

3918 AIR BASE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

3918 Air Base Group

3918 Combat Support Group

STATIONS

Upper Heyford, England

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The current history of Upper Heyford has its beginning on 7 July 1950, when the first group of United States Air Force personnel arrived on the station. The original organization consisted of one officer and 26 airmen. It was designated the 7509th Air Base Squadron. On 15 May 1951 the British Air Ministry officially turned over the station to the USAF. The day was marked by a review of troops. On the reviewing stand were : Maj. Gen. Leon W. Johnson, commanding general, Third Air Force; Col. William L. Snowden, commanding, 7509th Air Base Squadron and Chief Air Marshal

Sir Hugh P. Llovd, Commander in Chief R.A.F. Bomber Command.. Then on 25 May 1951 the 7509th Air Base Squadron was redesignated a Group and given the same number.

At the beginning of the following year, changes took place in the base organization. On 10 January 1952, the 7509th Air Base Group at Upper Heyford inactivated and the 3918th Air Base Group was activated. Also on this date the Third Air Force, under United States Air Force Europe, relinquished control of the station and turned it over to the Strategic Air Command. ... Yet in this period of time, another change took place. Col. Alvan C. Gillem II took command of the 3918th Air Base Group-25 January 1952.

Then on 22 June 1953, the 3918th Air Base Group received a new commander. He was Col. F. V. Wikstrom from Hq. Seventh Air Division at South Ruislip, Middlesex. Colonel Wikstrom brought with him a thorough knowledge of military planning; he had been Chief of plans at 7AD. Under his leadership the 3918th Air Base Group reached new heights of success. Projects blossomed - construction, road widening, airfield work. He departed for the ZI on 12 August 1954.

The commanders at Upper Heyford since 1950 have been: Lt. Col. Roper, 7 July 1950-May 1951; Col Snowden, June 1951- 29 December 1951; Lt. Col. Roper took command from Col. Snowden and served until 25 January 1952; Col. Gillern assumed command on 25 January 1952; and Col. Wikstrom took command on 22 June 1953.

On 13 August 1954, Col. Timothy J. Dacey, Jr. assumed command of the 3918th Air Base Group. He came from Headquarters, Strategic Air Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha, Nebraska.

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