-foot runways.⁷⁸

Since the other principal officers of Gannett, Easman, and Fleming were engaged elsewhere, Mr. Gannett personally took charge of the Camp Springs project in September 1942. Farley Gannett later recalled with pride the effort that his company sustained to build this important war-



(Above) Camp Springs Army Air Field, 1943; (below) Andrews Field and service emblem formed by flowers at the installation's dedication, 1948. Mrs. Frank M. Andrews looks on.

time airfield. "I stayed throughout the job," he wrote in 1955, "and ours was the only organization that stayed complete from start to finish. The Engineering Officer was changed and the Contractor's No. 1 man was changed twice, but we went on right through the job just as we started."⁷⁹

While Mr. Gannett supervised the extensive work at Camp Springs, he and his wife Janet lived in Belle Chance from November 1942 to April 1943. Mrs. Gannett was well aware of the Stewarts' deep affection for their old home and was herself attracted to the residence. She wrote a poem about the stately house and its surroundings, which she presented to the Stewarts before Christmas 1942. "These sturdy walls have held you," Janet Gannett's work began, "With friendliness and warmth." She and her husband left Belle Chance in April 1943, its last civilian residents.⁸⁰

Late in that month Captain Andrew W. Salter, a pursuit pilot who had been graduated from flying school in 1940, assumed responsibility as the initial commanding officer of Camp Springs Army Air Field. He and his wife became the first of a long line of military couples who made Belle Chance their home. The Salters' tenure proved brief because Camp Springs soon was designated a control base, requiring a colonel as its commander. Colonel Michael E. McHugo transferred from Baltimore Army Air Field and succeeded Captain Salter, who remained on the instal-

lation as its base operations officer. In early November 1943 Salter left Camp Springs to take command of a P-38 squadron.⁸¹

Colonel Michael McHugo, fifty-one years old when he became Camp Springs' commander on 1 July 1943, was a World War I veteran with extensive experience in balloon and dirigible operations. He and his wife Elsie lived in Belle Chance for about a year, when they moved to Selfridge Army Air Field, just northeast of Detroit. Although their tour proved short, no doubt the McHugos enjoyed their time in the beautiful house on the new airfield. The colonel shared Dr. Stewart's interests in fishing and hunting and must have appreciated the ponds of Belle Chance and the still-rural area that surrounded the home.⁸²

Colonel McHugo turned the base over to Colonel William L. Boyd on 6 July 1944, a month after D-Day in Normandy. During Colonel Boyd's tenure, the Camp Springs installation was renamed in honor of Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews, one of the great founding leaders of the United States Air Force. General Andrews had commanded the European Theater of Operations from February 1943 until his death, in an aircraft accident in Iceland on the following 3 May.⁸³ Had it not been for this tragedy, he, rather than General Dwight D. Eisenhower, would have commanded the American and Allied forces in the great campaigns of France and Germany during 1944 and 1945. On 7 February



Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews, for whom Andrews Air Force Base was named.

1945 the Camp Springs facility formally became Andrews Field.⁸⁴

On 20 May 1945 Colonel Boyd was succeeded by his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Maupin. This thirty-year-old officer had compiled a commendable wartime career, which included delivering fighters to America's then-ally the Soviet Union and serving as a base commander at Nome and in the Aleutian Islands, Alaska. Lieutenant Colonel Maupin and his wife Nancy lived at Belle Chance only briefly,

until 12 November 1945, when he was succeeded by Colonel Curtis D. Sluman.⁸⁵

Colonel Sluman, the last base commander to reside at Belle Chance, also had a short tenure there. A bomber pilot with combat experience over North Africa, Sluman was thirty-four years old when he reported to Andrews Field from III Bomber Command Headquarters at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, where he had been director of operations and training. He and his wife Anna lived in Belle Chance until October 1946, when the house became the residence of General George C. Kenney, commander of Strategic Air Command. The Slumans remained at Andrews until the following June, when the colonel received a staff assignment at Headquarters Air Transport Command in Washington, D.C.⁸⁶

On 18 September 1947 the United States Air Force became an independent military service. A long, distinguished chapter in the history of Belle Chance closed and a new, hopeful one began.



Belle Chance

*These sturdy walls have held you.
With friendliness and warmth,
They gave me, a stranger,
Greetings, strong and clear,
They speak of love and laughter;
Of dignity, and grace,
Of sorrow, without fear.*

*The wind sweeps over the hills above;
The sun is mirrored in the lake,
The cedars bend so quietly,
As if to touch the ground they love;
They seem to bring a message
of all this means to you;
How much we love it, too!*

*Dedicated to the Stewart Family
15 December 1942*



2

The Air Force Heritage

*Overhead view of Belle
Chance's entrance, 2000. The
thick stands of trees surround-
ing the house shield it from
the activity at a very busy
Andrews Air Force Base.*

In 1991 General Ronald W. Yates, the last commander of Air Force Systems Command, discussed what Belle Chance has meant to its residents over the years. “Almost inevitably, when I speak with a former commander,” General Yates reflected, “one of his first questions is ‘How are you enjoying Belle Chance?’ . . . I know that each commander has particularly enjoyed some special aspect of Belle Chance.”¹

The Major Commands

From 1946 until 1992 the installation known first as Andrews Field and then as Andrews Air Force Base provided the headquarters for a series of major commands of the United States Air Force. These organizations were the Strategic Air Command, 1946–1948; the Military Air Transport Service, 1948–1958; the Air Research and Development Command, 1958–1961, and its direct successor, Air Force Systems Command, 1961–1992. Throughout these years, the commander of each of these major commands lived in Belle Chance.

Strategic Air Command

The first commander of a major command to reside at Belle Chance was General George C. Kenney, who lived there with his wife Alice from October 1946 until October 1948. He was born in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, while his parents were visiting Canada. He was a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when the United States entered World War I. While serving with, and later commanding, the 91st Aero Squadron on the Western Front, he flew seventy-five combat sorties in the Toul and Meuse-Argonne sectors and shot down two German aircraft. During the interwar period then-Captain Kenney was assigned to the Air Corps Tactical School, where he became



General George C. Kenney, who, as the first commander of Strategic Air Command, resided in Belle Chance from 1946 to 1948.

an advocate of attack aviation, and later to the Chief of the Air Corps' Plans Division office, where he championed an independent air force.²

General Kenney was well known as an innovator. He developed ideas for low-level strikes, machine gun mounting, bullet-proof glass, bomber power turrets, better oxygen systems, parachute bombs, and "skip-bombing." His motto was "Hell, let's try it."³

During World War II General Kenney became "MacArthur's Airman": He commanded the Fifth Air Force and all Allied air forces in the Southwest Pacific. As air commander, he made air power an integral part of General MacArthur's strategy and operations. General Kenney's planning for the Battle of the Bismarck Sea led to the sinking of sixteen Japanese ships. General MacArthur, one historian pointed out, "characterized Kenney as born to be a pirate, and when the fighting

was over, said that no air commander of World War II surpassed George Kenney as a combat leader."⁴

As commander of Strategic Air Command, General Kenney lived at Belle Chance until October 1948. On the nineteenth of that month he was succeeded in this assignment by Lieutenant General Curtis E. LeMay. That November Headquarters SAC moved from Andrews to Offutt Air Force Base, Bellevue, Nebraska, where it would remain for the duration of the command's history.⁵

Military Air Transport Service

Belle Chance did not remain vacant, however, for the headquarters of another major command replaced that of SAC. This was the Military Air Transport Service, the June 1948 successor to the Air Transport Command. Charged with the management of all strategic airlift operations, MATS quickly answered an enormous challenge. Just twenty-five days after the new command was formed, the Soviet Union blockaded West Berlin, causing the Allies to mount the dramatically successful Berlin Airlift of June 1948 to October 1949.⁶

Lieutenant General Laurence S. Kuter, who helped organize MATS and became its first commander, lived at Belle Chance with his wife Ethel from 1948 until 1951. By that time General Kuter had already served a distinguished career, and



Lieutenant General Laurence S. Kuter, who as the first commander of the Military Air Transport Service, resided in Belle Chance from 1948 to 1951.

great responsibilities remained ahead of him. He had been a co-author of AWPDP-1, the air plan that first defined how strategic air power would be used in World War II's European theater, and was promoted directly from lieutenant colonel to brigadier general at the age of thirty-six. His wartime assignments included commanding the 1st Bombardment Wing of the Eighth Air Force and later the Allied Tactical Air Forces in North Africa, serving as assistant chief of the Air Staff for plans and combat operations, and as the deputy commander of Army Air Forces in the Pacific. "The apogee of Kuter's wartime achievement," Major General Haywood S. Hansell observed, "came in the spring of 1944, when he represented the ailing General [H.H. "Hap"] Arnold at the international conferences at Malta and Yalta. . . . It is hard to imagine a higher step for a young airman" than attending "the crucial meeting of great nations fighting a global war."⁷

General Kuter held an extraordinarily diverse range of senior positions



The old corn crib, a rustic backdrop for many flower and vegetable gardens grown throughout the years at Belle Chance.

during his thirty-five year career. After serving as first MATS commander, he went on to head the Air University, 1953–1955. Promoted to four-star general, he commanded the Far East Air Forces, 1955–1959, and in his last assignment was the commander in chief of the North Atlantic Air Defense Command.⁸

General Kuter and his wife greatly enjoyed their time at Belle Chance. Mrs. Kuter took on a number of projects around the house and grounds. To ensure that her floor coverings would fit the available space, she cut all of her own carpeting.

Mrs. Kuter avidly pursued gardening and appreciated the opportunities that Belle Chance offered for her pastime. She cultivated a beautiful collection of roses and, next to a corn crib about 170 feet east of the house, she maintained a successful vegetable garden.⁹ (The origin of that corn crib remains a mystery. A 1995 state survey characterized it as "of recent vintage"; some Belle Chance residents believe it is older than the Stewart house.)¹⁰

Another Belle Chance mystery dated at least to the Kuters' tenure: the tradition that the house has been haunted.

Ethel Kuter reported that she and her husband believed three ghosts lived there with them. One rattled the windows, another rang a bell, and a third bumped in the attic. One of these alleged specters was called "Aunt Maude," and another "Uncle George," the names of members of the Stewart family.¹¹

Some forty years after the Kuters had left Belle Chance, the ghost story remained in circulation. Writing in 1991, Connie Yates, the wife of General Ronald W. Yates, acknowledged that "there was an occasional house aide who refused to go to the attic." But she also dismissed the supernatural lore of Belle Chance with a good-natured comment. With "modern-day jets landing on the flight line and the [Washington, D.C.] Beltway just a quarter of a mile away," Mrs. Yates remarked, "I think the ghosts have given up."¹²

Long after her years at Belle Chance, Mrs. Kuter also recalled a more mundane feature of the property, a road that connected the northern end of Dr. Stewart's Old Fishing Hole with the Andrews flightline. A holly hedge decorated the stretch of the roadway that ran along the pond. The trace of a section of the old road survived into the early twenty-first century, and its path still can be easily followed. It starts south from the parking lot on the east side of the house and then swings west to pass along the northern edge of the Old Fishing Hole. The holly

hedge that Mrs. Kuter remembered has been replaced by a row of closely spaced, mature hardwoods.¹³

The Kuters left Belle Chance when the general was succeeded as MATS commander by Lieutenant General Joseph Smith. General Smith and his wife Anna enjoyed a long tenure in the residence, from 1952 until 1957. The second MATS commander was a 1923 graduate of the United States Military Academy, flew routes as an airmail pilot, and served as commandant of cadets at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, during the interwar years.¹⁴

After the United States entered World War II, then-Colonel Smith served as a War Department plans officer. In November 1943, as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Joint War Plans Committee, he accompanied President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the Cairo Conference. He also served in India as chief of staff of XX Bomber Command and, late in the war, at Headquarters Eighth Air Force in Okinawa.¹⁵

On 21 August 1947 then-Colonel Smith assumed command of Wiesbaden Military Post, Germany, located just west of Frankfurt and about 275 miles from Berlin. It was a Spartan facility that, only two years earlier, had been a Luftwaffe fighter base. On 11 June 1948 he was promoted to brigadier general and on the twenty-ninth, as the Berlin Airlift was getting underway,



Lieutenant General Joseph Smith, the second commander of Military Air Transport Service and resident of Belle Chance from 1952 to 1957.

Lieutenant General Curtis E. LeMay, the commander-in-chief of United States Air Forces in Europe, appointed him the temporary commander of what was emerging daily as a historically significant operation. Serving in this crucial role for about one month, General Smith and his staff established many of the basic procedures that made the Berlin Airlift a resounding success.¹⁶

General Smith received his second star in 1949 and his third three years later. He and his wife lived at Belle Chance throughout the mid-1950s. In 1957 the headquarters of this major command moved to Scott Air Force Base, Belleville, Illinois, near Saint Louis, Missouri. The descendant of Headquarters MATS, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, remains there today. The Smiths left Andrews with the move of the command headquarters, and the general retired the following year.¹⁷



Concrete decorative retaining walls lining the edge of Dr. Stewart's Old Fishing Hole, 1999.

