

51 SUB DEPOT

MISSION

LINEAGE

51 Sub Depot
Inactivated, 10 Apr 1944

STATIONS

Langley Field, Hampton, Virginia

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj Hoyt L. Prindle

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The Langley Sub-depot, later renamed 51st Sub-depot, was activated under the command of Major Hoyt L. Prindle on January 28, 1942. The Sub-depot, composed of civilians, assumed supply and maintenance responsibilities from the materiel squadrons, thereby releasing the military personnel for field duties.

The 51st Sub-depot was a subsidiary of the Air Transport Command's Middletown Air Depot, Middletown, Pennsylvania, until January 1 1944 when First Air Force assumed jurisdiction. The

original cadre included fifty-six male civilians from Middletown Air Depot, but by March, female mechanics began to receive on-the-job training at Langley.

By late 1943 the exigencies of war produced a marked increase in the number of female employees. Work projects within the three major divisions of supply, maintenance and signal concentrated on aircraft repair and parts manufacture.

Among the more unique missions was the retrieval of a P-40F, which crashed into Lake Drummond in the Dismal Swamp of North Carolina. Among the many shop locations were the balloon hangar and a hangar normally used by the Air Base Flight Section.

The 51st Sub-depot, due to the lack of trained personnel, established its own training program. In early 1944 it began training military personnel to assume its responsibilities.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

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Sources

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