

423 AIR BASE GROUP



MISSION

The 423 Air Base Group delivers unrivalled services to support combat capability and quality of life to joint personnel on RAF Alconbury, RAF Molesworth, Stavanger, mission partners, and multiple geographically separated units. The group is composed of seven squadrons across the United Kingdom and Norway. Mission: Provide combat support to enable global command, control, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance in support of U.S. and NATO objectives

LINEAGE

45 Air Depot Group constituted, 31 Jan 1942
Activated, 13 Mar 1942
Inactivated, 26 Dec 1946
Redesignated 73 Air Depot Wing, 29 Dec 1950
Activated, 9 Jan 1951
Inactivated, 15 Nov 1953
Disbanded, 15 Jun 1983
Reconstituted and redesignated 423 Air Base Group, 22 Mar 2005
Activated, 12 May 2005

STATIONS

Duncan Field, TX, 13 Mar 1942
Springfield, IL, 19 Apr 1942
Brookley Field, AL, 6 Sep 1942-20 Jul 1943
Grove, England, 30 Jul 1943
Denain/Prouvy, France, 22 Oct 1944
Hanau, Germany, 14 Apr 1945-26 Dec 1946
Kelly AFB, TX, 9 Jan-4 Jul 1951

Chateauroux, France, 21 Jul 1951-15 Nov 1953
RAF Alconbury, England, 12 May 2005

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Service Command, 13 Mar 1942
Eighth Air Force, 30 Jul 1943
IX Air Force Service (later, European Air Materiel) Command, by 1 Jan 1944-26 Dec 1946
San Antonio Air Materiel Area, 9 Jan 1951
United States Air Forces in Europe, 21 Jul 1951-15 Nov 1953
501 Combat Support Wing, 12 May 2005

COMMANDERS

Col Steven M. Sweeney, Jun 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Army Meritorious Unit Commendation
1 Jan-31 Oct 1944

EMBLEM

Azure, an isosceles triangle, point to chief Or, bordered Gules, and overall a mounted knight armed with a shield quartered, furnished and courant Sable, garnished, highlighted from below and supporting a pennant in chief of the second, all within a diminished bordure of the like. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "423D AIR BASE GROUP" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The knight on horseback signifies man's journey through life and the unit's courage, while the triangle signifies strength and the Group's ability to coordinate changing needs.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 73d Air Depot Wing was activated on 9 January 1951 at Kelly AFB, Texas, Air Material Command, and assigned the impossible mission of rapidly establishing a major air depot in France. Approximately 1,500 standby and ready Air Force Reservists were mobilized and assigned to four 73d Depot groups and ten squadrons and moved to France as rapidly as possible. This was a small portion of the 146,000 Air Force Reservists called to active duty for the Korean War.

Individual officers and airmen began arriving at Chateauroux after 10 January 1951. The post office, APO #10, was established by one airman on 28 March. The first large shipment of depot personnel arrived on 14 April, consisting of twelve officers, eighteen airmen, two wives, and one child. Two more increments followed on 13 and 21 July until, by 1 August approximately 165 officers and 1,480 airmen were based at La Martinerie. A C-47 was the first aircraft assigned to the depot on 10 May. The 73d Air Depot Wing was transferred from HQ AMC to HQ USAFE on 21 July 1951. The final large group of 59 officers and 693 airmen arrived 23 August. This included personnel of the 7300th Material Control Group.

The numbers of depot civilian personnel were also increasing rapidly. By 1 October 1951 a total of 123 Department of Air Force civilians and 979 French civilians were working at Chateauroux. On 1 January 1953, Chateauroux Air Depot personnel numbered 8,304: 462 officers, 5,472 airmen, 346 DAF civilians, and 2,024 French civilians.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 25 Jan 2025

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency, U.S. Air Force, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.