Chapter 3
A POSTWAR WORLD

"If you are scared to go to the brink, you are lost."

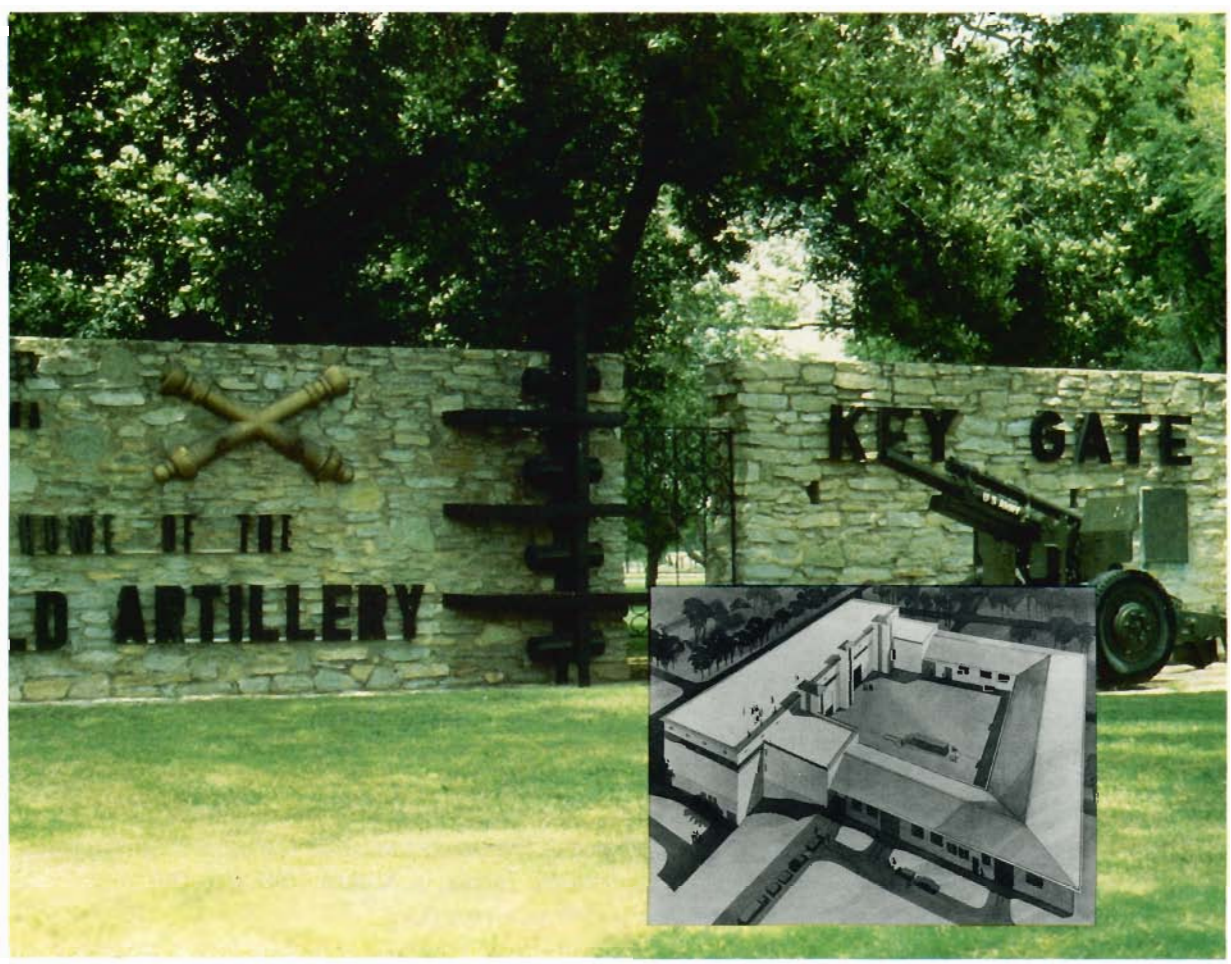
— John Foster Dulles

Demobilization
IN POSTWAR AMERICA was a challenge. Preparing for war had been a difficult and arduous task, but once over, it took the Tulsa District two years to scale back from its World War II stance.

Projects that would be useful in a postwar era were completed, but much of the construction work in progress, now no longer needed, was canceled.

In 1945 the Denison District was abolished and made a suboffice of the Tulsa District. This threw Arkansas and the northern two-thirds of Louisiana into the Tulsa District for purposes of military construction.

Tulsa, in fact, continued to bear responsibilities for construction and some maintenance at military bases, POW camps, arsenals, and military installations until 1961, when Corps' reorganization and Tulsa's heavy civil workload prompted a shift of military work elsewhere. Between 1941 and 1961, the Tulsa District carried a significant military workload, building all or parts of about three dozen military installations in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. A good deal of that construction would have to do with another American conflict, this one in Korea.[1]



Fort Sill entrance and (inset, architect's rendering) Artillery and Missile Command

The real dilemma we face is whether a free society in which each of us follows our own self-interest can compete over a long period of time with a totalitarian society....

— John F. Kennedy, 1959