

704 MUNITIONS SUPPORT SQUADRON



MISSION

The 704 MUNSS is responsible for receipt, storage, maintenance and control of U.S. war reserve weapons committed to NATO's 6th STORMO Italian Wing. The squadron directly supports NATO and its strike mission.

The 704 MUNSS has approximately 134 active duty military, Department of Defense and local national civilians. The 704th MUNSS is responsible for maintaining US resources with an annual budget of \$200K. The Italian Air Force, through a bi-lateral agreement between the U.S. and Italian Governments, provides and maintains property occupied by USAF personnel. Ghedi Air Base does not have personnel support facilities or billeting for U.S. forces.

The 704 MUNSS consists of the communications flight, custody flight, maintenance flight, mission support flight, and operations flight

LINEAGE

31 Aviation Depot Squadron constituted, 5 Dec 1956

Activated, 1 Jan 1957

Redesignated 31 Munitions Maintenance Squadron, 1 Jul 1960

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Jun 1964

Activated, 1 Mar 1971

Inactivated, 1 May 1978

Redesignated 31 Munitions Support Squadron and activated, 1 Aug 1996

Redesignated 831 Munitions Support Squadron, 5 Jun 2000

Redesignated 704 Munitions Support Squadron, 25 May 2004

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Jan 1957-15 Jun 1964

Homestead AFB, FL, 1 Mar 1971-1 May 1978

Ghedi, Italy, 1 Aug 1996

ASSIGNMENTS

803 Air Base (later, 803 Combat Support) Group, 1 Jan 1957

303 Combat Support Group, 15 Mar 1960

303 Bombardment Wing, 1 Jul 1960-15 Jun 1964

31 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Mar 1971-1 May 1978

31 Logistics (later, 31 Maintenance) Group, 1 Aug 1996

38 Munitions Maintenance Group, 25 May 2004

52 Munitions Maintenance Group, 11 Sep 2007

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1961-31 Mar 1962

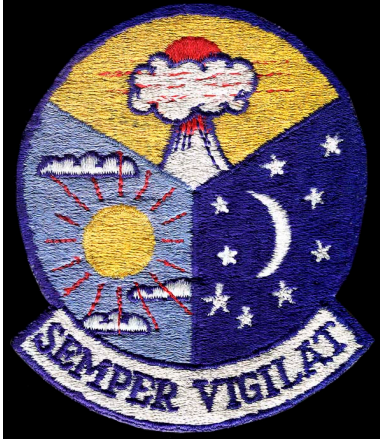
1 Oct 2000-1 Oct 2002

2 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004

25 Mar 2004-31 Oct 2005

EMBLEM





A disc divided into three equal sectors, Air Force golden yellow in chief, light blue in dexter (right) and Air Force Blue in sinister (left); in chief a white nuclear mushroom shaped cloud, details red, outlines Air Force blue, in dexter between three white clouds, outlined Air Force blue, an Air Force golden yellow sun, its rays surmounting the clouds; in sinister an increscent moon among a galaxy of stars, all white. The nuclear cloud is symbol of the mission of the squadron. The two segments, bearing the sun and the moon represents the constant day and night condition of readiness maintained by this unit to defend our country against potential aggressors. Our emblem displays the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow. (Approved, 12 May 2005)

MOTTO

SEMPER VIGILAT—Always Watchful

OPERATIONS

The mission of the 831st Munitions Support Squadron [831st MUNSS, formerly designated as the 31st Munitions Support Squadron, is to receive, store, maintain, and upon receipt of properly authenticated instructions, provide reliable weapons to the 154th and 102nd Fighter Bomber Squadrons of the 6th STORMO Italian Air Force. The Squadron directly supports their North Atlantic Treaty Organization responsibilities. The squadron is a tenant unit on the Italian Air Base at Ghedi, Italy; it's made up of six flights and totals about 135 assigned personnel. The majority of personnel work in the Custody Flight with responsibility for maintaining security for assigned resources twenty-four-hours-a-day 365 days a year. The Command and Control Flight directs operations and is the 24-hour contact point for the squadron. The Maintenance Flight has two sections. The Maintenance and Inspection section stores and prepares resources for mission requirements. The Load Monitor section assists and monitors host nation forces on proper load and configuration of capable aircraft. The Communications Flight provides communication maintenance and operates the message center for the squadron. Through support clinics located at Vicenza Army Post, Aviano AB, and local area hospitals there are two Independent Duty Medical Technicians (IDMT) assigned to support active duty personnel and to assist in getting dependent medical appointments. The

command section has several functions such as Unit Information Management and Personnel. The Services Flight operates the dining facility and Recreation Services.

Nuclear weapons are stored at two locations in Italy: Aviano AB, a U.S. facility in the north, and Ghedi-Torre Air Base, an Italian air force base on the Adriatic coast. This is a marked change from 19 nuclear bases in Italy at the end of the Cold War, including U.S. Air Force, Army, and Navy nuclear weapons, the only European country to host all three services nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons have been stored at Aviano since at least the late 1950's. They were initially stored at a secluded Weapons Storage Area (WSA), known as "Area D." Weapons Storage and Security System (WS3) vaults achieved initial operational capability on January 22, 1996 supplementing Area D. Eighteen are operational at Aviano. The 31st Fighter Wing was awarded excellent and outstanding ratings in its 1994 Nuclear Surety Inspection (NSI.) It also received a USAF Nuclear Surety Plaque in 1994 "for demonstrating outstanding capability to support a nuclear airlift mission." The Wing underwent a two-week Functional Inspection/Quality Air Force Assessment in December 1995, including subordinate dispersed elements with nuclear responsibilities: 31st Munitions Support Squadron Supply Support Element and the 731st Munitions Support Squadron Custody Flight, both at Araxos AB, Greece. In May 1996, the Wing underwent a full NSI, earning six awards of excellence. In July 1997, the Air Force director of security forces conducted an inspection of Aviano and Ghedi-Torre AB.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.