

3910 COMBAT SUPPORT GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

3910 Air Base Group
Redesignated 3910 Combat Support Group
Inactivated

STATIONS

Mildenhall, England
Lakenheath, England, 15 Apr 1955-1 Oct 1959

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS



Col L. M. Thomas (USAF photo)

Col L. M. Thomas

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



The basic shape of the shield follows that of the Strategic Air Command, as does the inclusion of the mail fist, thunderbolt and olive branch, which devices are symbolically recognized to indicate strength, determination, rapid striking power, and the preservation of peace. The above symbols have been juxtaposed to the added sword which is supported by the mail fist held aloft symbolic of preparedness and the support of all aerial force which is the specific mission of the concerned Air Base Group. The aerial force is noted by the use of the winged hilt. The shield in the center of the winged hilt carries the crenelations, symbolic of fortress strength; also found on the shield of observers' wings, but utilizing a more inclusive shape. The devices of the thunderbolt and olive branch have been slightly subordinated to the supported blade, making prominent the primary mission of the Air Base Group which more precisely supports the other elements.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Mildenhall story is an important chapter in the annals of the Strategic Air Command in much the same way that the SAC mission is an integral " gear " in the machinery of the Air Force.

United States Air Force activity began at Mildenhall in July 1950 when the 93rd Bomb Wing was assigned. During those initial weeks the 93rd performed a dual mission; one being that of fulfilling the operational mission, i.e., scheduled bomber flights, de-briefing, and associated intelligence. The other, but no less important mission, was that of providing their own support. This was a condition which was to last for only a few months.

In September of the same year the first official support organization was assigned. During this period Headquarters 3rd Air Force, London, England, was in command of all SAC activity in the United Kingdom. The first Tactical Bomb Wing Support Organization was the 7511th Air Support Wing, under the jurisdiction of 3rd Air Force. By mid-year 1951, a new command element was organized to assume the responsibilities previously performed by Headquarters 3rd Air Force. The official Air Force designation for this new structure was Seventh Air Division with headquarters also in London. Simultaneous with the establishment of 7th Air Division as a Strategic Air Command Division-level organization, the unit designation for the Mildenhall base was changed to its present title, "3910th Air Base Group".

Since the "phase-out" of the 93rd Bomb Wing in March of 1951, eleven tactical organizations have come-accomplished their missions-and returned to America. With the arrival and activity of each new wing, streamlined policies were formulated and maintenance facilities improved until, at present, tactical organizations find the facilities and support rendered them is highly efficient and delays for mission supplies and parts completely eliminated.

The development of Mildenhall's capabilities has not been confined to the phases of support directly related to tactical organizations. A diversified recreational program was inaugurated in late 1951 and has since " snowballed " to its present " best in England " status.

The base theaters at both Mildenhall and her annex station, RAF Lakenheath, were completely renovated and now offer the finest in motion picture entertainment.

Modern facilities have been constructed for the hobby-minded airman. Woodworking shops, photoshops, leather handicraft and ceramics are all offered under the Special Service program. Athletically, Mildenhall has excellent facilities. Baseball, basketball, track, tennis, golf, bowling and other competitive sports prevail the year around. Seventh Air Division leagues in all these sports include Mildenhall airmen each year. The new Mildenhall gymnasium has been lauded by spectators and sports enthusiasts as " one of the best ". The recently constructed Service Club offers a variety of entertainment for airmen of the 3910th Air Base Group and is ultra modern in design.

Mildenhall bowling enthusiasts enjoy their leisure time at the base eight-lane alley which also

features a modern snack bar.

As the Mildenhall story continues to develop, its officers and airmen come, contribute their skills, and return to the Zone of Interior. During the initial three years of Mildenhall's history rapid progress was to be seen from week to week. Now, however, Mildenhall is established and serves her bomb wing visitors efficiently and with ease. The " build up " phase has been accomplished- now the full emphasis can be placed on " support ".



3910 Air Base Group headquarters at Mildenhall (USAF photo)

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *Pictorial Review, Mildenhall and Lakenheath, England, 1953-1954*. Montgomery Publishing Co.
London, England. 1954.