

"SAVE A MARGIN FOR SAFETY"

April 62

FPS-8-5460



WELCOME
TO
CRYSTAL SPRINGS
AIR FORCE STATION
CRYSTAL SPRINGS
MISSISSIPPI

HOME OF THE 627TH
RADAR SQUADRON (SAGE)



April 1962

Welcome to Crystal Springs Air Force Station

The following information is furnished in reply to your recent inquiry.

Crystal Springs Air Force Station is, in fact, a relatively small station and a very fine one. If you like people at all-you'll have no trouble making friends.

The station is located at the eastern edge and right on the city limits of Crystal Springs which has a population of 5,000 people. Jackson, Mississippi, the state capitol, is 25 miles north on a four lane highway. The Gulf of Mexico is some 150 miles to the south.

The station itself is located in an area of rolling wooded hills and enjoys a moderate climate the year round. Summer temperatures average from 65 degrees at night to about 85 degrees during the day, and average between 35 and 50 degrees during the winter months. Rainfall, averaging 46 inches annually, is evenly distributed throughout the year.

Everyone is naturally curious about their new station, no matter where it is, and since you are wondering about Crystal Springs Air Force Station and its facilities, we'll mention those things now.

There are twenty-seven (27) new demountable type houses adjacent to the station, twenty-two (22) of which are for enlisted personnel and five (5) for officers. All of these houses are three (3) bedroom and are furnished with electric stove, refrigerator, automatic washer and dryer and air conditioning. Additionally, we have ten (10) trailer pads. Housing is assigned by rank and time on station and applications cannot be honored until personnel sign in at the organization. Although it is limited, housing in the immediate vicinity can be rented at moderate rates. A well constructed and furnished dormitory provides a comfortable home for single airmen.

Most of our sniffles, aches and pains are chased away right here by our medical technicians and the local physicians. Illness of a serious nature may require admittance to a hospital in Jackson or perhaps the hospital in Hazelhurst, an adjoining community 10 miles distant or the base hospital at Greenville Air Force Base, our support base about 150 miles away. Most prescriptions are filled in our well stocked pharmacy.

No elementary or high school facilities exist on the station, however, Crystal Springs has an excellent public consolidated elementary and high school. Transportation is provided for students residing in rural areas. An on station higher education program with Mississippi State University allows personnel as well as their dependents, to acquire college credits. Higher education facilities also exist in Jackson, Mississippi.

We have no commissary on the station but several food stores are close at hand in the local community. Food prices may not compare to the commissary savings you are used to and may even indicate a change in your buying habits.

You can understand that being a small station most of our facilities are scaled to our needs and are not quite as fabulous as some bases at which you may have been stationed. Our BX for example is quite small and stocked only with necessities and a few luxuries. However, all BX items are available through special order at regular BX savings. The BX is being enlarged in the near future and will permit stocking a larger selection of items.

In other respects being a small station has its advantages. For instance, the dining hall has been singled out by higher headquarters for its excellent food preparation and individual service. Conversely, the NCO Open Mess, which welcomes all personnel as members or associate members remains a small and intimate place at which to meet and further acquaintances. First run movies are shown in the recreation hall two or three nights a week. There is also a movie in Crystal Springs. We have a well stocked library on the station and the county maintains a library in Crystal Springs.

Our athletic program is well rounded consisting of volleyball, softball, basketball, bowling and swimming in our new swimming pool. The area surrounding Crystal Springs has numerous small lakes, rivers and ponds which are ideal for fishing. A hobby shop is also available.

Crystal Springs has churches of many faiths, specifically, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopal and Catholic.

Crystal Springs is served by major bus and rail transportation. Airline service is available from Hawkins Field in Jackson.

As you know this area of the country is significant in our American history. The visiting places of historical interest along the Mississippi River are enough to keep anyone busy. Jackson is a cultural center and offers ballet, dramas, musical comedies, etc. Jackson also has a zoo and other places of interest.

You'll notice the difference at first, but frankly we think you'll like it here. All in all you'll be surprised how quickly you become acclimated and the good points will far outweigh the unpleasant.

We at Family Services will be waiting to greet you, and help you in whatever way we can. You all come! Heah!

Mission of the 627th Radar Squadron (SAGE)

For your information, the unit mission is as follows:

- a. Assist the Director Joint Test Staff in the accomplishment of specific test objectives as required. (The Joint Test Staff consists of members of the interested commands, under the direction of the Air Force Systems Command, in conducting the Frequency Diversity Radar Test Program).
- b. Provide administrative and logistical support to USAF and contractor personnel participating in the Frequency Diversity Radar Test Program. (This includes the Test Team from Eglin AFB, Florida, the Westinghouse, Burroughs, Mitre, SEG, telephone and other companies that are participating members).
- c. Provide administrative and logistical support to the Air Training Command to conduct an on-site training school for Air Training Command.
- d. Organize, administer, equip, train and prepare for operational status in accordance with directives, policies and schedules issued by this or higher headquarters.