

1391 AIR FORCE BASE UNIT

MISSION

LINEAGE

1391 AAF Base Unit (HQ Azores Base Command)
Redesignated 1391 AAF Base Unit (HQ Azores Air Transport Station)
Redesignated 1391 Air Force Base Unit

STATIONS

Azores Air Transport Station, Azores, Portugal, 1 Sep 1946-3 Jun 1948

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 4 August 1944, the 1391st Army Air Force Base unit was activated at Santa Maria. Under this blanket of secrecy a civilian construction company, under the direction of U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers, undertook what was called project 111. Movement of Air Transport Command operations to Santa Maria from Lajes Field commenced in April 1945 and on 15 May 1945, the base reached completion on 15 May 1945. The new field replaced Lajes as the main base for passenger and cargo planes routed through the Azores, even though U.S. operations at Lajes Field continued.

September 1946, the 1391st Army Air Forces Base Unit and the Azores Base Command was transferred from Santa Maria Island to Lajes. Nine days later a temporary agreement was reached between the U.S. and Portuguese governments giving the U.S. military rights to Lagens Field for an additional 18 months. In turn, the United States was required to maintain services and support operations at the base “in collaboration with and under the superintendence of the Portuguese authorities.”

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