

## **7020 AIR BASE GROUP**



### **MISSION**

### **LINEAGE**

7020 Air Base Group

### **STATIONS**

RAF Fairford, England, 1 Feb 1979

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

7020 Air Base Group was activated at RAF Fairford on 1 February 1979 assigned to 3 Air Force as base host unit responsible for the support of the flying mission of the 11 Strategic Group

activated at RAF Fairford in September 1978 to provide air refueling capability in addition to 306 Strategic Wing at RAF Mildenhall for the European Tanker Task Force ETTF for operational alert and exercise Bomb and Reconnaissance commitment of Strategic Air Command SAC Tactical Air Command USAFE and NATO using attached temporary duty TDY Boeing KC 135 Stratotankers crews and crew chiefs rotationally deployed by US based SAC wings.

7020 ABG undertook base security finance administration supply maintenance of base facilities morale and recreational activities with 7020 Headquarters Squadron 7020 Security Police Squadron 7020 Supply Squadron and 7020 Transportation Squadron. The Group was also assigned 66 Contingency Hospital based at RAF Little Rissington. 7020 ABG activated 7020 Civil Engineering Squadron at RAF Fairford on 5 November 1981.

RAF Fairford's runway is rated with an unrestricted load bearing capacity allowing it to support any aircraft with any type of load and was USAFs only European airfield for heavy bombers. RAF Fairford was allocated as one of NASAs TransOceanic Abort Landing site for Space Shuttle as it had a sufficiently long runway for a shuttle landing and NASA trained fire and medical crews were stationed on the airfield. NASAs Shuttle Carrier carrying the Enterprise landed at RAF Fairford on its way to the Paris Air Show in 1983 and the US President landed at RAF Fairford in Air Force One. RAF Fairford was frequently visited by transient U 2 reconnaissance aircraft.

7020 ABG hosted the International Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford for the first time in 1985 and RAF Fairford KC-135 and KC-10 supported Operation El Dorado Canyon against Libya in 1986. The Group hosted IAT 1987 and IAT 1989.

With the end of the Cold War and subsequent reduction in USAF forces in Europe 7020 ABG was inactivated in 1989.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.