Late in 1951, before the Smiths moved into Belle Chance, Air Force Chief of Staff General Hoyt S. Vandenberg approved an extensive remodeling project for the house, which was then thirty-nine years old. Workers repaired the roof, replaced the electrical wiring, and modernized the kitchen. This 1952 renovation also included the installation of a second bathroom upstairs and the "slip covering" of the two fireplaces: Mantels were added, to give them a more conventional appearance.¹⁸

After the Smiths moved in, Mrs. Smith discovered that Dr. Stewart's Old Fishing Hole had developed an unhealthy number of eels. General Smith had it partially drained, fertilized, and stocked with bass and bluegill fingerlings. For decades afterward the pond provided a relaxing fishing spot.¹⁹

Air Research and Development Command/ Air Force Systems Command

After the Smiths departed, Belle Chance again did not stand vacant long, for another major command soon made its headquarters at Andrews Air Force Base. This time it was the Air Research and Development Command. It had been established in 1950 to implement the recommendations by Dr. Louis Ridenour's and Major General Orvil Anderson's study groups, and other visionaries, that the U.S. Air Force should have a major command that would focus on the research and development of aircraft and the many other complex systems so important to the post-World War II service. ARDC made its first permanent headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, then moved to Baltimore, Maryland, in June 1951, and eventually to Andrews in January 1958.²⁰

Lieutenant General Samuel E. Anderson was the sixth commander of ARDC and the first of twelve Air Research and Development Command and Air Force Systems Command commanders who resided at Belle Chance. The stately home would be associated briefly with ARDC and then for thirty-one years with its direct successor, AFSC. General Anderson and his wife Frances moved into Belle Chance



General Samuel E. Anderson, builder of Air Research and Development Command and resident in Belle Chance from 1958 to 1959.

in January 1958 and remained until the following year, when he was promoted to four-star rank and named commander of the Air Materiel Command.²¹

A Greensboro, North Carolina native and a West Point graduate, then-Major Anderson was assigned to the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, Headquarters Air Force, when the United States entered World War II. In the Pacific theater, he received the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the vicinity of Port Moresby, New Guinea, in June 1942. In the European theater, then-Colonel Anderson commanded the Third Bombardment Wing (Medium) and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for combat missions he flew in July and August 1943.²²

After the war General Anderson was a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff's Joint Strategic Survey Committee, worked in Headquarters USAF, and commanded the Eighth Air Force. In May 1953, the month before the Korean War ended, he

was promoted to lieutenant general and was named commanding general of the Fifth Air Force. A year later he became the director of the Office of the Secretary of Defense's Weapons Systems Evaluation Group.²³

During his tenure as commander of the Air Research and Development Command, General Anderson set in motion a sequence of events that led to a fundamental change in the way the Air Force organized and conducted its research and development efforts. He assumed command on 1 August 1957 and later that year proposed to Air Force Chief of Staff General Thomas D. White that a panel of distinguished scientists review the Air Force's and ARDC's organization and procedures for research and development. The result was the Stever Committee, a group of nine prominent leaders of science and industry, chaired by Dr. H. Guyford Stever, a physics professor who was the chief scientist of the Air Force and later the chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board.²⁴

In June 1958, after seven months of study, the group presented its findings to General White. The Stever Report advocated in general a decentralizing of the civilian and military acquisition bureaucracies. In the specific case of ARDC, it recommended reorganizing the command along functional lines.²⁵

In November 1958 General Anderson established a working group within his own command that reviewed the Stever Report and provided its own recom-

mendations. By the time this committee finished its work, its senior officer was awaiting the orders that would make him the commander of Air Materiel Command, an organization whose perspective on research and development organizational issues differed sharply from ARDC's. Further, General Anderson's successor no doubt would have his own ideas about this fundamentally important subject. The commander did the appropriate thing under the circumstances, ordering the working group to continue its explorations until after the new ARDC leader reported. When General Anderson left Andrews Air Force Base for Headquarters AMC, he had begun a historic reorganization of Air Force research and development.²⁶

Since Belle Chance had received an extensive renovation just before the arrival of General and Mrs. Joseph Smith, it needed little refurbishing during the Andersons' years in the residence. During this period the house featured a white exterior, a gray roof, awnings vertically striped in light and dark gray, and a low white picket fence that decorated the front walkway and enclosed the lawn. Early in 1958 the building's vertical frame windows were replaced with sash units, which accommodated Venetian blinds and air conditioners.²⁷

General Anderson's successor at Belle Chance and ARDC, Lieutenant General Bernard A. Schriever, stood among the giants in the history of the Cold War Air Force. General Schriever was born in



The entrance to Belle Chance, after a major renovation of the home in 1952.

Bremen, Germany. He was graduated from Texas A&M University in 1931, joined the army, and completed pilot training at Kelly Field, Texas, in 1933.²⁸ Out of the service briefly during the 1930s, he returned to duty as an engineering officer and test pilot, earned a master's degree in aeronautical engineering at Stanford University, and flew sixty-three B-17 combat sorties in the Southwest Pacific.²⁹

After World War II General Schriever worked with Dr. Theodore Von Karman and others to build connections between the Air Force and the scientific community that served the nation so well during the Cold War, and beyond.

Assigned to the Air Staff during the early 1950s, he oversaw the work of the then relatively new RAND Corporation. In mid-1954 he became the manager of the Air Force's intercontinental ballistic missile program. His calm and persuasive personality and his innovative ideas animated the development of the Atlas, Thor, Titan, and Minuteman missiles.³⁰

While working with the Atlas test program, General Schriever introduced an important management strategy, "concurrency." Driven by competition with the Soviet Union, the American ballistic missile programs of the 1950s urgently needed many systems—test facilities,



General Bernard A. Schriever, who, as second commander of Air Force Research and Development Command and first commander of Air Force Systems Command, enjoyed the longest tenure in Belle Chance, from 1959 to 1966.

launchers, training efforts, and specialized equipment—which did not exist. General Schriever addressed this issue by applying concurrency, whereby the separate elements of a major program would be developed in sequence, each to be completed as needed.³¹

General Schriever championed a number of other innovations. He insisted on the greatest interchangeability possible for the subsystems among different missiles, and on having two contractors at work on each major component of a program. He emphasized using ground and static tests to avoid cost overruns, using the computer technology available in his day to improve the management of large projects.³²

When Lieutenant General Schriever became the commander of ARDC in April 1959, an important question had been under discussion for some time: What

would be the most effective organization for the Air Force's research and development efforts? General Schriever proposed that a single Air Force major command be responsible for research and development, production, and procurement, and that a separate and equal one be devoted to logistic support. Headquarters AMC opposed this idea, the Air Staff offered a compromise plan, and discussions continued for two more years.³³

In January 1961 President John F. Kennedy's administration took office and assigned a priority to space programs. Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric proposed assigning the Air Force the responsibility for the research and development of all military space programs, contingent on the service's resolving its own research and development organizational question. Air Force Chief of Staff General Thomas D. White promptly decided the issue in favor of General Schriever's position. In April 1961 ARDC became the Air Force Systems Command and AMC the Air Force Logistics Command.³⁴

Lieutenant General Schriever became the first AFSC commander and was promoted to full general in July 1961. During its early years, which fell during the Kennedy administration, the command gave considerable attention to the research and development of weapons and ordnance for conventional wars, which had been overshadowed by nuclear and



Entrance of Belle Chance during General Schriever's tenure.

strategic systems during the 1950s. Many of the programs that AFSC developed in the early 1960s would later benefit the Air Force during the Vietnam War.³⁵

In 1963 General Schriever directed Project Forecast, which studied the technologies of future air warfare and helped the Air Force determine what systems it would need during the period from the late 1960s to the late 1970s. It included such visionary concepts as a long-range,

large-capacity cargo aircraft, which eventually emerged as the C-5A Galaxy, and highly accurate precision-guided munitions, which would serve the nation so well during the Vietnam and Gulf wars.³⁶ Project Forecast, wrote one Air Force historian, "was one of General Schriever's most important contributions to national defense."³⁷

Summing up General Schriever's achievements, another historian contended: "No one did more to harness academic science to military objectives than Gen. Bernard A. Schriever, . . . [a] distinguished Air Force R&D leader who brought the American ICBM force to fruition and almost single-handedly established a USAF command for weapons acquisition." In a speech he gave shortly before his 1966 retirement, General Schriever praised the kind of innovative thinking that he himself exemplified. "The world has an ample supply of people," he told a meeting of the Arnold Air Society, "who can always come up with a dozen good reasons why a new idea will not work and should not be tried, but the people who produce progress are a breed apart. They have the imagination, the courage, and the persistence to find solutions."³⁸

General Schriever and his wife Dora enjoyed seven years at Belle Chance, in the longest tenure of any of its military residents. Mrs. Schriever was the daughter of Lieutenant General George H. Brett, and the couple's 3 January 1938 wedding



One of the horses quartered by General and Mrs. Schriever in a stable, which stood in some woods near the old corn crib.



Barbara Schriever and "Razzle," 1965.

ceremony had taken place in the home of then-Brigadier General Henry H. "Hap" Arnold. The Schrievers' daughters Dodie (age eighteen when the family moved into the home) and Barbara (age ten) and the general's mother, Elizabeth Betzelmann, and her husband Hans lived with them at Belle Chance. Many years later Dora Brett-Schriever remembered: "The house was unusual, being an old farm house of cement The separate guest house was convenient for General Schriever's mother to live in."³⁹

The Schrievers used their long tenure at Belle Chance to good advantage, completing a number of major projects. They had a modern kitchen added next to the original one. It featured massive

commercial ranges, which expedited the preparation of all the food needed for the many social functions that the couple hosted. "The small kitchen was inadequate for large entertainments," Dora Brett-Schriever recalled, "such as the armed forces picnics to entertain Congress and other important people. So Major General William Leonard helped me build a new large kitchen."⁴⁰

Conveniently near what had become a double kitchen was the dining room, where the Shrievers could seat sixteen guests around a large circular table. Among the couple's visitors were the world famous aviator Brigadier General Charles A. Lindbergh, the members of the Scientific Advisory Board, Mrs. Schriever's

parents Lieutenant General and Mrs. Brett, and other dignitaries. A particularly notable occasion came during the second year the family lived at Belle Chance, when Dodie Schriever was married.⁴¹

In another major project the Schrievers glassed in the screen porch at the south end of the house. This renovation, as Dora Brett-Schriever later explained, took off "the French doors from either side of the fireplace" and created "a wonderful area for entertaining, between the rooms." The couple also extensively remodeled the garage, adding an upstairs suite for General Shriever's driver. Two shed dormers were opened through the west side of the roof, allowing light to enter through louvered windows. This loft apartment still

remains a feature of the garage.⁴²

The Schrievers enjoyed horseback riding, and Mrs. Schriever was an accomplished equestrienne. The couple maintained a small stable in a wooded area east of the corn crib, and when the workhands cleaned it, they shoveled the manure into the flower-planting areas around the guest house.⁴³ Beyond the stable, along the border of the Andrews airfield, Mrs. Schriever planted about three dozen trees. The horse-building was lost when, as Mrs. Yates explained many years later, "some ambitious aides . . . tore the stable down before the preservationists had a chance to intervene."⁴⁴

General Schriever also liked to play golf and maintained a putting green on the grounds, convenient to the house. For many years after his Belle Chance residency, this feature of the lawn continued to draw good-natured remarks from the general's successors. General Robert T. Marsh later recalled that whenever the Air Force Senior Statesmen gathered during the 1980s, General Schriever invariably took a ribbing about his putting green.⁴⁵

General Schriever's successor, General James Ferguson, served as the second commander of Air Force Systems Command from 1966 until 1970. General Ferguson had one of the most interesting personal backgrounds among the AFSC commanders: He was born in Smyrna, Turkey, of British parents; attended elementary school in Scotland; settled with



General James Ferguson, commander, AFSC, from 1966 to 1970.

his family in Whittier, California; and became a naturalized United States citizen in 1930. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps four years later.⁴⁶

A first lieutenant at the time of Pearl Harbor, General Ferguson attained the rank of colonel by the end of World War II. During that conflict, he served as the executive officer of the 20th Pursuit Group and as commanding officer of the 337th Fighter Group. He also organized and commanded the 405th Fighter-Bomber Group. On the night the Normandy invasion began, then-Colonel Ferguson was a senior air controller, and later he helped plan for the invasion of the Japanese home islands.⁴⁷

Then-Colonel Ferguson was the assistant to the vice commander of the Far East Air Forces when the Korean War began, and he later became Headquarters FEAF's assistant deputy for operations. Promoted to brigadier general in April 1951, he was vice commander of the Fifth

Air Force from June of that year until February 1952.⁴⁸

In July 1955 General Ferguson began a series of research and development assignments that would carry him to the end of his distinguished career. For four years he served first as the deputy, and later the director, of requirements in Headquarters USAF's, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Development. General Ferguson then became the ARDC vice commander in 1959; Headquarters USAF's DCS for research and development in 1961; and the AFSC commander in 1966.⁴⁹

General Ferguson's four-year tenure as the Systems Command commander, during the late 1960s, covered a period marked by major changes in the way the Air Force organized its research and development efforts. An important example involved an increase in the responsibilities of AFSC's laboratories. In this area, Air Force Chief of Staff General John P. McConnell and General Ferguson both believed that Headquarters AFSC should be given more control over the basic scientific research that the service supported. They agreed that the Air Force Office of Aerospace Research, a separate operating agency, which since 1961 had been responsible for all of the service's laboratories and a number of other research facilities, should be inactivated and its role transferred to AFSC's Director of Laboratories. In 1970 the AFOAR stood down, and its functions were assigned to the Systems Command



General George S. Brown, commander, AFSC, from 1970 to 1973. He was one of two residents of Belle Chance to become Air Force Chief of Staff and the only one to become Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Director of Laboratories; the Air Force Office of Scientific Research was established; and four laboratories came under the purview of Headquarters AFSC.⁵⁰

Another example involved dramatic changes in the process for acquiring major weapons. In 1969 Deputy Secretary of Defense David Packard introduced sweeping reforms in this area. That summer, he, Air Force Chief of Staff General John D. Ryan, Secretary of the Air Force Robert C. Seamans, Air Force Under Secretary John McLucas, and General Ferguson met to discuss how Secretary Packard's initiatives could be applied to the acquisition of the F-15 fighter. These senior leaders agreed that the F-15 program should be greatly decentralized, its Program Element Monitor transferred from Headquarters USAF to Headquarters AFSC, and a general officer appointed its director.⁵¹

General Ferguson instructed the newly created System Program Offices to prepare Program Assessment Reviews,

which would "focus intensive top management attention . . . on our important programs." Following the initial case of the F-15, the Air Force established PEM offices in Headquarters AFSC for the F-111 fighter, Minuteman missile, C-5A transport, and many other major systems, leaving only "focal points" for them at Headquarters USAF.⁵² These reforms of the late 1960s shaped the acquisition process for most of the remainder of the Cold War.

