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### Blytheville Bicentennial activities posted on the bulletin board at Headquarters

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Courtesy News, Blytheville, Ark. — Blytheville Air Force Base has gone Bicentennial bananas. All over the base, the Spirit of '76 is evident as the installation prepares to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our nation.

You name it and they have painted it — patriotic red, white, and blue. First off, the main gate guard shack has been painted red, white, and blue. The curbing surrounding it and all the curbing down Michigan Ave. has remained the same artistic drawing.

Entire buildings have been candy colored. First things have become Revolutionary buildings. Bicentennial antennas, silhouettes, and flag paintings decorate quarters buildings.

The 97th Civil Engineering Squadron, which has done much of the curbing painting, is providing support in "getting things together," according to Capt. Marvin Knoff, base in-formation officer.

However, such organization in doing its own personal and project and making its own special Bicentennial plans, he noted.

Members of the BAFB First Detachment have added color to the wheels of its fire engines and trucks to the bumper. In addition, they even Bicentennial license plates.

Members of the Bomb Squadron have painted a large Bicentennial (BMB) mural on one wall of the loading room. Their handiwork shows outdoors where two large Bicentennial murals are displayed on the Chief Air Operations building.

Many other projects are in various stages of completion throughout the military installation — "most are still in the works," said Knoff.

Anywhere a touch of red, white, and blue can conceivably be incorporated, it is being done. This includes borders around billboards, the library book drive, small storage buildings, hand-painted equipment, and parts of barracks.

And some utility poles will be candy colored.

In front of the 97th Headquarters building on Michigan Avenue a Bicentennial flag fly alongside Old Glory. The concrete area at the base of the flag pole has been painted a patriotic red, white, and blue. Signs leading to the area are decorated with stars which represent the 13 original American colonies.

Flag poles are to be erected along Michigan Avenue and on special occasions, such as July 4th, American flags will be flown, Knoff disclosed.

Twelve flags representing the 13 colonies will fly in front of the 97th Storage Wing Headquarters building in the near future, he further advised.

"I'm working and real well," said a civil engineering worker who stopped back to admire one of the buildings he was painting. "Everybody's getting in the spirit of this thing."

When it was pointed out that his white paint equated overall were "taking on" the Bicentennial look, he shrugged. "What the heck. Nobody will notice."



In part of a base-wide project at Blytheville Air Force Base, Lt. Larry Blythe and Sgt. Bill Bachman, with their squadron members, paint the Bicentennial words on the wall of their squadron briefing room. Lt. Gene Probst and sergeant also assisted.

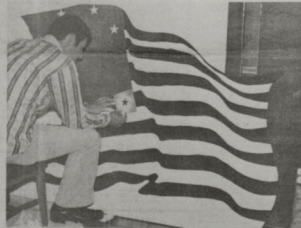


Members of the 97th Civil Engineering Squadron are decorating the main entrance to the quarters and the center of Bicentennial flag installation, banners, and other decorations.



Photos By Peggy Johnson

## Bicentennial Booming at BAFB



Capt. Robert Douglas paints stars in a ground vehicle of the 97th Air Detachment. A three-line flag symbol is part of Bicentennial flagpole building at Blytheville Air Force Base.



The high Bicentennial antenna is one of two that decorate the 97th Bomb Squadron building at BAFB.



Members Robert Hester and Michael Carabaggio, members of the 97th Civil Engineering Squadron, paint the three-line flag symbol in part of Bicentennial flagpole building at Blytheville Air Force Base.

