

2010 marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the SAC Aero Club by General Curtis E. LeMay. Now called the LeMay Aero Club in his honor, it is the oldest continuously active military flying club in the country.

General LeMay faced the tremendous challenge of building the world's most potent military strike force from the wreckage of a post-World War II military hastily dismantled by a war-weary nation. He recognized that the exacting standards of professionalism he demanded of his officers and enlisted personnel, many of whom had been involuntarily extended or recalled to active duty, could never be achieved given the long hours, isolation, substandard quarters (when available) and extremely low pay accorded to military personnel at the time. To help maintain morale, reduce the strain on his people, and provide a temporary diversion from the demands of the mission, he established several hobby clubs such as Rod and Gun, and Auto Hobby, where participants could relax and help each other learn and improve skills in their respective interests.

While looking over the facilities at Offutt, he found two staff sergeants in a dark corner of a hangar, rebuilding a wrecked private airplane they had bought for \$50. One had been a rated military pilot who was "RIFed" (reduction in force) after the war, and the other had no flying experience whatsoever. Instead of scolding them for "not going through channels," he recognized another way to encourage and retain quality people by addressing their needs. He helped them to form the SAC Aero Club, the first of many throughout the command, and eventually all of the Armed Forces. During his long tenure as Commander-in-Chief, Strategic Air Command, General LeMay often rented aero club planes for pleasure flying and occasional weekend hunting trips.

We're proud of our history, and we're committed to providing the recreational flying and flight training opportunities to you that General LeMay envisioned for his airmen.