During the Fergusons' tenure at Belle Chance, no great changes were needed in the house, in view of the major renovations their predecessors had just completed. The couple planted a wide variety of trees on the grounds, including some impressive acacias. Roberta Ferguson, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio,⁵³ particularly enjoyed the double kitchen that the Schrievers had added. She was also fond of the dining room, which faced the patio on the west side of the house. Mrs. Ferguson used a built-in cabinet in the room to display her collection of candle holders and fine art objects.⁵⁴

General Ferguson's successor at Belle Chance, General George S. Brown, was one of two residents of the home who became the Air Force Chief of Staff, and the only one to serve as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. By the time General and Mrs. Brown moved into Belle Chance in 1970, he already had recorded a distinguished career. He was graduated from West Point in 1941 and during World War II flew B-24 missions with the 93rd Bomb

Group. As a lieutenant colonel and colonel, Brown directed operations for the 2nd Bomb Division, and he later received the Distinguished Service Cross for his role in the historic Ploesti raid of August 1943.⁵⁵

During most of the first year of the Korean War, then-Colonel Brown commanded the 62nd Troop Carrier Group at McChord Air Force Base, Washington, which provided airlift to the embattled Asian peninsula. Later, during the same conflict, he served as assistant director and then director of operations of the Fifth Air Force. After the Korean War then-Colonel Brown commanded the 3525th Pilot Training Wing at Williams Air Force Base, Arizona.⁵⁶

During the late 1950s and early 1960s, General Brown held important assignments in Washington, D.C. In 1957 he became the executive officer of Air Force Chief of Staff General Thomas D. White. Two years later General Brown was named the military assistant to the deputy secretary of defense, and then to the secretary of defense. In this last position he served Thomas S. Gates, Jr., and Robert S. McNamara, of the Eisenhower and Kennedy administrations.⁵⁷

From 1966 to 1968 General Brown served as the assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and from 1968 to 1970, as commander of the Seventh Air Force and the deputy commander for air operations of the Military Assistance Command Vietnam. "When we had staff meetings in Vietnam," recalled General

Brown's aide, Major Jack Cremins, "General Brown was patient and could listen to everything you had to say, even if you were blowing smoke. Then when you got through, he'd ask a couple of questions which, if you didn't know what you were talking about, would quietly make the point that you weren't prepared." After his assignment with the Seventh Air Force and MACV, General Brown became commander of Air Force Systems Command in 1970.⁵⁸

General Brown brought his practical experience to this assignment, and he interacted well with the Air Force's operational commanders. General William W. Momyer, who headed Tactical Air Command during the time, stated that General Brown "did an outstanding job." "He was effective in working with major commanders," General Momyer contended, "always a difficult position because operational commanders are pressing for shorter term needs, whereas people in research and development are pressing for longer term requirements. George did a good job of working with SAC, TAC, and with overseas commanders."⁵⁹

General Brown continued the acquisition reforms that General Ferguson had begun as part of the Packard initiatives. He successfully applied his Vietnam War experience to the weapons procurement process. During General Brown's tenure at Systems Command, a Command Systems Acquisition Review Council was established to track the progress of poten-

tial, new, and mature programs. It was also during the early 1970s that AFSC, in an effort to better anticipate the financial variables in research and development projects, introduced "Should Cost" estimates. Based on the independent studies of government experts, they made it unnecessary to rely solely on evaluations done by contractors.⁶⁰

While General Brown pursued these and other initiatives, he and his wife Alice greatly enjoyed Belle Chance, although their time there proved short. General Robert T. Marsh later recalled: "General Brown just loved that place—he maybe more than many." The Browns' tenure at Belle Chance ended in 1973, when the general became the Air Force Chief of Staff. General Brown was so fond of the Andrews residence, General Marsh believed, that had he been able to, he would have remained there rather than live at Fort Myer.⁶¹

General Brown made the move from Belle Chance and was soon to make another. In 1974 he began serving as the eighth Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the second Air Force officer to hold that assignment. This change of duty required a far shorter move: from Quarters Seven, the home of the Air Force Chief of Staff, to Quarters Six, the Chairman's residence, the building right next door on Fort Myer's Grant Avenue.⁶²

During the brief time the Browns spent at Belle Chance, James "Louis" Proctor was closely associated with the family.



General Samuel C. Phillips, commander, AFSC, from 1973 to 1975.

Mr. Proctor had been well known in Air Force circles since 1957, the year he had become the chauffeur of Lieutenant General Joseph Smith. Eventually he would serve thirteen ARDC and AFSC commanders, from General Smith during the Sputnik era to General Yates and the deactivation of AFSC.

Highly regarded by all of these senior officers, Louis Proctor developed a particularly strong relationship with the Brown family. When General Brown became Air Force Chief of Staff, he invited Mr. Proctor to continue driving for him; Louis modestly declined and remained the AFSC commander's chauffeur. In the spring of 1978, late in General Brown's tour as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he was stricken with a fast-moving cancer. That autumn the general was hospitalized at Malcolm Grow Medical Center at Andrews Air Force Base. The nursing staff was instructed that only immediate family members would be permitted to

visit the patient, with a single exception: his former chauffeur. On 5 December General Brown passed away, and Louis Proctor honored his request that he drive the Brown family to the memorial service.⁶³

General Brown's successor at Headquarters Systems Command was General Samuel C. Phillips, who served a long career that was rich in research and development experience. Born in Springerville, Arizona, in 1921, he earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Wyoming in 1942 and a master's in the same field from the University of Michigan in 1950. During World War II he served two combat tours with the 364th Fighter Group, an Eighth Air Force unit based in England.⁶⁴

For six years beginning in 1950, then-Major Phillips gained research and development experience as an office chief at the Engineering Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; as an electronics officer during atomic experiments on Eniwetok; and as a project officer for the B-52 bomber and the Falcon and Bomarc missile programs. He served in several SAC assignments and was promoted to brigadier general in 1961, during his four-year tenure as director of the Minuteman program.⁶⁵

It was General Phillips' experience with this project that led the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to borrow him from the Air Force in October 1964 to serve as a deputy program director for Project Apollo. The effort to put a man

on the moon was then in its infancy. Within ten months, General Phillips became the Apollo program director. He "brought skills in configuration management and logistics management," one historian later noted, "that had been acquired during the Minuteman effort." After the historic first landing on the moon in July 1969, General Phillips left NASA Headquarters and returned to the Air Force.⁶⁶

For the next three years he commanded AFSC's Space and Missile Systems Organization in Los Angeles, California. In 1972 General Phillips became the director of the National Security Agency, and the following year he reported to Andrews Air Force Base as the fourth Systems Command commander.⁶⁷

When General Phillips began his assignment at Headquarters AFSC, major issues still remained in the wake of the Packard reforms. The new commander favored the decentralization that his predecessors had initiated, and he expressed concern that if the Office of the Secretary of Defense conducted detailed program reviews, insisted on rigid milestones, and issued overly precise guidance, the trend of reform might be reversed and replaced by more centralized authority over weapons acquisition at high levels of the Defense Department. It proved impossible to reduce the amount of external control over major procurements, but General Phillips succeeded in putting in place several management innovations within his command. In addition to the Program Assess-

ment Reviews introduced during General Ferguson's watch, AFSC commanders now began preparing Selected Acquisition Reports, Field Assessment Reviews, Management Assessment Reviews, and other useful, decentralized studies of specific weapons programs. General Phillips also appointed a study group, chaired by Major General Kenneth R. Chapman, that resulted in a major realignment of Air Force laboratories.⁶⁸

General Phillips and his wife Betty lived at Belle Chance until September 1975, when he retired from active duty. Two- and three-year tours now became the norm for AFSC commanders. Although their stay was brief, the Phillips made one of the most unusual contributions to the lore of Belle Chance when it became known that the general enjoyed keeping a flock of peacocks on the grounds.⁶⁹

General Phillips' successor, General William J. Evans, was the first AFSC commander born too late to serve in World War II. He was graduated from West Point a year after that conflict and flew with two fighter squadrons during the late 1940s. During the Korean War he completed about 130 combat missions in four types of aircraft.⁷⁰

In September 1951 then-Major Evans became an aide to ARDC commander Lieutenant General Earle E. Partridge. This assignment brought him for the first time into the research and development community, but did not bring him to Andrews Air Force Base: The command

headquarters at that time was in Baltimore, where it had moved from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Then-Major Evans worked for General Partridge until March 1952.⁷¹

The following month he became the operations officer and later, the commander of the 110th Fighter-Bomber Squadron at George Air Force Base, California. As a major and lieutenant colonel, he held several important staff and fighter assignments. From 1964 to 1967 he served as the operations officer and then vice commander of a training wing stationed at Wheelus Air Base, Libya.⁷²

In 1966 then-Colonel Evans volunteered for service in Southeast Asia. Stationed at Tuy Hoa Air Base, he served first as the vice commander, and later as the commander, of the 31st Tactical Fighter Wing. By the end of his Vietnam War career in May 1968, then-Colonel Evans had flown 278 F-100 combat missions.⁷³

Promoted to brigadier general in 1969, he was assigned to Headquarters USAF the following year. General Evans served in a series of Pentagon research and development assignments during the early 1970s. In August 1975, twenty-four years after he had reported as General Partridge's aide, he himself became the AFSC commander.⁷⁴

General Evans put a renewed emphasis on the procurement, legal, and logistical aspects of weapons development. He restructured the command's field divisions and its headquarters, where two new



General William J. Evans, commander, AFSC, from 1975 to 1977.

deputates—Procurement and Production and Test and Evaluation—were created. In addition to these reorganizations, General Evans put in place a number of innovative procurement procedures.⁷⁵

Like many other residents of Belle Chance, General Evans and his wife Elizabeth Ann were greatly attracted to the grounds as well as the house. They made extensive changes in the landscaping and, since gardening was among their hobbies, did most of this work themselves. The Evanses put in a large number of flower beds and planted hundreds of bulbs.⁷⁶

During the Evanses' residence workers installed the first security system in Belle Chance. This event, although serious in itself, led to one of the most humorous stories in the history of the house. Several years later, Mrs. Evans related the how the incident began: When she and her husband learned about the wedding plans of William D. Monday, an Army officer, and Kathy Marsh, the daughter of then-Lieutenant General Robert T. Marsh

(AFSC's vice commander and later its commander), they offered the couple the Belle Chance guest house for their "first night."⁷⁷

The story now took a plot twist like one in a Shakespearean comedy. "Kathy's younger sister, Debi," Mrs. Evans explained, "decided to 'arrange' a few items" in the guest house. The Evanses learned about this intended mischief and, to spare the newlyweds, offered to let them stay in Belle Chance itself. "We stayed in the guest house," Bette Evans related and then added a key point in the story: "Only the four of us knew this."⁷⁸

The new husband made an unlucky decision that night. "While Bill Monday was waiting for his bride in bed," Mrs. Evans continued, "he decided to use the 'remote control' and watch TV." What he thought was a television changer turned out to be a security alarm button. "Kathy," Bill Monday called to his wife. "Please tell me I haven't launched a hundred B-52s." Air Force security policemen quickly surrounded the stately Belle Chance house.

"No amount of explanation by Kathy," Mrs. Evans recalled, would convince the security policemen, who stood at the front door with their guns drawn, "that she was the daughter of the Vice Commander. They insisted on seeing the Commander!" It took some time to bring this episode to a happy ending. Mrs. Evans concluded the story: "Finally, at the insistence of Kathy, they agreed to call

General Marsh . . . and not bother us. We slept through the whole thing!”⁷⁹

The Evans family no doubt told and retold this tale of misadventure many times after they left Belle Chance in July 1977. General Evans then became the commander of Allied Air Forces Central Europe and the commander in chief of United States Air Forces in Europe.⁸⁰ He was succeeded as AFSC commander by General Lew Allen, Jr.

General Allen served as the tenth Air Force Chief of Staff, the second Belle Chance resident to do so. Born in Gainesville, Texas, he was graduated from West Point in 1946 and flew SAC B-29s and B-36s during the late 1940s. After earning a doctorate in nuclear physics in 1954, then-Captain Allen served as a physicist in the test division of the Atomic Energy Commission’s Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory. There he conducted experiments on the physics of atomic weapons design and the effects of high-altitude nuclear detonations on missile defense.⁸¹

In view of his background, it is not surprising that General Allen’s Air Force career was directed to space programs, special projects, and research and development efforts. From 1957 to 1961 he served as a science adviser at the Air Force Special Weapons Center; from 1961 to 1965 in the Office of the Secretary of Defense’s Directorate of Research and Engineering; from 1965 to 1969 in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force; and then in a series of Air



General Lew Allen, Jr., commander, AFSC, from 1977 to 1978, later served as Air Force Vice Chief, and then Chief of Staff.

Force space and special programs.⁸²

Then-Major General Allen came to Headquarters AFSC for the first time in February 1973, during General Brown’s tenure as commander. He served a brief tour as chief of staff before becoming the deputy to the director of Central Intelligence for the Intelligence Community. Promoted to lieutenant general, he directed the National Security Agency for four years and then returned to Systems Command as its commander in August 1977.⁸³

General Allen soon would move on to serve first as Air Force Vice Chief and later, Chief of Staff. During his eight months as the Systems Command commander, he brought his background in space affairs to bear on getting the Air Force a more specifically defined mission in that important arena. His efforts at that time eventually led to the establishment of AFSC’s Air Force Space Technology Center in June 1982 and to the activation of a new

major command, the Air Force Space Command, the following September.⁸⁴

Because General Allen served as AFSC commander only until March 1978, he and his wife Barbara had the briefest Belle Chance tenure among its general-officer families. General Marsh later recalled that General Allen, like General Brown, had a short residence at—and a great love for—Belle Chance. He also believed that General Allen, like General Brown, would have preferred to remain in the house at Andrews Air Force Base rather than move to Fort Myer.⁸⁵

The Allens, like the Evanses ahead of them, devoted much time to the Belle Chance grounds. Over the years the area around Dr. Stewart’s Old Fishing Hole had become infested with poison oak and ivy and General Allen personally removed this noxious vegetation.⁸⁶

The Allens had three daughters and two sons. With “our big family of five children (four married),” Barbara Allen later recalled, “we really made use of the guest house. Our youngest child, Jimmy, was left behind at Fort Meade, Maryland, to finish his senior year at high school, so weekends he brought many friends down to fill the guest house and his third floor bedroom.”⁸⁷

General Allen’s successor, General Alton D. Slay, was a native of Crystal Springs, Mississippi. He had enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and was graduated from flying school in 1944. General



General Alton D. Slay, commander, AFSC, from 1978 to 1981.

Slay earned a B.S. in mathematics from George Washington University, and his career was marked with important assignments in both the operational and research and development arenas.⁸⁸

During the Vietnam War General Slay served as the Seventh Air Force's deputy chief of staff for operations and Military Assistance Command Vietnam's director of operations, and he flew 181 combat missions in jet fighters. After the Southeast Asian conflict, General Slay filled three high-level research and development assignments. He was Headquarters USAF's director of operational requirements and development during 1974 and its deputy chief of staff for research and development for the next three years. In March 1978 he assumed command of Air Force Systems Command.⁸⁹

The new AFSC commander believed that the time had come to reenergize the Packard reforms, which had been

initiated almost ten years earlier. General Slay put a high priority on increasing the competition among aerospace industries for Air Force contracts. He also stressed the value to the service of firm fixed price contracts and of using past performance as a guide in selecting contractors. Controlling the costs of major programs also remained high on AFSC's agenda.⁹⁰

A memorable event during General and Mrs. Slay's tenure at Belle Chance came on May Day 1980, when the General George S. Brown Memorial Garden, a beautiful collection of plantings about 125 feet south of the house, was dedicated. General Brown, who had served as AFSC commander, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, died on 5 December 1978. The Air Force Senior Statesmen dedicated the Belle Chance garden to his memory, in a ceremony officiated by Chief of Staff General Lew Allen and attended by Alice Colhoun Brown, General Brown's widow.⁹¹

By 1981, when the Slays left Belle Chance, a half-generation of reform had born fruit in the efficient acquisition of the systems needed to modernize the Air Force. During the decade ahead the USAF and the other services would recover from the drawdown of the late- and post-Vietnam War years. The 1980s would culminate in the unexpectedly sudden American triumph in the Cold War, soon followed by the remarkable achievements of Opera-

tions Desert Shield and Storm.⁹²

General Slay's successor, General Robert T. Marsh, commanded AFSC during Ronald Reagan's first administration, a period when the Air Force and the other services were beginning their post-Vietnam revival. General Marsh's career had begun when he entered the Army Air Forces in 1943. He served as an enlisted man for almost two years, completing aircraft mechanic and aerial gunnery training on B-17s and B-24s. After being graduated from West Point in 1949, then-Second Lieutenant Marsh served as an atomic weapons assembly officer at Sandia Base, New Mexico, during the Korean War. During the mid-1950s he attended the University of Michigan and earned M.S. degrees in instrumentation engineering and aeronautical engineering.

