

1027 AIR MATERIEL SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

1027 Air Materiel Squadron

Activated, 17 Dec 1944

Inactivated

Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

STATIONS

Wendover Field, UT

North Field, Tinian 30 May-Aug 1945

San Francisco, CA

Roswell AAF, NM

ASSIGNMENTS

390 Air Service Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Guy Geller

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 1027 AMS was activated at Wendover with personnel selected from the entire Second Air Force. Specialists were brought in from bases throughout the West for duty with the 1027th. These men were thoroughly trained in their specialties and prepared to set the 1027th up as a complete supply and service facility anywhere.

The mission of the 1027 was to anticipate, procure, and issue all Air Corps, Quartermaster, Signal, Chemical Warfare, and Ordnance supplies and equipment for the 509th Composite Group. Major Guy Geller, then Base General Supply Officer, was appointed Squadron Commander and Group Materiel Officer at the time of activation at Wendover, December 17th 1944. During the ensuing months, prior to departure for the Port of Embarkation, time was occupied by a rigid training program as well as the preparation of supplies and equipment for overseas shipment. The Great Salt Flats, once the scene of history-making auto speed records, reverberated day and night with the sound of firing carbines and pistols, marching feet, pounding hammers and whining saws.

For the purpose of movement to "Destination Unknown", the Squadron was divided into three echelons. The main ground echelon departed for Seattle POE on 26 April 1945 with Lt Anthony in command. Lt Velazquez and five enlisted men, comprising the advanced air echelon, departed on 15 May 1945. Captain Siegle remained behind for the purpose of staging aircraft and departed with the main air echelon on 1 July 1945.

Personnel traveling by air enjoyed a pleasant and uneventful journey, but the boat ride aboard the ship SS Cape Victory was both unpleasant and eventful. The seasickness, the living "accommodations" closely resembling life in a sardine can, the rainbow-hued powdered eggs, very colorful but inedible, drinking water the temperature of hot coffee, the raucous voice of the troopship commander shouting "Garbage detail lay aft", are memories to change one's ideas of the romance of the sea. After the rigors of the journey, the sight of Tinian on the distant horizon was pleasant indeed. The SS Cape Victory dropped anchor in Tinian harbor on 30 May 1945. The troops eagerly clambered ashore despite the burden of packs, duffel bags, weapons and helmets, and were met by Major Geller, Lt Christensen, and Lt Velázquez. These officers were plied with a flurry of questions, ranging from "Where's the beer" to "When do we go home?" Living quarters were established in weather-beaten tents and the first of many "c" rations were consumed. With empty packing cases as desks and chairs, the typewriters of 1st Sgt Kelly and Staff Sgt Robert "Whitey" Fellwock were soon clicking, Cpl Robert F. Baldwin was distributing eagerly awaited mail, and the Squadron was operational. The men of the 1027th are proud: as a team they fulfilled their part in the mission of the 509th "Atomic" Group.

The 1027th Air Materiel Squadron was originally planned to be self-sustaining and possibly based where there would be no supply or service facilities available. The 1027th was designated to provide signal, ordnance, QM, and chemical supplies and services to the Group in any part of the world under any conditions.

When the Cape Victory dropped us off on Tinian we found a complete, well-tuned Air Force base, one of the world's largest, already operating. There was no need for a separate unit to service and supply one Group.

So we were assigned to the 313th Bomb Wing at North Field, where the 509th was based along with other Groups. Our personnel were integrated with the functions of the 313th. Our signal men went to the Wing Signal Depot, our ordnance men went to the Wing Ordnance Depot, etc., where our expertise was used. We all fitted in to the best of our ability and training and had plenty to do. We didn't pilot any planes or drop any bombs, but furnished a trained group of men who contributed to the supply and service functions needed to keep them all flying, including the 509th.

Air Force Unit Histories

Created: 27 Nov 2020

Updated:

Sources

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