

3926 AIR BASE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

3926 Air Base Squadron

STATIONS

Sidi Slimane Air Base

Ben Guerir, French Morocco

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Lester C. Holman

Col Chester C. Cox

Col Joel Braddock

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

There were two separate 3926th Air Base Squadrons. There was no lineal connection between the two squadrons. The first squadron was active in 1951 at Bergstrom AFB, TX. The squadron inactivated less than two months later. The second squadron was activated in 1955 in French Morocco.

A change of command occurred on May 27 1952. Colonel Chester C. Cox, commander of the 3926th Air Base Squadron holding at Sidi Slimane Air Base for orders to proceed with the main body to Ben Guerir Air Base, instead assumed command of the 3906th Air Base Squadron and Sidi Slimane Air Base. Cox replaced Colonel Lester C. Holman. Colonel Joel Braddock replaced Colonel Cox as commander of the 3926th Air Base Squadron. In Jul 1952, Colonel Braddock moved additional personnel to Ben Guerir Air Base, but the bulk of the Squadron remained at Sidi Slimane Air Base. Much construction work remained to be completed before a full air base squadron could go to work there.

The 3926th Air Base Squadron at Ben Guerir Air Base welcomed the 2nd Air Refueling Squadron from Hunter Air Force Base, Georgia, on August 7, 1954. The base now had a permanent-party compliment of 569 military, twenty-nine officers and 540 airmen, and looked forward to hosting this rotational SAC squadron. Two 1,000-seat dining halls had just been completed and the 3926th Air Base Squadron felt they were prepared. A locust plague in the Ben Guerir area soon after the squadron's arrival created different working and living conditions for the visitors than seen at the home base. Huge locust swarms would appear over the base for two or three days and then disappear for two or three days. They devoured all the planted crops near the villages and plant life in the desert, as well as articles of clothing that happened to be unprotected. The locusts also posed a severe hazard to aircraft landing or taking off and a nuisance at all other times. The entire community heaved a sigh of relief when the locusts finally departed the area for the season, as quickly and unexpectedly as they had arrived.

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