By 1956 it was clear that then-Captain Marsh would pursue a research and development career. That summer he reported for the first time to Headquarters ARDC, where he became a project officer for the Navaho and Matador/Mace missile programs. During the 1960s he served tours at ARDC's Ballistic Missile Division and in Headquarters USAF's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development.

By the time then-Brigadier General Marsh returned to Andrews in June 1973, AFSC had replaced ARDC a dozen



The George S. Brown Memorial Garden on the grounds of Belle Chance, 1997. (Left to right) General Alton Slay (USAF, retired); his wife Jean; Mrs. George S. Brown; General Bernard Schriever (USAF, retired); his wife Joni; General Lawrence Skantze (USAF, retired); his wife Patricia; Lieutenant General David Vesely; his wife Avis.



A peaceful setting for contemplation at the General George S. Brown Memorial Garden within the woods of Belle Chance, 2000.



General Robert T. Marsh, commander, AFSC, from 1981 to 1984.

years earlier. General Marsh became the headquarters DCS for development plans. He then commanded AFSC's Electronic Systems Division for four years beginning in 1977 and assumed command of Systems Command in February 1981.⁹³

General Marsh and his successors met the challenges of the 1980s, a decade when AFSC assumed greater acquisition responsibilities. While the Reagan administration committed the resources needed to revitalize the national defense, controlling the costs of programs assumed a high priority. General Marsh, a strong proponent of firm program baselines,⁹⁴ particularly emphasized the importance of preventing excessive design changes, one of the major causes of overruns. He challenged AFSC to keep systems affordable, to expand the Air Force's technological base, and to improve the service's development planning.⁹⁵

Like many residents of Belle Chance, General Marsh and his wife Joan

were impressed by the amount of wildlife that thrived around the house, and they enjoyed hiking the area. "We'd stroll down to the ponds in the evening," General Marsh recalled. "We tramped that whole place many times." Mrs. Marsh remembered "the little fawn born down by the pond, the rush of many new ducklings every spring and their struggles against the turtles, the busy beaver colony in the far pond, the muskrats, and the ailing great blue heron that we tried to nurse back to health one winter. Yes, Belle Chance is truly an Air Force gem."⁹⁶

The Marshes' tenure at Belle Chance was marked by a number of festive gatherings. Among the attendees at a 1982 luncheon for retired generals were General James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle, who received the Medal of Honor for leading the famous Tokyo raid of World War II; General William F. "Bozo" McKee, who commanded Air Force Logistics Command and served as Air Force Vice Chief of Staff; and General Charles A. Gabriel, then the Air Force Chief of Staff. (General McKee died in 1987 and General Doolittle in 1993.)⁹⁷

At the time of this function and others during the early 1980s, the interior of Belle Chance was decorated in white, including its new carpeting and window treatments, and in light hues. Mrs. Marsh chose a yellow color scheme for the kitchen, which was painted at the same time that it received a much-needed renova-

tion.⁹⁸ Although maintenance funds then were tight—as they have often been for Belle Chance—the Marshes were able to get the exterior of the house painted.⁹⁹

A particularly memorable social event took place in the spring of 1983, when the Marshes and the Gabriels cosponsored a luncheon for the Air Force's retired four-star generals. "I was always happy," General Marsh said, "when the Senior Statesmen came out to Belle Chance."¹⁰⁰ "It was a marvelous spring day," Mrs. Marsh recalled, "and they all gathered in the beautiful, fully-in-bloom, General George Brown Memorial Garden to reminisce and plan for the future."¹⁰¹

Mrs. Marsh explained the arrangements made for that day: "Nearly all of the main floor furniture in the house was removed to make way for an instant 'Cafe Belle Chance.' The kitchen was an organized frenzy of aides preparing and serving lunch to the happy warriors." Among the many attendees were retired Generals Bernard Shriever and William McKee, and it was on this occasion that Ruth Spaatz, the widow of General Carl A. "Tooey" Spaatz, the first Air Force Chief of Staff, was seen "strolling the grounds and reliving many fond memories, especially of times at Belle Chance gatherings."¹⁰²

Another Belle Chance episode from the Marsh years concerned one of the terrorist threats which, beginning during the 1970s, became lamentably common. "All seventeen of the family," Mrs. Marsh related,



General Lawrence A. Skantze, commander, AFSC, from 1984 to 1987.

“were home for Christmas. The Air Police called the house and informed us that they had sighted some suspicious individuals in the woods nearby.” The security police, she continued, “insisted that we stay away from the windows and lie low until they could sweep the grounds. The children and grandchildren had a ball eluding the imagined terrorists by sneaking around the house and ducking and crawling beneath all the windows.” Putting a twist on a famous Christmas poem, Mrs. Marsh concluded: “On this Christmas night all the Marsh creatures were stirring.”¹⁰³

In 1984 General Marsh retired and General Lawrence A. Skantze and his wife Patricia moved into Belle Chance. A native of the Bronx, General Skantze had begun his military career after World War II as a Naval radio operator. He was graduated from the Naval Academy in 1952 with a B.S. in engineering and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Air Force.¹⁰⁴

General Skantze pursued a successful research and development career. As a young major, he contributed to General Schriever’s Project Forecast. During 1966 through 1969 he served as a senior manager of the Air Force’s Manned Orbiting Laboratory program.¹⁰⁵

Promoted to brigadier general in October 1973, General Skantze held many AFSC assignments, including a tour as the headquarters DCS for systems from 1973 to 1977 and as the commander of the Aeronautical Systems Division from 1979 to 1982. After serving as Headquarters USAF’s DCS for research, development and acquisition, he was promoted to general in October 1983 and became Systems Command commander in August of the following year.¹⁰⁶

General Skantze stated that during his tenure at the helm of AFSC, the command would manage the risks of weapons acquisition and “serve the best interests of the Nation, [Department of Defense], and USAF, in that order.” While a close tie to the Air Staff was to remain a priority, he believed that decentralizing AFSC’s resources would provide the most efficient management. At the same time, General Skantze stressed the importance of cooperation among Systems Command, Logistics Command, Headquarters USAF and all of the military services.¹⁰⁷

At General Skantze’s initiative Systems Command conducted Project Forecast II during 1985 and 1986. Modeled in part on its historic predecessor, this study was

supported by about fifty Air Force officers, enlisted personnel, and civilians, and more than one hundred scientists, engineers, and military experts. Project Forecast II described seventy technologies and systems crucial to the future of the Air Force and an implementation strategy to achieve them.¹⁰⁸

During the Skantzes’ tenure at Belle Chance, the house received the most extensive remodeling since the one undertaken by General and Mrs. Joseph Smith during the early 1950s. Workers changed the exterior decor to its present beige with terra cotta trim, laid marble in the foyer floor and in front of the fireplaces, and renovated the upstairs master bedroom and two bathrooms. The Skantzes decorated the interior of the home with brown ballooned drapes and peach carpets and used a beige and peach color combination in the upholstery of their sofas and chairs and in their wallpaper.¹⁰⁹

The couple’s influence on Belle Chance remained apparent into the twenty-first century. A rug that they selected remains on the third floor of the house. Mrs. Skantze purchased some furnishings that are still in the sun room. General Skantze found a fine chandelier in the attic and had it cleaned up and mounted over the entry way. It, too, remains there today and is one of the oldest pieces in the home.¹¹⁰

By the mid-1980s the Belle Chance guest house needed a renovation. Since no funds were available for this work, General Skantze suggested that Military Airlift

Command, the host unit of Andrews Air Force Base, refurbish it as a quarters for visiting VIPs. This recommendation was accepted in late 1985 and the house was renovated to its present appearance.¹¹¹

Today two nicely appointed bedrooms and a bathroom take up the top floor of the guest house. A small kitchen, dining room, and another bathroom are features of the main floor. A likeness of "Sam Fox," the mascot of Andrews' 89th Air Wing, guards the dayroom.¹¹²

In addition to their renovation projects, General and Mrs. Skantze hosted a number of memorable social events. Before an April 1985 dining out, several previous AFSC commanders and their wives returned to their former home for a social gathering. The guest list on this occasion included General Schriever, the Fergusons, Alice Colhoun Brown, the Evanses, the Slays, and the Marshes. Before the Air Force Charity Ball, two springs later, ITT president Travis Engen presented the Skantzes with a painting of Belle Chance by artist Dick Kramer.¹¹³

General Skantze's successor, General Bernard P. Randolph, had strong roots in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was born there in 1933 and was graduated from Xavier University in 1954. Two years later he married Lucille Robinson, also a native of the Crescent City.

After completing aviation cadet training, General Randolph gained six years of experience with Strategic Air



General Bernard P. Randolph, commander, AFSC, from 1987 to 1990.

Command, instructing and evaluating both bomber and tanker crews. During the Vietnam War then-Major Randolph served as an airlift operations officer at Chu Lai and an airlift coordinator at Tan Son Nhut Air Base. He returned to the United States in 1970 and began ten years of research and development assignments, among them managing the U.S. anti-satellite program.

Promoted to brigadier general in 1980, he held a number of senior acquisition positions, at Headquarters USAF, Space Division, and Systems Command. General Randolph was AFSC vice commander from June 1984 until May 1985. He succeeded General Skantze as the Systems Command commander in July 1987.¹¹⁴

General Randolph led AFSC at a crucial juncture in the command's history. He made a strong effort to further the acquisition reforms of the 1980s by tak-

ing his headquarters out of the program management business. "Our job," he asserted in March 1989, "is to assure that the resources, the systems, the interfaces, and the cross-product division matters are properly addressed."¹¹⁵

By the late 1980s events were underway that eventually would lead to the consolidation of Systems Command and Air Force Logistics Command. In February 1989 President George Bush directed the Defense Department to undertake a Defense Management Review, an inquiry into the acquisition practices of all the services. A report by Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney's special assistant for this DMR recommended amalgamating AFSC and AFLC. In June 1989 Air Force Chief of Staff General Larry D. Welch established a panel to study this possibility.¹¹⁶

During these important years in the history of AFSC, General Randolph and his wife Lucille greatly enjoyed their house and its grounds on Andrews Air Force Base. Since Belle Chance had been thoroughly remodeled during General Skantze's tenure, the Randolphs made only slight changes in the interior of the home. Mrs. Randolph chose a blue motif for the wall-paper, upholstery, and flower arrangements in the living room and sun room. She also had the kitchen, which had been yellow since the Marshes' refurbishing, repainted in this hue.¹¹⁷

The Randolphs directed considerable efforts on the exterior of the home.

Workers insulated and restuccoed the walls and widened and carpeted the patio. The Randolphs added an arched porch to the kitchen entrance, which blended well with the one over the main entryway and furthered the quasi-Spanish style of the building.¹¹⁸

Another enduring Belle Chance legacy of the Randolphs was the line of trees that the general had planted along the eastern periphery of the grounds. These hardwoods provide an effective buffer against the sounds from the nearby Andrews flightline and add to the remarkably rural setting of the building, which is in fact surrounded by a heavy traffic in both aircraft and vehicles. No doubt some first-time visitors to Belle Chance enter the base's main gate, travel east along North Perimeter Road, take Maryland Drive to the lane down to the home, and remain completely unaware of how close they are to the airplanes on the busy adjoining airfield. Many other travelers pass by on Perimeter Road and have no inkling of the house's existence.¹¹⁹

In April 1990 the Randolphs were succeeded by General Ronald W. Yates, his wife Connie and daughter Kristen Anne, who was then twenty-one years old and a college student. The Yates were the eleventh Systems Command family to live at Belle Chance, and they would be the last of that group.¹²⁰

General Yates had entered the Air Force after being graduated from the U.S.



General Ronald W. Yates, commander, AFSC, from 1990 to 1992.

Air Force Academy in 1960. As a test pilot, he flew a variety of modified fighters and eventually logged more than 4,400 flying hours. Then-Lieutenant Yates was assigned to the 509th Fighter Interceptor Squadron from 1964 to 1966, and he flew more than 100 combat missions during the Vietnam War.¹²¹

In addition to being a test pilot, General Yates was the program manager for a number of weapons systems and, from 1981 to 1983, was the commander of the 4950th Test Wing. Promoted to brigadier general in September 1983, he became the system program director for the F-16 fighter. During the spring of 1990 he was serving as the principal deputy in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, when he was promoted to general and that April became the AFSC commander.¹²²

Like the Randolphs, the Yates found that the extensive remodeling of Belle Chance during the mid-1980s freed them from having to undertake any major projects. "We were able to select a new dining room set for the Air Force," Mrs. Yates recalled, "as the old one had worn out." She also mentioned: "We left the carpeting as it was, but we did change the draperies. We wanted to let in as much of the outdoors as we could so we used mostly sheers and kept them open much of the time."¹²³ Mrs. Yates chose a mixture of shades—cream, green, blue, and apricot—to decorate the interior. A 1991 history of Belle Chance characterized her decorating scheme as "inviting and soothing."¹²⁴

As for the exterior, the Yates found that mildew, encouraged by the nearby trees, had attacked the patio's fairly new indoor-outdoor carpeting. They had this covering removed and a pebble coating put over the concrete surface of the open-porch area. Lieutenant General Thomas G. McNerney, General Yates's successor at Belle Chance, later remarked on how well the patio had been refurbished. The Yates also had a fair amount of underbrush removed from the west side of the house, extending back toward the ponds.¹²⁵

The couple had just begun moving in, during May 1990, when Mrs. Yates began preparing for her first social function at Belle Chance. Each year the Officers' Wives Club of Andrews held an appreciation tea, hosted by the AFSC commander's

wife. Since this event would take place in late May, Mrs. Yates found that she had less than a month to get settled in the new home and to finish all the decorating in time for the occasion.¹²⁶

This wives club tea became the first of many gatherings that Mrs. Yates hosted at Belle Chance. In 1990 and again in 1991, Headquarters AFSC family picnics were held at the house, with the grounds providing a fine setting for softball, volleyball, races, and fishing competitions. Mrs. Yates also made Belle Chance available for house tours and estimated that during her two years there she entertained 2,500 guests.¹²⁷

Among the best known of these visitors was Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager (USAF, retired), a double-digit ace during World War II and the first man to exceed Mach 1, the speed of sound. General Yeager stayed with the Yateses in April 1991, when he gave a speech at that year's AFSC dining-in. The afternoon before the dinner, the two generals enjoyed some casting in Dr. Stewart's Old Fishing Hole.¹²⁸

This was far from the only occasion when General Yates fished in the pond. Accompanied by "Corky," a female black mixed-cocker spaniel, the AFSC commander enjoyed many sessions of angling at this quiet spot. "I have devised a formula," he said in 1991, "that works well for me. Thirty minutes of fishing at the pond relieves one work day's worth

of frustration. That prescription has made my life and the lives of my staff much more pleasant."¹²⁹

Like many Belle Chance residents, the Yates appreciated its natural setting. "The pond has soothed many a jangled nerve for us both," Mrs. Yates once wrote. "We have spent hours watching the bass and perch build their spawn beds in the spring and the Canadian geese return every fall. A lone blue heron living at the far end of the pond would leave disgustedly when we invaded his privacy."¹³⁰

During the summer of 1992 the Yates prepared to leave Belle Chance. As Mrs. Yates anticipated their departure, some of her thoughts turned to the natural setting of the home. "For Ron and me," she reflected, "the days at Belle Chance have been idyllic A family of wood ducks had been coming every spring and leaving in the late fall. We wonder if they will find the houses we left for them to breed in."¹³¹

The couple had at least one other strong reason for mixed emotions on departing: Air Force Systems Command was coming to an end. A series of events that began with the Defense Management Review of February 1989 culminated on 30 June 1992. On that date, as part of the most extensive reorganization of the United States Air Force since its emergence as an independent service, AFSC was inactivated. Systems Command's assets were combined with those of Air Force Logistics

Command to form the Air Force Materiel Command. This new organization was activated on 1 July 1992, with its headquarters at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. General Yates was to be AFSC's last commander, and AFMC's first.¹³²

Several years later, Connie Yates recalled her family's feelings that summer. "It was sad for us," she explained, "because Systems Command no longer would be an entity on Andrews, and there was doubt about who would be the next occupants of Belle Chance."¹³³ Another era in the history of the house drew to a close, on a note of uncertainty.



