73rd AIR DEPOT WING

MISSION

LINEAGE
73rd Air Depot Wing

STATIONS
Kelly AFB, TX, 9 Jan 1951-4 Jul 1951

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS
Service Streamers
Campaign Streamers
Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers
Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS
The 73d Air Depot Wing was activated on 9 January 1951 at Kelly AFB, Texas, Air Material Command, and assigned the impossible mission of rapidly establishing a major air depot in France. Approximately 1,500 standby and ready Air Force Reservists were mobilized and assigned
to four 73d Depot groups and ten squadrons, and moved to France as rapidly as possible. This was a small portion of the 146,000 Air Force Reservists called to active duty for the Korean War.

Individual officers and airmen began arriving at Chateauroux after 10 January 1951. The post office, APO #10, was established by one airman on 28 March. The first large shipment of depot personnel arrived on 14 April, consisting of twelve officers, eighteen airmen, two wives, and one child. Two more increments followed on 13 and 21 July until, by 1 August approximately 165 officers and 1,480 airmen were based at La Martinerie. A C-47 was the first aircraft assigned to the depot on 10 May. The 73d Air Depot Wing was transferred from HQ AMC to HQ USAFE on 21 July 1951. The final large group of 59 officers and 693 airmen arrived 23 August. This included personnel of the 7300th Material Control Group.

The numbers of depot civilian personnel were also increasing rapidly. By 1 October 1951 a total of 123 Department of Air Force civilians and 979 French civilians were working at Chateauroux. On 1 January 1953, Chateauroux Air Depot personnel numbered 8,304: 462 officers, 5,472 airmen, 346 DAF civilians, and 2,024 French civilians.

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Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources