

# 7485 AIR DEPOT GROUP

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

7485 Air Depot Group

## STATIONS

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

USAF wanted a seaport air depot be built to accommodate ship delivery of tactical aircraft, but the primary delivery method became flying most single engine and multi-engine aircraft across the North Atlantic ocean year round.

During the 1930s, the SNCAO Breguet Aircraft Company had its primary aircraft factory on the St. Nazaire-Montoir airport, and these hangars and shops were available in 1951. This resulted in occasional use of the St. Nazaire port facility for the shipment of aircraft, decocooning, and depot maintenance prior to fly-away to USAFE tactical units. Sud Aviation was located on the Montoir Airdrome and performed the depot function at St. Nazaire under contract from Chateauroux Air Depot. The USAF operated two escort aircraft carrier delivery ships, USNS Tripoli TCVU-64 and USNS Croatan TCVU-66, from Brookley AFB, Mobile, Alabama. These ships delivered hundreds of MDAP aircraft: T-6Gs, F-84Gs, RF-84Fs, and F-86Ks; plus USAFE aircraft: F-86Ds, F-102As, and H-21Bs. The fighter aircraft were off-loaded by cranes and towed about one mile to the Sud Aviation shops.

All the factory-new F-86Ds in 1954 and the overhauled F-102A/TF-102As in 1959 were prepared for shipment to USAFE by spraying the whole aircraft with a white plastic coating "cocooning" to prevent corrosion. The F-86Ds and F-102As were shipped on the flight deck as cargo and exposed to sea air.

They required a large amount of corrosion control work after arrival and were processed by the 7485th Air Depot Group. All fighters were inspected and test flown at Montoir Airport, then delivered to USAFE fighter interceptor squadrons in England, West Germany, and Spain.

The St. Nazaire-Montoir sub-depot was not used for aircraft shipments after 1963 and the 7485th Air Depot Group was discontinued in 1961. Portions of this facility were turned over to the U.S. Army and no USAF controlled real estate remained at St. Nazaire.

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