3

Recent History

In July 1992 a new period opened in the history of Belle Chance. After that summer's important changes in the organization of the Air Force, no major command commander remained on Andrews Air Force Base. The stately house on the north end of the installation and its beautiful grounds stood available for another senior officer.

In the summer of 1992 Air Force Chief of Staff General Merrill A. McPeak offered the historic residence on Andrews to Vice Chief of Staff General Michael P.C. Carns, who was then living in the traditional quarters of the vice chief of staff on Bolling Air Force Base. At the time, General Carns had two children who were attending high

Belle Chance, within its sheltering woods, a world away from the noise of aircraft taking off and landing at Andrews Air Force Base. The end of a major runway is visible in the distance.

school, and he preferred not to relocate his family. "General McPeak acceded to his request," Assistant Vice Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Thomas G. McNerney related, "and then called me, and asked me if I would move" to Belle Chance. General McNerney had visited the home twice and was well familiar with the house and its setting. "When General McPeak asked would I mind moving out there," he recalled with some amusement, "I said, "'Chief, I'm moving right away,' and I was absolutely delighted with the opportunity."¹

In addition to the immediate question of General Carns' circumstances in the summer of 1992, another, broader factor led General McPeak to offer Belle Chance to General McNerney. The assistant vice chief of staff serves as the accreditation official for the Air Attaché Corps, a role that requires him and his spouse to do a considerable amount of entertaining from their home. "The 'a- vices,' because they do the accreditation," General McNerney noted, "are heavily involved with the attachés. The [Belle Chance] quarters really are ideal for the responsibilities that you have, for the extensive amount of entertaining that you have." General McNerney's wife Mona pointed out that the attachés always enjoyed visiting the Andrews residence. Some of them, she noticed, seemed to expect to see typical base housing, and were pleasantly surprised when they made their first visit to Belle Chance.²





Gardens at Belle Chance, 2000. (Opposite), irises encircle a sundial across the curving driveway at the main house's entrance. Azaleas (left), pansies (below, left), and hostas interspersed with begonias (below, right) brighten the main house and its generous grounds.



For three weeks during July 1994 the McInerneys lived in the Belle Chance guest house, which the general characterized as "very nice," while the main house was readied for them and laid with new beige carpeting throughout. Workers also sealed up the basement and did some refurbishing of the third floor and the attic. "It was the first time an a-vice moved in," General McInerney recalled, "and we set the tempo. We did the renovations, which . . . were all completed within budget."³

As for the exterior, the McInerneys greatly enjoyed the patio, which the Yateses had recently renovated. General McInerney had installed an automatic



Belle Chance's patio, 1999.

door opener for the garage doors and new awnings for the house. Mrs. McNerney took a great interest in gardening and added a number of plantings in the area around the nearest pond.

Like many couples before them over the decades, they enjoyed the wildlife around Belle Chance. "We'd sit out on that patio," General McNerney recalled, "and each night the fox would come out; he had his pattern. It was interesting on

those long summer nights to sit out there and watch his pattern. . . . I remember one night my wife and I were standing between the garage and the guest house, and he walked within a foot of us. He stopped, and then just kept on going."

The McNerneys moved to Belle Chance around the time their son Tom reached his twenty-second birthday, and the couple arranged a suite for him on the third floor of the house. Tom spent two

summers living there and often visited his parents during holidays.⁴

A few years after General McNerney's retirement, he reflected on his family's Belle Chance experience: "We have wonderful, wonderful memories." The couple entertained guests once or twice a month. "It was hard to do more than that," General McNerney explained, "because we were going to so many" functions. "In the summer we'd have an open house," he recalled, "for all the attachés. We'd hold it out on the patio, and that worked very well." Among the guests during the McNerneys' tenure were General Russell E. Dougherty, commander of Strategic Air Command from 1974 to 1977; General and Mrs. Merrill A. McPeak; and Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska. General McNerney recalled in particular that General Charles L. Donnelly (USAF, retired), former commander of the United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE), visited Belle Chance in April 1994, in one of the last social functions he attended before his death the following July.⁵

During that summer of 1994, the McNerneys were succeeded by Lieutenant General James A. Fain, Jr., and his wife Eileen, who also would live at Belle Chance for two years. The second assistant vice chief of staff to reside there, General Fain appreciated the home as fully as any of its previous occupants. By the time he and his wife moved into Belle Chance, much had been said and written about its attractive qualities.

General Fain summed up his first impression of the residence in one word: "Great!"⁶

Given that Belle Chance had been refurbished before the McNerneys moved in, and that the Fains were only the second "a-vice" couple to reside there, they felt that the house needed very few changes. They kept the interior color scheme that they had found on their arrival. The Fains thoroughly enjoyed the house and grounds, and the sun room became a particular favorite of Mrs. Fain.⁷

General Fain retired on 1 May 1995, and he and his wife were succeeded at Belle Chance by then Lieutenant General Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton and his wife Eloise. The Newtons gave considerable attention to both the house and its grounds. They purchased the beautiful table, which today stands in the alcove, and the handsome dining room set, which also remains in use. Mrs. Newton had the dining room redecorated with new wallpaper, selecting a shade of blue that complemented the blue in the official Air Force china. Mrs. David Vesely, a resident immediately after Mrs. Newton, expressed thanks that because of the efforts of her predecessor, she herself had to do "very, very little to the inside of the house." She did place a striking collection of couches throughout the large home.⁸

Mrs. Newton's interest in Belle Chance also extended to the outdoors, and she enlivened the plantings around the house. By the time she and her hus-



Alcove decorated by Mrs. Lloyd W. Newton, 1995.

band left the home, the grounds featured a colorful mix of tulips, daffodils, and azaleas. One Air Force general who visited during the Newtons' residence later remarked, "General Newton's wife changed the garden dramatically."⁹

Lieutenant General Newton became the commander of Air Education and Training Command in March 1997, and his appointment to general became effective on the first day of the following month. With the Newtons' move to Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, Lieutenant General David Vesely became assistant vice chief of staff. On 1 April he moved in to Belle Chance, making use of base-borrowed furniture, as well as the new dining room set, hutch, and other furnishings that permanently belonged to the house.¹⁰

General Vesely had been serving as the commander of the Fourteenth Air Force, the historic "Flying Tigers," and was stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base. His wife Avis remained for a time in California, with their children who were in school there, before joining her husband at Belle Chance. Her spouse gave her a first report about the home: "You are just not going to believe this place. Not only is it a beautiful house, but the gardens are beautiful." Mrs. Vesely found that Belle Chance lived up to its advanced billing. "The first time I saw the house," she recalled, "I came to visit during the Air Force charity ball, the first week in May, and the azaleas were all in bloom, and it was absolutely spectacular."¹¹

Mrs. Vesely set herself the task of refurbishing the loft apartment over the garage. She cleaned out items that had been stored there over the years, did some painting, and spruced up the shower. Once renovated, this apartment, which could be reached by internal or external stairs, proved "great for the older kids, because they could come and go and they had their privacy." The loft had a number of residents, including Jessica, the older of the Vesely's two daughters (Casey is two

years younger), and Amy Hammer, a niece of Mrs. Vesely. The garage apartment also provided a home for a young man who had been graduated from the University of North Dakota (Mrs. Vesely is herself a native of the Peace Garden state) and was serving as a legislative aide to the state's congressman for a summer before starting law school.¹²

The Veselys appreciated the Newtons' extensive redecorating, but Belle Chance—like any house—required

Main living room, 1990s.





Belle Chance's dining room: Its table offers an elegant setting for lunch (below); Mrs. David Vesely confers with a U.S. Air Force musician (above, right); a Christmas tree is tucked into a corner by the mantelpiece (above, left), 1990s.



maintenance. By the late 1990s some of the kitchen appliances needed replacing. When large amounts of food were prepared, as at Thanksgiving, the oven did not maintain reliable temperatures, and two of the stove burners no longer worked. The Veselys installed a new oven, a warming oven, and a stove. They also replaced the kitchen floor covering with a more durable material. Belle Chance, as Mrs. Vesely pointed out, "is a home, but it's also an official residence and there's a lot of foot traffic. In some areas, like the kitchen, you really need something that can take some foot traffic."¹³

During the Veselys' tenure the historic Darcey cemetery also received some much-deserved attention. Over the years grass and trees had overgrown the area of the graves. Moreover, old limbs and trunks stood in the woodline that ran near the cemetery, and a windstorm might well have brought dead timber down onto the gravestones. Mrs. Vesely and her son Robert, seventeen at the time the family moved into Belle Chance, spent several days cutting back the weeds and removing the decaying trees that threatened the tombstones. The base civil engineers replaced some of the rotting sections of the cemetery's picket fence, and mother and son repainted it white.¹⁴

In the woodlots around the Darcey cemetery and elsewhere, the Veselys, like their predecessors, saw a variety of wildlife. The ponds continued to support fishes, tadpoles, frogs, and snakes. A groundhog made a comfortable home around the culvert under the lane running up to Belle Chance. A family of rabbits lived in a burrow just off the patio entrance to the house; the Veselys often observed young bunnies in that area. Beavers, deer, and other mammals also remained in evidence.¹⁵

A nesting box program at Belle Chance contributed to the effort to revive the population of the Eastern bluebird. This species had fared badly during the 1960s and 1970s, when suburbanization reduced the amount of farm and orchard land east of the Mississippi River. The bluebirds did not compete well with starlings and house sparrows for nesting sites, but specially designed boxes like those on Andrews Air Force Base had helped them make a promising comeback. Volunteers periodically visited the Belle Chance grounds and counted the birds and the unhatched eggs.¹⁶

Wildlife contributed to Belle Chance's pastoral setting, but could also be troublesome. Large numbers of Canada geese in the air near an Air Force base flightline posed a hazard, and the population of the birds had to be controlled. The beavers had their own concepts about how the water around Belle Chance should be engineered, and their schemes were not always compatible with those of



One of a number of nesting boxes built on the grounds of Belle Chance during the residence of General and Mrs. David Vesely.

the human residents. During the Veselys' tenure, for example, these enterprising mammals persisted in cutting down healthy trees near the ponds and in damming up the expanse of low ground just southwest of the house. The latter project caused a particularly serious problem because the large quantity of standing water in the area made an excellent breeding place for mosquitos. Mrs. Vesely

remembered with good humor a long running "duel" that she waged against the beavers: She would shovel through their dam and open a waterway, only to see them rebuild it, time and again. She eventually prevailed on the base engineers to have some of the animals trapped and relocated. Deer posed another wildlife problem: They were fond of eating Belle Chance's plants and shrubs. Among the recent residents, however, the Veselys fared relatively well on this score, thanks to the vigilance of "Ernest," their mixed chow and border collie, who took pride in patrolling the grounds.¹⁷

Ernest was also a popular attendee at the many social functions that the Veselys hosted for the air attachés and other guests. "It didn't matter how big the crowd was," Mrs. Vesely recalled, "a hundred and fifty people or a fourteen-person sit-down dinner, he was wonderful. He loved the attention—and all the room on the grounds to roam."¹⁸

Like all of their predecessors, the Veselys did a considerable amount of entertaining, hosting at least one dinner a month, as well as a number of other gatherings. "We really enjoyed sharing the house with a lot of people," Mrs. Vesely reflected. "We had busloads of kids from a school in California, which somehow we got connected with." She also expressed a sentiment held by each one of Belle Chance's military residents: "We felt it should be used by more people, not just us."¹⁹

General Vesely was succeeded as



Belle Chance in winter, 1990s. Lovely all year round, Belle Chance and its grounds have a dramatic beauty under gray skies and a dusting of snow.



Belle Chance's guest house (left), garage with upstairs apartment (center), and side view of the garden house, 2000.



Ponds at Belle Chance, 2000.

the assistant vice chief of staff by Lieutenant General William J. Begert in August 1999. General Begert reported to Washington from his assignment as USAFE's vice commander at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and he and his wife Jody moved into Belle Chance that fall. The Begerts furnished the home beautifully, using largely, as all recent residents had, their own furniture and appointments.²⁰

General Begert held a deep interest in the history of Belle Chance and a great appreciation for its setting. In addition to the gardens, ponds, and Darcey cemetery, he identified some of the less obvious attractions of the property. He enjoyed the view northeast from the kitchen across the driveway toward the guesthouse and other outbuildings. General Begert also recognized the small meadow that stood north

of the house, encircled by some fine hardwood trees, as another underestimated feature of the grounds, and referred to it as "the par-three field."²¹

Like many of his recent predecessors, General Begert was impressed that a surprising amount of wildlife continued to thrive around Belle Chance, just a short distance from the twenty-first century suburbs of Washington, D.C., and the flightline of a busy Air Force base. He and his wife sometimes saw two foxes, one slightly larger than the other, who frequented the area. He once watched from the deck of the house while one of these predators dispatched a rabbit and carried it off into the woods.

