

# 12 COMMUNICATIONS CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON

## **MISSION**

12 Communications Construction Squadron mission was heavy construction required for all USAFE communications/electronics installations beyond a combat wing's capabilities. This squadron had personnel, vehicles, and equipment to build telephone pole lines, bury telephone cables, install and splice large telephone cables, erect antenna towers, and install telephone switching systems.

The unit had 125 vehicles assigned. About forty of this fleet were special purpose trucks and trailers for handling telephone poles, hole digging, cable reels, and splicing tools. Upon activation the squadron was manned by 7 officers and 163 airmen.

## **LINEAGE**

12 Communications Construction Squadron

Activated, 1 Feb 1953

Inactivated, May 1965

## **STATIONS**

Moulins, France

Bordeaux, France

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

## **Service Streamers**

## **Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 12 Communications Construction Squadron was activated at Moulins on 1 February 1953 with personnel and equipment from the 610th Signal Light Construction Company (Aviation), a SCARWAF unit activated on 19 October 1951 from the Washington Air National Guard.

The officers and airmen spent much of the time TDY at construction jobs far away from the Moulins depot. The 12th Communications Construction Squadron applied their skills to virtually every USAFE facility across Europe, North Africa, and Saudi Arabia; installing, repairing, and replacing outside and inside telephone plant systems. Work ranged from initial site surveys to final circuit testing and customer sign-off. Most new air bases in France required total telephone system installation requiring six to ten miles of buried and pole mounted multi-pair phone cables on base. Cable splicing had to correctly interface with the commercial French Post Telephone and Telegraph (PT&T) system running off base.

A very special construction project began on 15 February 1955. This was the construction of microwave antenna towers in France to assist the 7th and 8th Radio Relay Squadrons. Fifty-three 80-foot towers were constructed at the rate of one per week and two towers had to be increased to one hundred feet. Work involved not only tower erection, but tower concrete bases, anchors, guys, reflectors and microwave antenna dishes. No on-the-job accidents or injuries occurred through careful planning and training. This project was completed in March 1956.

With the planned closure of the Moulins Sub Depot, the 12th Communications Construction Squadron was ordered to relocate to the Bordeaux Bacalan Sub-Depot. This movement started on 28 March 1957 and the unit moved all 250 tons of equipment, supplies, and project material 280 miles west to Bacalan using its own vehicles. This move was completed by 10 April and the unit was fully operational on 15 April. No construction schedules were interrupted by this relocation. Of course, the squadron found it had less storage space and inadequate facilities at Bacalan compared to Moulins Air Station. The 12th moved again, this time to Chateauroux, in June 1958 because of additional USAFE budget cuts that closed the Bacalan Storage Station. It operated at La Martinerie until inactivated in May 1965.

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Sources

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

*U.S. Air Force in France 1950-1967*. Jerome J. McAuliffe. Milspec Press Way. San Diego, CA.