

missiles was lifted from its silo and shipped to California. Salina's two hospitals began to feel the effects of the closure of the base with the loss of 25 percent of their registered nurses and nurses aids who were leaving town with their Air Force husbands. Similar losses were felt in the school system as teachers left; and in a multitude of Salina businesses as military part-time employees, and military wives and children left. While these losses were, for the moment, difficult to replace, there was a benefit in that movement of military-connected personnel from civilian jobs lessened the impact of the drop in economic activity upon Salina jobholders.

During January, representatives of various branches of the military began visiting the base in great number. As a result of these visits the community was subjected to many and varied rumors of base reactivation by these other branches of the service. Some of these rumors appeared to be quite factual and the development council hurried to check them out with the OEA staff in Washington. The rumors were to persist until June of 1965 even though the council had received a number of assurances from Washington that the base was surplus as far as the military was concerned. Cyrus Vance wrote that the Department of Defense had no plans to use all or part of the base but confirmed that several potential uses had been checked and had been found to be impractical. He assured the council that the findings of these visiting teams were negative in every instance. Despite these assurances the rumors were giving the council much to worry about. Civic leaders had agreed that the community would be better off in the long run to face the economic loss of the military rather than have another relatively short-lived military occupancy.

Early in February the community was contacted by the first of three potential Job Corps contractors. The development council advised each of these corporations that Salina was directing its efforts toward permanent payroll increases and therefore was not then interested in Job Corps use of the base.

Don Bradford, in the mid-January meeting and in subsequent conversations, had emphasized the need for Salinans to develop a use plan for the base—one which put in concrete form the community's objectives for productive civilian use of the facilities.

Early in February the first tentative land-use map was developed, together with a list of the facilities the council considered necessary to establish a new municipal airport at the base and including the supporting revenue-producing facilities. This tentative "save" or "want" list for the "airfield package" was developed in conformity with the preliminary proposals that were being prepared for a technical institute (13th and 14th years of school), the vocational-technical school (11th and 12th), and for a second campus for Kansas Wesleyan University. The history of the successful transition of the base from military to civilian purposes is, to a major extent, the story of the educational programs. The educational uses of the base are covered in detail in the appendix.

From the day of the closure announcement, Col. John F. Scanlan, the base commander, and his staff officers became intimately involved and concerned with the work of the development council. From the very beginning there was continued liaison and communications between the base commander's office and the Schilling Development Council and the Salina Airport Authority. Early in February,