For a time during the late 1990s the foxes were rarely seen, perhaps made wary by the Veselys' Ernest.) The deer population of the area also remained healthy, in some regards too healthy. Mrs. Begert found that the bucks and does persisted in eating the property's flowers and shrubs. The beavers had been trapped and relocated during the Vesely's tenure, but General Begert could still point out evidence of their handiwork, especially in the area southwest of the house where these energetic mammals had significantly reduced the once-thick woods.²²

By the late 1990s Belle Chance had reached a time in its life when it again needed some fundamental work. General Begert noted in particular the home's old electric heating system, with its outdated hardware that was mounted externally on the walls. In the basement, a maze of plumbing pipes and electric wires ran overhead, and the problem of the leaks at this level of the house had never been completely defeated.²³

The Begerts, concerned about the future of the home, intended to have some necessary renovations made toward the end of their stay at Belle Chance.²⁴

The historic house on Andrews has earned the affection that its residents have expressed for it over the years. One general officer who lived there during the 1980s characterized it as "a wonderful place. . . . It's the finest set of quarters that the Air Force has." A resident during the 1990s declared: "It's a magnificent home, and

deserves special treatment." And a third general officer summed up the enduring qualities of Belle Chance: "It's a place of history, a place of beauty, and a place of refuge."²⁵

Christmas at Belle Chance, 2000. The house's architectural richness is enhanced by seasonal decorations. (Below) main living room with central fire place; (opposite, clockwise) alcove table with reindeer, gift box, poinsettia plant, and tree; dining room with central fire place and tree; entrance with stairway to second floor.





An Evening at Belle Chance 20 December 2000

The Assistant Vice Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Lieutenant General William J. Begert, and his wife Jody host a festive holiday dinner for a group of international air attachés and their wives.



A toast to good friends in Belle Chance's sun room.



A musical interlude with the USAF's Singing Sergeants.



(Left to right) Air Commodore Jim Barclay of the Royal New Zealand Air Force; Mrs. Axel Schwarz; Colonel Axel Schwarz of the German Air Force; Mrs. James Barclay; Colonel Avi Maor of the Israeli Air Force; Mrs. Avi Maor; Brigadier General Ziya Guler of the Turkish Air Force; Mrs. Ziya Guler; Mrs. William J. Begert; Lieutenant General William J. Begert, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, USAF; Air Commodore Sudhir Asthana of the Indian Air Force; Mrs. Sudhir Asthana; Colonel Jake Polumbo, Chief, Foreign Liaison Division, HQ USAF; Mrs. Jake Polumbo; Mrs. Barney Booi; Colonel Barney Booi of the Royal Netherlands Air Force; Mrs. Geoff Simpson; Air Commodore Geoff Simpson of the Royal Air Force.



A special "thank you" from General Begert to Chief Master Sergeant Claude Skelton, Technical Sergeant Lynette Gotay-Cui, and Ms. Nella Wall for excellent support of the evening's activities.

Belle Chance

A Commander's Haven

Camp Springs/Andrews Air Field Commanders

Captain Andrew Salter, 1943

Colonel Michael McHugo, 1943–1944

Colonel William L. Boyd, 1944–1945

Lieutenant Colonel Robert N. Maupin, 1945

Colonel Curtis D. Sluman, 1945–1947

Commanding General, Strategic Air Command

General George C. Kenney, 1946–1948

Commanding Generals, Military Air Transport Service

Lieutenant General Lawrence S. Kuter, 1948–1951

Lieutenant General Joseph Smith, 1952–1957

Commanders, Air Research and Development Command

Lieutenant General Samuel E. Anderson, 1958–1959

General Bernard A. Schriever, 1959–1966

Commanders, Air Force Systems Command

General James Ferguson, 1966–1970

General George S. Brown, 1970–1973

General Samuel C. Phillips, 1973–1975

General Williams J. Evans, 1975–1977

General Lew Allen, Jr., 1977–1978

General Alton D. Slay, 1978–1981

General Robert T. Marsh, 1981–1984

General Lawrence A. Skantze, 1984–1987

General Bernard P. Randolph, 1987–1990

General Ronald W. Yates, 1990–1992

Assistant Vice Chiefs of Staff, Headquarters USAF

Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney, 1992–1994

Lieutenant General James A. Fain, Jr., 1994–1995

Lieutenant General Lloyd W. Newton, 1995–1997

Lieutenant General David L. Vesely, 1997–1999

Lieutenant General William J. Begert, 1999–

Assistant Vice Chiefs of Staff, Headquarters USAF



Lt. General Thomas G. McInerney,
1992–1994



Lt. General James A. Fain, Jr.,
1994–1995



Lt. General Lloyd W. Newton,
1995–1997



Lt. General David L. Vesely,
1997–1999



Lt. General William J. Begert,
1999–



Acknowledgments

This book originated with Lieutenant General William Begert's deep appreciation for the interesting history and beautiful setting of Belle Chance. He and his wife Jody welcomed us into their home, gave us an informative tour of the house and grounds, and shared their impressions of this unique Air Force residence. General Begert supported every phase of this work—its research, writing, illustrating, and production.

Many former residents of Belle Chance also generously contributed to our efforts. General (retired) and Mrs. Robert T. Marsh, Lieutenant General (retired) Thomas G. McNerney, and Mrs. David Vesely gave valuable oral history interviews. A number of others corresponded with us or lent us photographs, including Barbara Allan, General (retired) Lew Allen, Jr., Dora D. Brett (Schriever), Lieutenant General (retired) James A. Fain, Jr., and Mrs. Ronald W. Yates.

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Ms. Susan G. Pearl, historian at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Plan-

ning Commission and volunteer at the Prince George's County Historical Society, deserves special mention. We benefited greatly from her knowledge of the history of the area around Belle Chance. She offered important materials from her files and made helpful comments on a draft of our work. We also thank Dr. Richard P. Hallion, the Air Force Historian, and Mr. Herman S. Wolk, Chief, Analysis and Reference Division, Air Force History Support Office, who also read our manuscript.

We built on the publications and advice of four historians who worked on the history of Belle Chance and Andrews Air Force Base ahead of us: Colonel Juliette Finkenauer, Chief Master Sergeant (Select) Walt Grudzinskas, Mr. Walter L. Kraus, and Mr. Robert F. Phillips. Technical Sergeant Terri J. Burmeister, historian of the 89th Airlift Wing, also aided our research. Ms. Susan Linders, Art Director, Media Services, 11CS/SCUS, along with Veronica Williams, Visual Information Specialist, provided the design of the book, scanning photographs, typesetting, and producing an electronic file for printing.

Finally, we greatly appreciate the cooperation we received from Belle Chance aides Chief Master Sergeant Claude Skelton and Technical Sergeant Lynette Gotay-Cui. They always found time to answer our questions, which is only one example of the impressive professionalism they bring to their work. They—and many others—made it a pleasure to study the history of Belle Chance.

PDJ
MLJ
8 December 2000

Belle Chance entrance framed with topiary, azaleas, and pansies.



Notes

Chapter One

1. Dawson Lawrence, "Historical Sketch of Prince George County, Md.," in G.M. Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the County of Prince George, Maryland* (Philadelphia, 1878; reprint, 1975), 7.
2. Aubrey C. Land, "Provincial Maryland," in Richard Walsh and William Lloyd Fox, *Maryland: A History* (Annapolis, 1983), 1–5; Alan Virta, *Prince George's County: A Pictorial History* (Virginia Beach, Va., 1998), 19–20.
3. Effie Gwynn Bowie, *Across The Years In Prince George's County* (Richmond, 1947), vii; Virta, *Prince Georges County*, 28, 31; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC), "Melwood Westphalia Approved Master Plan and Sectional Map Amendment (Planning Areas 77 and 78)," March 1994, 19.
4. George D. Denny, Jr., *Proud Past, Promising Future: Cities and Towns in Prince George's County, Maryland* (Brentwood, Md., 1997), 348–349; Bowie, *Across The Years*, viii.
5. Bowie, *Across The Years*, vii; Denny, *Proud Past*, 342–343; J.F.C. Fuller, *A Military History of the Western World*, 3 vols. (New York, 1954–1956), 2:127–155.
6. Bowie, viii. Lower Marlboro is said to be the second oldest town in Maryland. Charles Francis Stein, *A History of Calvert County Maryland* (Baltimore, 1977), 420, 441.
7. MNCPPC, "Melwood Westphalia Approved Master Plan," 19.
8. Walter L. Kraus and Juliette C. Fougere, ed., *Belle Chance and Environs: A Historical Summary* (Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., [1986]), 5; Land, "Provincial Maryland," 13, 15; Gloria Main, *Tobacco Colony: Life in Early Maryland, 1650–1720* (Princeton, 1982), 42.
9. Land Office (Patent Record), 1716–1728, ILA, indexed, page 59, microfilm number SR 7470, Maryland State Archives (MSA) number SM2–56, Maryland State Archives, Annapolis, Maryland. A 29 November 1734 petition stated that Hill was then "ca 63 years." Elise Greenup Jourdan, ed., *The Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1733–1739* (Westminister, Md., 1996), 38. In 1738 Hill signed leases as an attorney. *Ibid.*, 133, 134.

10. Robert F. Phillips, *Belle Chance: Commander's Residence, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland* (Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., 1984), 4. Between 1689 and 1763 at least nineteen patents were awarded in Prince George's County (or what was to become that entity) for tracts named "Chance" or "The Chance." Other properties had similar names: William Brown's "Chance Encreased" (1764), James Marshall's "Part of Chance Enlarged" (1760), and Shadrick Beall's "Chance Enlarged" (1768). Patents and Tracts Index, 1634–1984, Index 55, Drawer 38, MSA number S1427, Maryland State Archives.
11. Land Office (Patent Record), 1716–1728, ILA, indexed, page 59, microfilm number SR 7470, MSA number SM2–56, Maryland State Archives; Elise Greenup Jourdan, ed., *The Land Records of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1717 to 1726* (Westminister, Md., 1991), 46. Some time between 1719 and 1753 Clement Hill disposed of another 100 acres of his "Chance" award. County land office debt books show that he paid taxes on 128 acres from 1753 until 1772. Prince George's County Land Office (Proprietary Debt Books), 1753–1758 and 1759–1765, microfilm numbers SR 7993 and SR 8232, MSA number SMO 124, and 1766–1772, Box 37, MSA number S1430, Maryland State Archives. Hill gave his son Clement, Jr., 100 acres in 1737, but this was property that adjoined his home plantation, and not "The Chance." Jourdan, ed., *Land Records of Prince George's County, 1733–1739*, 111.
12. Virta, *Prince George's County*, 38; Carl Bode, *Maryland: A Bicentennial History* (New York, 1978), 12–13; Vera Foster Rollo, *Your Maryland: A History* (Lanham, Md., 1993), 313.
13. Main, *Tobacco Colony*, 66–68.
14. Virta, *Prince George's County*, 38; Land, "Provincial Maryland," 34.
15. Prince George's County Land Office (Proprietary Debt Books), 1772, Box 37, pages 11 and 12, MSA number S1430, Maryland State Archives; Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 4; Virta, *Prince Georges County*, 70.
16. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 6; comment by historian Susan G. Pearl of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the Prince George's County Historical Society on a draft of this work, 20 November 2000.
17. John K. Mahon, *The War of 1812* (Gainesville, Fla., 1972), 293–294; Donald R. Hickey, *The War of 1812: A Forgotten Conflict* (Urbana and Chicago, 1989), 197; Walter Lord, *The Dawn's Early Light* (New York, 1972), front endpaper map. Lord's popular book contains some helpful maps.
18. Mahon, *War of 1812*, 294–295; Hickey, *War of 1812*, 197. Anthony S. Pitch, *The Burning of Washington: The British Invasion of 1814* (Annapolis, 1998), 54, characterizes Upper Marlboro as "almost deserted." On the Prince George's County informants of General Ross, Mahon, *War of 1812*, 294, notes that before the campaign began Rear Admiral Sir George Cockburn advised Admiral Cochrane there were "guides" who would conduct the British anywhere in the area; and Hickey, *War of 1812*, 197, states that General Ross halted "at Upper Marlboro to consult with his spies."
19. Mahon, *War of 1812*, 297; Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 28. For the early nineteenth century form for "Wood Yard," see Secretary of State James Monroe's 22 August 1814 dispatch to President James Madison, quoted in *ibid.*, 72–73. On the correct date for this message, see *ibid.*, 355.
20. Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 69–73, 77.
21. *Ibid.*, 77–78; Pitch, *The Burning of Washington*, 53. See also the map from Lossing's *Field Book* reproduced in Mahon, *War of 1812*, 296.
22. Mahon, *War of 1812*, 297, and Hickey, *War of 1812*, 197, refer to the area's "heavy" and "dense" forest.
23. Jean A. Sargent, ed., *Stones and Bones: Cemetery Records of Prince George's County, Maryland* (Bowie, Md., 1984), 390.
24. Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 81, 85; Hickey, *War of 1812*, 198. Most secondary accounts have the British camping for the night of 23–24 August at the Melwood plantation. Historian Susan G. Pearl suggests they bivouacked farther west than that. This would reduce their marching distance from Bladensburg, which they reached the following afternoon.
25. Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 85, gives the distance from Melwood to Long Old Fields as three miles; it measures slightly further.
26. Alexandria Drafting Company (ADC) map of Prince George's County, 30th (1999) edition, maps 25 and 26. The author visited the area on 24 July 2000.
27. Pitch, *The Burning of Washington*, 57–58; Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 87.
28. Mahon, *War of 1812*, 297–298. General-Winder himself estimated his total numbers at 5,000. Pitch, *The Burning of Washington*, 72. Historians give larger figures: Mahon, *War of 1812*, 298, and Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 87, make it 6,000; Hickey, *War of 1812*, 197, "perhaps 7,000."
29. Hickey, *War of 1812*, 197.

30. Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 119. Julia M. Harrell and Ernie S. Montagliani, "Historical Archeological Survey: Andrews Air Force Base," August 1984, 8, mention some details of this march, but document them only with vague references to two British diaries. Also, their discussion of an intended American ambush is difficult to reconcile with the accounts by Lord and other historians. On the other hand, the march route that Harrell and Montagliani show for the British, on map 4 of their study, matches well with Lord's map.
31. Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 119.
32. *Ibid.*, 111, 116. Secretary Monroe deployed, or perhaps mis-deployed, some of the troops on the battlefield. *Ibid.*, 112–113.
33. Pitch, *The Burning of Washington*, 85; Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 139. Lord evidently relied on a British source, probably a dispatch written by General Ross after the battle, for the figure of 120 Americans captured.
34. Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 137–138; Hickey, *War of 1812*, 198. Hickey's estimate of the American losses does not include prisoners.
35. Pitch, *The Burning of Washington*, 99; Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 156; Mahon, *War of 1812*, 302.
36. Hickey *War of 1812*, 199, 201; Mahon *War of 1812*, 302; Lord, *Dawn's Early Light*, 185.
37. At least one member of the family was a veteran of the War of 1812. A Sergeant Francis Darcey served in the Maryland Militia in 1814 and died on 13 August 1840. His grave is the oldest in the Forest Memorial United Methodist Church cemetery. Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 390. Francis Darcey's relationship to John Darcy and the Belle Chance estate is not known.
38. Susan G. Pearl to Jim Darcey, 19 September 1994 (citing County wills, administration files, and marriage licenses), File 77–014 Belle Chance, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission records (hereafter cited as MNCPPC records); April 1995 Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites (MHTSHS) Inventory Form, attached to Susan G. Pearl to Historic Preservation Commission, 23 March 1995, *ibid.*
39. Susan G. Pearl to Jim Darcey, 19 September 1994; Shirley Langdon Wilcox, ed., *1828 Tax List Prince George's County, Maryland* (n.p., 1985), 25, 70.
40. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 5; April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
41. Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 569. The authors examined the Darcy markers and measured the dimensions given in this paragraph on 30 June 2000. Hannah Darcy's gravestone was inscribed less professionally than her husband's. The artisan wrapped her last name around the first and second lines of the marker, and rendered it "Darsey." By the summer of 2000 neither the day of her death nor the "1" in "1807" were legible: they appear in Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 569, which is based on research done by the Toaping Castle Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution during the mid-1950s.
42. ADC Map of Prince George's County, map 19; Susan G. Pearl to Jim Darcey, 19 September 1994. The author drove this road on 21 July 2000 and found the spellings on its signs divided between "D'Arcy" and "Darcy." Research notes given to the author by Major General Gary L. Curtin (USAF, retired), a great-great grandson of William Darcey, mention the connection between the name of this road and that of his family.
43. April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form; comment by historian Susan G. Pearl on a draft of this work, 20 November 2000. The Stewarts, who were the last private owners of Belle Chance, believed that the French romantic movement had influenced Calvert to choose this name. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 7.
44. J.G. Randall and David Donald, *The Civil War and Reconstruction* (Lexington, Mass., 1969), 22–23, 82. For an overview of the issue of slavery in the territories, see James McPherson, *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era* (New York, 1988), 8, 51–72.
45. Randall and Donald, *Civil War and Reconstruction*, 25–26; Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites (MHTSHS) Inventory Form for Forest Grove Methodist Episcopal Church (Chapel 2, Andrews Air Force Base), attached to Susan G. Pearl to the Historic Preservation Commission, 23 March 1995, File 77–001 Forest Grove Methodist Church, MNCPPC records.
46. MHTSHS Inventory Form for Forest Grove Methodist Episcopal Church; an undated summary paper on the history of Chapel 2, Andrews Air Force Base, written by Sergeant Thomas M. Gorski, historian of the 1100th Air Base Wing, File 77–001 Forest Grove Methodist Church, MNCPPC records.
47. Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 390, 396; MHTSHS Inventory Form for Forest Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, citing the 1842–1880 minutes book of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.
48. MHTSHS Inventory Form for Forest Grove Methodist Episcopal Church, citing the *Planters Advocate*, 15 March 1854; MNCPPC, "Melwood Westphalia Approved Master

- Plan," 20. A February 1985 MHTSHS Inventory Form, found in File 77-001 Forest Grove Methodist Church, MNCPPC records, mentions that the church lot was deeded in 1855.
49. Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 396. A map in Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence Clough Buel, eds., *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, 4 vols. (New York, reprint, 1956), 4:496, suggests that these three forts were the nearest to the Forest Grove Methodist Church. Benjamin Franklin Cooling, *Symbol, Sword, and Shield: Defending Washington during the Civil War* (Shippensburg, Pa., 1991), 244, lists ten forts which stood east of the Anacostia River, and whose remains were still standing in the 1990s. Sergeant Thomas M. Gorski, historian of the 1100th Air Base Wing, researched a number of primary sources but wasn't able to identify these Union troops or to learn how they used the church. Undated summary paper on the history of Chapel 2, Andrews Air Force Base.
 50. "History of the Church," File 77-001 Forest Grove Methodist Church, MNCPPC records; Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 396-398. An undated monograph prepared in the 1776th Air Base Wing history office, "Historical Highlights of Andrews AFB, 1942-1989," 518, adds the detail that the church's regular minister was "sent back to Virginia," and quotes a War Department directive aimed at the pro-Southern churches, but gives no sources for its information.
 51. The 1854 church was replaced in 1880. After a severe windstorm destroyed this second building in 1914, the present chapel was constructed, using the plan and design of the 1880 structure. MHTSHS Inventory Form for Forest Grove Methodist Episcopal Church.
 52. Dr. Perry Jamieson visited Chapel 2 on 21 July 2000; Sargent, *Stones and Bones*, 396-398, lists all of the church cemetery's burials.
 53. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 5; April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
 54. April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form; Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 7.
 55. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 7; April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
 56. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 7; April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form; Mrs. Ronald W. Yates (Connie) to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000. The mushroom planting left a large depression in the ground which was visible into the 1990s.
 57. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, endpaper; Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 7. Susan G. Pearl to Historic Preservation Committee, 23 March 1995, refers to two springfed lakes with ornamental retaining walls, to the southwest of the house. These are Dr. Stewart's "Old Fishing Hole" and a second pond, just west of it. The ADC Map of Prince George's County, map 25, shows a third pond, south of the first, and General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and his wife Joan, and other Belle Chance residents, also remember this small body of water. It evidently had dried up by 1995; it remained in that condition in the summer of 2000. "There are several associated structures, all constructed of concrete, including a springhouse and overflow devices for the lakes." Susan G. Pearl to Historic Preservation Committee, 23 March 1995.
 58. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 8. Mrs. Stewart's first name appears on a plaque which at one time was in the main entrance of Belle Chance. *Ibid.*, 19.
 59. April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form; Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 8. Historian Robert F. Phillips reported that Dr. Stewart's holdings eventually came to 800 acres, and Walter Kraus and Juliette Fougere repeated this figure. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 7; Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 7, 8.
 60. MNCPPC, "Melwood Westphalia Approved Master Plan," 20; ADC Map of Prince George's County, map 25. The author visited the area on 24 July 2000.
 61. Virta, *Prince Georges County*, 223; map of Spaldings District in Hopkins, *Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington*, 22.
 62. Virta, *Prince Georges County*, 193.
 63. April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form; Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 8; Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 6.
 64. April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form; Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 8; interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Joan Marsh, 20 September 2000. During a 20 June 2000 tour of Belle Chance, Lieutenant General William J. Begert showed the author that poured concrete remained plainly visible between the slats of an attic storage room.
 65. Photocopy of E.S. Child, "A Fire-Proof Cottage," *Shoppell's Owners and Builders Magazine* 11 (November 1909), n.p., attached to April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
 66. This suggestion was made by historian Susan G. Pearl and is based on her research: photocopies of "A Modern Indestructible Home," *Shoppell's Owners and Builders Magazine* 12 (December 1909), n.p.; "Reinforced Concrete for Residence Construction," 4

- (April 1910), 15; E.S. Child, "A Substantial Fireproof House," 3 (March 1910), 14, attached to April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
67. April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
68. *Ibid.* The original guest house consisted of two bays. A third, northerly one was added during the 1940s, on a concrete-block foundation. *Ibid.*
69. *Ibid.*
70. Master Sergeant Walt Grudzinskas, Petty Officer Second Class Donnie Ryan, Susan Pearl, and Paula Howard, "Winning Together: Andrews Air Force Base and Prince George's County, 1943–1995," [Washington, D.C., 1995], n.p.
71. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 9–10.
72. Grudzinskas *et al.*, "Winning Together," n.p.
73. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 10; Grudzinskas *et al.*, "Winning Together," n.p.
74. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 10; Elizabeth Oldfield and William Flythe, Jr., "100 Maryland Families Ordered Off Airport Site," unidentified newspaper clipping in File 77–014 Belle Chance, MNCP-PC records; Grudzinskas *et al.*, "Winning Together," n.p. Andrews Air Force Base grew modestly beyond its original boundaries: in 1998 the installation occupied over 4,000 acres. Virta, *Prince George's County*, 233.
75. "100 Maryland Families Ordered Off"; Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 10.
76. "100 Maryland Families Ordered Off."
77. Juliette C. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs: A Historical Summary* (Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., 1991), 3. Juliette C. Finkenauer is the married name of Juliette C. Fougere: she wrote the work cited in this note and was the editor of Walter L. Kraus and Juliette C. Fougere, ed., *Belle Chance and Environs: A Historical Summary* (Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., 1986).
78. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 10; interview with Ruby Ile of Gannett Fleming, Incorporated, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, 31 August 2000; Technical Sergeant Terri Burmeister, 89th Airlift Wing historian, to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 16 August 2000; *The First Sixty Years: 1915–1975*, a privately printed history of Gannett Fleming Corddry and Carpenter Incorporated, 53–54 and 55; Robert Mueller, *Air Force Bases* (Washington, D.C., 1989), 7. Earlier Belle Chance histories identify Janet R. Gannett as "Gaunett." Employees of Gannett Fleming, a company directly descended from the firm that Janet R. Gannett's husband founded in 1915, provided information—including an obituary of Farley Gannett from a Harrisburg newspaper—that helped correct this typographical error.
79. *The First Sixty Years: 1915–1975*, 55.
80. Kraus and Fougere, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 14.
81. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 10. According to archivist William Siebert of the National Personnel Records Center, Saint Louis, Missouri, Military Personnel Records finding aids indicate that the captain's last name was "Salter" rather than "Salters," which appears in secondary sources, and that Captain Salter's records probably were destroyed by fire in July 1973. See also Lieutenant Colonel Richard S. Johnson and Debra Johnson Knox, *How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military* (Spartanburg, S.C., 1999), 29.
82. Adjutant General's Office Form 66–2, Army Air Forces Officers' Qualification Record, Michael E. McHugo, Military Personnel Records, National Personnel Records Center, Saint Louis, Missouri.
83. *Ibid.*; "Lieutenant General Frank M. Andrews" in Charles D. Bright, *Historical Dictionary of the U.S. Air Force* (New York, *et al.*, 1992), 64; Dewitt S. Copp, "Frank M. Andrews: Marshall's Airman," in John L. Frisbee, ed., *Makers of the United States Air Force* (Washington, D.C., 1987), 69–70.
84. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 9.
85. Adjutant General's Office Forms 66–2, Army Air Forces Officers' Qualification Record, Robert Norton Maupin and Curtis Delano Sluman, Military Personnel Records, National Personnel Records Center, Saint Louis, Missouri. Lieutenant Colonel Maupin's last name erroneously appears as "Mauphin" in earlier Belle Chance histories, and as "Maupin" on a plaque which is mounted on a wall to the right of the main entryway into the residence. One previous history also has Maupin succeed Colonel Boyd in January 1945. During that month Maupin was attending the Royal Canadian Air Force's Staff College in Toronto. In February 1945 he returned to Camp Springs to serve as Boyd's deputy and succeeded him as commander that May. AGO Form 66–2, AAF Officers' Qualification Record, Robert Norton Maupin.
86. AGO Form 66–2, AAF Officers' Qualification Record, Curtis Delano Sluman.

Chapter Two

1. Juliette C. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs: A Historical Summary* (Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., 1991), 2.
2. Robert F. Phillips, *Belle Chance: Commander's Residence, Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland* (Andrews Air Force Base, D.C., 1984), 11; Herman S. Wolk, "George C. Kenney: The Great Innovator," in John L. Frisbee, ed., *Makers of the United States Air Force* (Washington, D.C., 1987), 127; Peter R. Faber, "General George C. Kenney (1889–1977)," in Charles D. Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary of the U.S. Air Force* (New York et al., 1992), 321–322. In addition to these sources, there is a fine recent biography of General Kenney: Thomas E. Griffith, Jr., *MacArthur's Airman: General George C. Kenney and the War in the Southwest Pacific* (Lawrence, Kans., 1998). Readers should also consult George C. Kenney, *General Kenney Reports: A Personal History of the Pacific War* (reprint, Washington, D.C., 1987); Stanley L. Falk, "General Kenney, the Indirect Approach, and the B-29s," *Aerospace Historian* 27:3 (Fall/September 1981), 146–155; and Herman S. Wolk, "The Other Founding Father," *Air Force Magazine* 70:9 (September 1987), 164–173.
3. Faber, "General George C. Kenney," 322; Wolk, "George C. Kenney," 127.
4. *Ibid.*
5. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 11; J.C. Hopkins and Sheldon A. Goldberg, *The Development of Strategic Air Command, 1946–1986* (Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., 1986), 12, 13.
6. Roger D. Launius, "Military Airlift Command," in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 383–384; Roger G. Miller, *To Save a City: The Berlin Airlift, 1948–1949* (Washington, D.C., 1998), 21, 107–108.
7. Phillips, *Belle Chance*, 12; "Laurence Sherman Kuter" in A.N. Marquis and Company, *Who's Who in America, 1966–1967* (Chicago, 1967), 1199; Peter R. Faber, "General Laurence S. Kuter (1905–1979)," in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 332; Haywood S. Hansell, Jr., "Gen. Laurence S. Kuter," *Air Force Magazine* 63:6 (June 1980), 97. There is no full biography of General Kuter, but he appears prominently in DeWitt S. Copp, *A Few Great Captains: The Men and Events That Shaped the Development of U.S. Air Power* (New York, 1980) and *Forged in Fire: Strategy and Decisions in the Airwar over Europe, 1940–1945* (New York, 1982). See also Kuter's own *The Great Gamble: The Boeing 747* (Tuscaloosa, Ala., 1973) and "JFK and LBJ Consider Aerospace Defense," *Aerospace Historian* 24:1 (Spring/March 1978), 1–4.
8. Faber, "General Laurence S. Kuter," 332–333.
9. Interview with Mrs. Robert T. Marsh (Joan), 20 September 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 20. Sometime after the Kuters' residence, a stand of bamboo was planted to screen the corn crib from the house.
10. April 1995 Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites (MHTSHS) Inventory Form, attached to Susan G. Pearl to Historic Preservation Commission, File 77–014 Belle Chance, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission records; notes on a conversation with Lieutenant General William J. Begert, 20 June 2000; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 20, shows that the corn crib stood at its current location in 1951.
11. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 3; Mrs. Ronald W. Yates (Connie) to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000.
12. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 3.
13. *Ibid.*, 3 and 27. Dr. Perry Jamieson walked this old roadway on 26 July 2000.
14. "Gen. Joseph Smith Dies; Organized Berlin Airlift," *Washington Post*, 22 May 1993, D–5. On General Smith's career, see also "Joseph Smith," Historical Study 91, Biographical Data Study of USAF General Officers, 1917–1952, volume N–Z, Air Force History Support Office Library.
15. "Gen. Joseph Smith Dies," D–5; "Joseph Smith," Historical Study 91, Biographical Data Study of USAF General Officers, 1917–1952.
16. "Joseph Smith," Historical Study 91, Biographical Data Study of USAF General Officers, 1917–1952; Miller, *To Save a City*, 26, 32–34.
17. "Joseph Smith," Historical Study 91, Biographical Data Study of USAF General Officers, 1917–1952; "Gen. Joseph Smith Dies," D–5.
18. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 21; notes taken by author during tour of Belle Chance with colleague, Mary Lee Jefferson, 20 June 2000.
19. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 21.
20. Jacob Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever: Challenging the Unknown," in Frisbee, *Makers*

