

1606 AIR BASE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

1606 Air Base Group

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On 1 July 1952, HQ USAFE assumed command of Orly Air Base because the majority of its work was in support of USAFE missions. A small detachment from MATS remained as a tenant unit to

manage pas-senger traffic. The 1606th ABGp was redesignated the 7415th ABGp at Orly AB in July 1952. Orly Air Base's mailing address was APO 58.

The first NATO tenant at Aeroport Orly-Paris was the USAF Military Air Transport Service, 1630th Air Base Squadron, activated in June 1950. Agreement was reached 10 November 1950 on a new lease to allow for the use of a small portion, namely seventy-five acres on the east edge of the airfield, primarily for aircraft parking. Also located on this parcel were five usable Quonset huts. On 1 April 1951 the Air Base Squadron was expanded to fifty-seven officers and airmen to support the air transport needs of SHAPE, which was activated on the same day. Another impor-tant mission developing at Orly Air Base was pro-viding aircraft and facilities to maintain the flying proficiency of USAF pilots assigned to the Paris reg-ion. On 10 October 1951 Orly AB was expanded to 350 acres and personnel were increased; the 1630th AB Squadron was upgraded to the 1606th AB Group. The 7470th Headquarters Support Squadron, APO 55, was activated in April 1951 to operate the HQ USAFE Paris Office, and was attached to the 1606th ABGp.

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