

86 MATERIAL MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

86 Munitions Maintenance Squadron constituted, 15 Aug 1972

Activated, 8 Oct 1972

Inactivated, 31 Jan 1979

Redesignated 86 Materiel Maintenance Squadron and activated, 1 Aug 1996

Inactivated, 15 Jan 2004

Activated, 16 Jul 2009

STATIONS

Zweibrucken AB, Germany, 8 Oct 1972

Ramstein AB, Germany, 31 Jan 1973-31 Jan 1979

Sembach Annex, Germany, 1 Aug 1996-15 Jan 2004

Ramstein AB, Germany, 16 Jul 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

86 Tactical Fighter Wing, 8 Oct 1972

86 Tactical Fighter Group, 22 Sep 1975-31 Jan 1979

86 Logistics Group, 1 Aug 1996

86 Logistics Readiness Group, 27 Sep 2002-15 Jan 2004

86 Logistics Readiness Group, 16 Jul 2009

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Eric Axelbank, Jul 2003-May 2005

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Aug] 1996-30 Jun 1997

1 Sep 1997-31 Aug 1999

24 Mar-10 Jun 1999

1 Jan 2000-31 Dec 2001

1 Jan-31 Dec 2002

1 Jan-31 Dec 2003

[16 Jul] 2009-31 Dec 2010

1 Jan 2014-31 Dec 2015

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Col. Bradford Coley, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa chief of the logistics readiness division, (center), tours Air Force resources in Luxembourg, Sept. 14, 2017. The Luxembourg government's Warehouse Service Agency manages the facility, but the 86th Material Maintenance Squadron is responsible for keeping accountability of the resources stored in the compound. 2017

Officials from the 86th Munitions Squadron, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa, and the Luxembourg government's Warehouses Service Agency, meet to discuss matters concerning WSA operations in Luxembourg, Sept. 14, 2017. Airmen of the 86th MMS are responsible for inspecting, maintaining, and keeping accountability of the Air Force's War Reserve Material in Europe. 2017

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Somewhere in the Luxembourg countryside, armed guards keep watch over a compound of nondescript warehouses and storage containers. Each warehouse in the facility holds a different surprise, but those coming in will find most of these treasures hidden under lock and key. Stacks of metal boxes tower above the ground as workers inspect vehicles, equipment and other material for operability. One may wonder what is so important about this labyrinth of a storage facility, and why the Air Force and Luxembourg government are so determined to protect everything in it. "The 86th Material Maintenance Squadron manages 85 percent of U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa's war reserve material," said Lt. Col. Paul Arkwell, 86th MMS commander. "That can be anything from showers and latrines, special purpose vehicles and spare parts." Airmen of the 86th MMS are responsible for inspecting, maintaining and keeping accountability of the Air Force's War Reserve Material in Europe. What makes the squadron unique is that it does not focus on one career field, but contains Airmen from multiple Air Force specialty codes.

"We have 18 different AFSCs to manage all these different assets of the warfighter," said Arkwell. "We have a small footprint, but this is a tactical level that has a strategic and direct impact to two theaters of war or beyond, when called upon. It's all about warfighter support, and recognizing that the Air Force mission has more than one career field." The Luxembourg government's Warehouse Service Agency manages the facility, but the Air Force owns most of the material stored in the compound. Staff Sgt. Anthony Davis, 86th MMS noncommissioned officer in charge of asset management, said the squadron's mission is to safeguard and maintain all kinds of material and equipment needed for establishing a bare base in a deployed location.

"Anything can happen in this area of responsibility," he said. "This squadron is ready for short-notice tasks. We are able to rapidly leave a footprint no matter where that demand is needed. We have anything a base needs to operate, and we can deliver it any time." Davis stressed the importance of his squadron's mission, stating the ability of his squadron to support deployed troops has a direct impact on mission success. "The things we provide provides morale, as well as combat support," he said. "Once they return (to the base), they can relax, have a hot meal and do anything else we can do here. Without those assets, the power and fuel, we wouldn't be able to project the airpower we need to be able to handle the mission. It would have a huge impact."

Senior Master Sgt. Kevin Whitely, 86th MMS superintendent, expressed pride in his job maintaining the Air Force's WRM, saying he enjoys working with Airmen from different career fields. "This is the best job I've had since I joined the Air Force," he said. "I've been at the squadron for over two years, and the reward we get back by working with 18 AFSCs is just amazing. In my opinion, this is the best unit I've been assigned to." Arkwell also said he was grateful to lead the 86th MMS, adding he felt honored to be able to lead one of the only three material maintenance squadrons in the Air Force. "I couldn't ask for a better unit," he said. "The men and women of this unit have created Air Force level impact. Their processes and procedures are changing way the Air Force Instructions and regulations are written because of the things they have done." 2017

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.