- of the United States Air Force, 286; Michael H. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge: The Making of an Air Force Command for Weapons Acquisition (1950–1986)*, 2 vols. (Andrews Air Force Base, Md., 1986), 1:19 and 2:appendices 6–5, 6–9, and 6–10.
21. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, 2: appendix 2–1; Col. Kenneth V. Carey, commander, 1947 Administrative Support Group, to all personnel Headquarters USAF, "Funeral Services—General Samuel E. Anderson, United States Air Force (Retired)," 14 September 1982, in Retired General Officers, Volume I (A–B), Air Force History Support Office Library. See also "Samuel Egbert Anderson," Historical Study 91, Biographical Data Study of USAF General Officers, 1917–1952, Volume A–F, *ibid.*
 22. Colonel Kenneth V. Carey to all personnel Headquarters USAF, 14 September 1982.
 23. *Ibid.*
 24. *Ibid.*; Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, 1:52–53.
 25. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, 1:53–54.
 26. *Ibid.*, 57–58.
 27. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 21.
 28. Peter R. Faber, "General Bernard A. Schriever (1910–)," in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 512; Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 283. As yet General Schriever has not received the full biography he deserves. See the Neufeld article cited here and its "Sources"; Jacob Neufeld, *The Development of Ballistic Missiles in the United States Air Force, 1945–1960* (Washington, D.C., 1990); and Ernest G. Schwiebert, "USAF's Ballistic Missiles—1954–1964: A Concise History," *Air Force and Space Digest* 47:5 (May 1964), 51–166. In June 1998 Falcon Air Force Base, Colorado, was renamed in General Schriever's honor.
 29. Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 283–284; Faber, "General Bernard A. Schriever," 512–513.
 30. Faber, "General Bernard A. Schriever," 513; Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 286; 288–300.
 31. Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 292–293.
 32. Faber, "General Bernard A. Schriever," 513.
 33. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, 1:66; Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 301.
 34. Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 301.
 35. Official Air Force biography of General Bernard A. Schriever, March 1966; Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 303–304.
 36. Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 303, 303–304. On Project Forecast, see also Michael H. Gorn, *Harnessing the Genie: Science and Technology Forecasting for the Air Force, 1944–1986* (Washington, D.C., 1988), 5–9.
 37. Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 303.
 38. Gorn, *Harnessing the Genie*, 5; Neufeld, "Bernard A. Schriever," 304.
 39. Official Air Force biography of General Bernard A. Schriever, September 1965; marginalia on Air Staff History Office's copy of *ibid.*; official Air Force biography of General Henry Harley Arnold, n.d.; Dora D. Brett-Schriever to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 6 November 2000. Dora D. Brett was married to General Schriever until 1997. *Ibid.*
 40. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 22; Dora D. Brett-Schriever to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 6 November 2000.
 41. Thomas C. Blow II, "Brigadier General Charles A. Lindberg (1902–1974)," in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 348; Dora D. Brett-Schriever to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 6 November 2000. Lieutenant General Carl H. Cathey (USAF, retired), who visited Belle Chance as a captain during the early 1960s, recalled the dining room arrangement of the Shrievers. Comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
 42. Dora D. Brett-Schriever to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 6 November 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 22; April 1995 Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites (MHT-SHS) Inventory Form, attached to Susan G. Pearl to Historian Preservation Commission, 23 March 1995, File 77–014 Belle Chance, MNCPPC records.
 43. Interview with Joan Marsh, 20 September 2000; Dora D. Brett-Schriever to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 6 November 2000; Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000.
 44. Dora D. Brett-Schriever to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 6 November 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 3. During the late 1980s General Bernard P. Randolph added some trees in the same area where Mrs. Schriever had planted, as a buffer between the Belle Chance grounds and the Andrews Air Force Base flightlines. Notes on a conversation with Air Force Assistant Vice Chief of Staff Lieutenant General William J. Begert, 20 June 2000.
 45. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired), 20 September 2000.
 46. Official Air Force biography of General James Ferguson, September 1969.

47. *Ibid.*; "James Ferguson: Air Force General," *Washington Post*, 22 July 2000, B-7.
48. Official Air Force biography of General James Ferguson.
49. *Ibid.*
50. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, I:103-104.
51. *Ibid.*, 87-88.
52. *Ibid.*, 88.
53. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 23; official Air Force biography of General James Ferguson.
54. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 23. In 1985 this cabinet was closed in and covered with wallpaper. *Ibid.*
55. Maurice Maryanow, "General George S. Brown (1918-1978)," in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 126; official Air Force biography of General George S. Brown, February 1978; Claude Witze, "USAF's New Leaders," *Air Force Magazine* 56:9 (September 1973), 58 and 59. Readers can consult a full biography of General Brown, Edgar F. Puryear, Jr., *George S. Brown: General, U.S. Air Force: Destined For Stars* (Novato, Calif., 1983); Edgar Ulsamer, "At Stake: USAF's Economic Survival: Interview With Gen. George S. Brown," *Air Force Magazine* 56:9 (September 1973), 50-57; and Lawrence J. Korb, *The Joint Chiefs of Staff: The First Twenty-five Years* (London and Bloomington, Ind., 1976), 78-79, 83, 84, 92, 172, 187.
56. Maryanow, "General George S. Brown," 126; official Air Force biography of General George S. Brown.
57. *Ibid.*
58. *Ibid.*
59. Puryear, *George S. Brown*, 203.
60. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, I:89-90.
61. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF retired), 20 September 2000.
62. Maryanow, "General George S. Brown," 126; Department of Defense Legacy Project, *Air House: A History* (Washington, D.C., 1994), 57.
63. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 28; Puryear, *George S. Brown*, 280.
64. Official Air Force biography of General Samuel C. Phillips, 1 May 1974.
65. *Ibid.*; "Gen. Samuel C. Phillips Dies; Directed Apollo Moon Mission," *Washington Post*, 2 February 1990, B-6.
66. "Gen. Samuel C. Phillips Dies," B-6; official Air Force biography of General Samuel C. Phillips; Roger E. Bilstein, *Stages to Saturn: A Technological History of the Apollo/Saturn Launch Vehicles* (Washington, D.C., 1980), 289. On General Phillips's service with the Apollo program, see also in Bilstein, *Stages to Saturn*, 188, 223, 230-232, 254, 278, 339, 351-353, 364-365.
67. Official Air Force biography of General Samuel C. Phillips.
68. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, I:96-97; 104, 104n, 106-109.
69. Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Moyer, deputy assistant for General Officer Matters, to all personnel Headquarters USAF, "Death of General Samuel C. Phillips, United States Air Force (Retired)," 1 February 1990, in Retired General Officers, Volume VI (P-R), Air Force History Support Office Library; interview with Joan Marsh, 20 September 2000.
70. Official Air Force biography of General William John Evans, April 1978.
71. *Ibid.*
72. *Ibid.*
73. *Ibid.*
74. *Ibid.*
75. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, I:97, 98, 98n.
76. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 4.
77. *Ibid.* The spellings of the names of the principals in this story follow the official Air Force biography of General Robert T. Marsh, August 1982.
78. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 4.
79. *Ibid.*; interview with General (USAF retired) and Mrs. Robert T. Marsh, 20 September 2000.
80. Official Air Force biography of General William J. Evans, April 1978.
81. James C. Hasdorff, "General Lew Allen, Jr., (1923-)" in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 61; official Air Force biography of General Lew Allen, Jr., September 1981. On General Allen, see also Walter J. Boyne, *Beyond the Wild Blue: A History of the United States Air Force 1947-1997* (New York, 1997), 249, 250, 271, and Robert Frank Futrell, *Ideas, Concepts, Doctrine: Basic Thinking in the United States Air Force*, 2 vols. (Washington, D.C., 1989), II:360-361, 366-368, 372-373, 387-388, 400-403, 509-510, 563-564, and elsewhere.
82. Official Air Force biography of General Lew Allen, Jr.
83. *Ibid.*
84. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, I:99; "USAF Leaders

- Throughout the Years," *Air Force Magazine* 83: 5 (May 2000), 47.
85. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 23; interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired), 20 September 2000.
 86. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 23.
 87. *Ibid.*
 88. Official Air Force biography of General Alton D. Slay, January 1980; "Alton Davis Slay" in A.N. Marquis and Company, *Who's Who in America 1980-1981*, 2 vols. (Chicago, 1981), 2:3064.
 89. Official Air Force biography of General Alton D. Slay; "Alton Davis Slay," 2:3064.
 90. Official Air Force biography of General Alton D. Slay; "Alton Davis Slay," 2:3064.
 91. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 38. The Slays also added a handsome magnolia tree to the Belle Chance grounds. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Marsh, 20 September 2000.
 92. On the revitalization of American military forces between the Vietnam and Gulf Wars, see Richard P. Hallion, *Storm over Iraq: Air Power and the Gulf War* (Washington and London, 1992), 27-120.
 93. Official Air Force biography of General Robert T. Marsh, August 1982.
 94. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, I:96, 126.
 95. *Ibid.*, 96n, 101.
 96. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Marsh, 20 September 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 48.
 97. *Ibid.*, 24; Colonel Joann C. Neish to all personnel, Headquarters USAF, 3 March 1987; "In Arlington, Full Honors for a Sky-Blazing Hero," *Washington Post*, 2 October 1993, B-3.
 98. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Marsh, 20 September 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 24, 26.
 99. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Marsh, 20 September 2000.
 100. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 24; interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Marsh, 20 September 2000.
 101. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 24.
 102. *Ibid.*
 103. *Ibid.*; interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired) and Mrs. Marsh, 20 September 2000.
 104. Official Air Force biography of General Lawrence A. Skantze, August 1984.
 105. *Ibid.*; Gorn, *Harnessing the Genie*, 142.
 106. Official Air Force biography of General Lawrence A. Skantze.
 107. Gorn, *Vulcan's Forge*, 1:102.
 108. For a good summary of this important Air Force initiative, see Gorn, *Harnessing the Genie*, 142-172.
 109. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 25; interview with Mrs. David L. Vesely (Avis), 8 September 2000.
 110. Comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
 111. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 25; interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.
 112. Notes taken during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
 113. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 25.
 114. Official Air Force biography of General Bernard P. Randolph, June 1988.
 115. History of Air Force Systems Command: 1 October 1988-30 September 1989, 6.
 116. *Ibid.*, xxi, 7, 11.
 117. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 26.
 118. *Ibid.*; April 1995 MHTSHS Inventory Form.
 119. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 26; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
 120. Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 26.
 121. Official Air Force biography of General Ronald W. Yates, June 1994.
 122. *Ibid.*
 123. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 26; Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000.
 124. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 26.
 125. Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McNerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000.
 126. *Ibid.*
 127. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 29;

- Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000.
128. James O. Young, "Brigadier General Charles E. Yeager (1923 –)" in Bright, ed., *Historical Dictionary*, 684; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 27; Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000.
129. Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000; Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 2.
130. Finkenauer, *Belle Chance and Environs*, 3.
131. *Ibid.*
132. "Commands in Transition," *Air Force Magazine*, 75:5 (May 1992), 53; *Closeout History: Air Force Systems Command, 1 October 1990–30 June 1992*, and *Air Force Logistics Command, 1 October 1991–30 June 1992*, xxv, xxvii.
133. Connie Yates to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 22 August 2000.
- McInerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000.
4. *Ibid.*
5. *Ibid.*; J.C. Hopkins and Sheldon A. Goldberg, *The Development of Strategic Air Command 1946–1986* (Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., 1986), 189, 211; official Air Force biography of General Charles L. Donnelly, August 1986.
6. Official Air Force biography of Lieutenant General James A. Fain, Jr., February 1995; Lieutenant General James A. Fain, Jr. (USAF, retired), to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 28 August 2000.
7. Lieutenant General James A. Fain, Jr. (USAF, retired) to Dr. Perry Jamieson, 28 August 2000.
8. Official Air Force biography of Lieutenant General James A. Fain, Jr., February 1995; official Air Force biography of General Lloyd W. "Fig" Newton, August 2000; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert and Chief Master Sergeant Claude Skelton during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000; interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.
9. Interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000.
10. Official Air Force biography of General Lloyd "Fig" Newton, August 2000; official Air Force biography of Lieutenant General David L. Vesely, December 1999; interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.
11. Interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.
12. *Ibid.*; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
13. Interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.
14. *Ibid.*
15. *Ibid.*; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney (USAF, retired); notes taken during an interview with Lieutenant General William J. Begert, 2 May 2000.
16. Interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000; notes taken during a meeting with Lieutenant General William J. Begert, 2 May 2000; National Geographic Society, *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (Washington, D.C., 1987), 324.
17. Interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000; notes taken during a meeting with Lieutenant General William J. Begert, 2 May 2000.
18. Interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.
19. *Ibid.*
20. Official Air Force biography of William J. Begert, December 1999; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000. The Air Force for a time maintained a warehouse on Bolling Air Force Base, D.C., where furnishings for general officers' quarters were stored, but this was discounted as an economy measure. Comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
21. Notes taken during a meeting with Lieutenant General Begert, 2 May 2000; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000.
22. Notes taken during a meeting with Lieuten-

Chapter Three

1. Official Air Force biography of General Michael P.C. Carns; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000.
2. Official Air Force biography of Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McInerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000; notes on a conversation with Mrs. Thomas G. McInerney (Mona), 29 August 2000.
3. Interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G.

ant General Begert, 2 May 2000; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000; interview with Avis Vesely, 8 September 2000.

23. Notes taken during a meeting with Lieutenant General Begert, 2 May 2000; comments by Lieutenant General William J. Begert during a tour of Belle Chance, 20 June 2000; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McNerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000.
24. Notes taken during a meeting with Lieutenant General Begert, 2 May 2000.
25. Interview with General Robert T. Marsh (USAF, retired), 20 September 2000; interview with Lieutenant General Thomas G. McNerney (USAF, retired), 29 August 2000; General Ronald W. Yates, quoted in Finkenauer, Belle Chance and Environs, 2.

