

# **SOUTHERN AIR MATERIAL AREA, EUROPE**

## **LINEAGE**

Activated 1 Mar 1954

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

80th/7280th AIR DEPOT WING/SOUTHERN AIR MATERIAL AREA EUROPE (SAMAE)  
(AMC/USAFE), NOUASSEUR 1951-1957

3-51 to 8-51 Col Clarence G. Brown

8-51 to 5-52 BG Wilfred Hardy

5-52 to 9-55 BG James L. Jackson

9-55 to 4-57 BG Charles A. Heim

4-56 to 6-58 MG Lewis L. Mundell

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Deactivation of the 80th Air Depot Wing at Nouasseur Air Base on June 8, 1953, and activation of the 7280th Air Depot Wing to take its place had no effect on the command or organizational structure. Like so many military unit redesignations, it seemed to serve no purpose except to give

the unit a different number, and perhaps a new image. Brig. General James L. Jackson had assumed command of the 80th Air Depot Wing from Brig. General Wilfred Hardy a week earlier. The air depot became responsible for logistic support of Wheelus Air Base in Libya and Dhahran Air Base in Saudi Arabia. The next month the Leghorn, Italy, supply depot would also be added to the 7280th Air Depot Wing logistic support responsibility.

Another unit for the 7280th Air Depot Wing to support logistically, the 357th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS) arrived at Nouasseur Air Base in late June, 1953, with F-86 aircraft. Now two USAF fighter interceptor squadrons were in French Morocco as a part of the newly formed Air Defense Division (Provisional), and the 17th Air Force

A command redesignation at Nouasseur Air Base also occurred on March 1, 1954, when the 7280th Air Depot Wing became the Southern Air Material Area, Europe (SAMAE). The restated SAMAE mission: (1) provide depot level support in supply, maintenance and transportation within SAMAE area. (2) provide base level support and facilities for all existing and programmed units at Nouasseur Air Base. and (3) provide administrative and logistic support to deployed SAC units. Much like the deactivated 7280th Air Depot Wing. SAMAE had difficulty supporting rotating SAC wings with aircraft parts, Rotational SAC units relied on flyaway kits (FAKs) carried with the unit as the first source of supply for aircraft parts during their visits to French Morocco.