

# **BACALAN SUB DEPOT**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

Bacalan Sub Depot

## **STATIONS**

Bacalan, France

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Chateauroux Air Depot commanded several sub-depots. These Sub-Depots were located at Bordeaux-Bacalan, (special clothing & medical supplies); Niort-Chize (aircraft ammunition); Metz-Frescaty (vehicles & construction supplies) St. Mihiel (conventional ammunition storage); St. Nazarene (aircraft seaport); and Les Moulin's (vehicle storage and maintenance) and the Villefranche (parts storage).

Bacalan Sub-Depot

Bacalan, a suburb of Bordeaux, is on the west side of the Gironde River, 344 miles (550 km) south-southwest of Paris on Autoroute A10, in the Gironde Department.

The Bordeaux-Bacalan Depot, Storage Annex #2690, was located very near the large WWII submarine pens, about four miles (7 km) north of the main train station in Bordeaux. The depot was 230 miles (373 km) southwest of Chateauroux. The closest airdrome was Bordeaux-

Merignac. From June 1951 until December 1959 it was operated by the 73d Air Depot Wing, CAMAE, headquartered at Chateauroux.

Bacalan sub-depot became operational on 4 April 1952, and both the American and French flags were raised at this facility.

In the summer of 1952, after departure of the 126th Wing from Bordeaux AB, the Bacalan storage facility had space for the needed AF Class 13 clothing depot. It was expanded from 73d Air Sub-Depot to the 7349th Air Depot Group in 1954 with the primary mission of supplying clothing items to all USAFE. This job was handled by the 7349th Supply Squadron. On 1 January 1956 the 7349th was redesignated the 3137th Air Depot Group. Depot clothing stocks consisted of all USAF uniform items, cold/wet weather clothing, individual field equipment, tents, bedding, and aircrew flight clothing.

Supply processing and storage contracts were established with the Sursol and Baronnet companies at Bacalan. The Baronnet contract cost the USAF \$1,701 per month. Sursol's price was \$1,875 per month, but this cost was shared with the U.S. Army.

Bacalan was manned by a mix of 14 officers, 158 airmen, 4 DAF civilians, and 289 French civilian personnel in January 1956. Three airmen from Det #2, 12th Postal Sq operated a small substation of APO 16 at Bacalan. U.S. families lived off base in GRI housing at Pessac.

Bacalan also became a storage center for USAFE medical supplies. It was operated by Det #1, 7373d Medical Material Sq, which later became the 3134th Medical Material Sq. Three Federal Stock Classes (#6515, #6520 and #6830) requiring 40,000 square feet of indoor storage, were stocked to support the European area.

On 1 January 1959 the 7415th Support Group was ordered to support the Bacalan depot. Det.#1, 7415th provided administrative, personnel, and budget assistance. This action was required prior to shutdown of the 7413th Air Base Group and the Bordeaux-Merignac Air Base in 1958. On 28 February 1958 the official name of the Bordeaux Air Station, was changed to Bordeaux Storage Station.

As part of the 1958 USAFE budget cuts, the 3134th Supply Group closed the Bacalan Depot and moved the clothing and medical supply operation to the Chateauroux Air Depot at La Martinerie by March 1959. By then Chateauroux had indoor warehouse space available for storing all clothing stocks. This relocation saved about US \$6 million per year. The property was formally returned to France in June 1961.

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