

The Offutt Air Force Base was built in the early 1890's as Fort Crook, an Army Post. An act of Congress on July 23, 1888 authorized building the fort near the little village of Bellevue was chosen. The first land was purchased in 1889, a tract of land consisting of 502.59 acres bought for \$61,400 or \$122.17 per acre. Since that time additional land has been purchased.

Construction of the fort took over five years and was ready for occupancy in 1896. It was named in honor of General George Crook.

In 1924, the landing field at Fort Crook was named Offutt Field in honor of Jarvis Offutt, an Omaha military aviator who was killed during World War I. After World War II, Fort Crook was turned over to the newly created Air Force and the facility was renamed after Offutt.

The Sarpy County Museum features a Fort Crook Scale Model based on a 1937 map of the fort. This map was chosen because many of the buildings were torn down in 1941 to build the Martin Bomber Plant and the new runway, changing forever the character of the old fort.