

1603 AIR BASE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

1603 Air Base Group

STATIONS

Wheelus AB, Libya

ASSIGNMENTS

1603 Air Transport Wing

COMMANDERS

Col B. J. Dilworth

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The command organization at Wheelus was redesignated on 1 October 1948 as the 1603d Air Base Group under the 1602d Air Transport Wing at Wiesbaden, Germany. With the resultant changes, the Wheelus station list was as follows:

1603d Air Base Group
1603d Air Base Squadron
1603d Medical Services Squadron
1261st Air Transport Squadron
1950th AACS Squadron
2154th Air Rescue Unit

Six months later, on 1 April 1949, command jurisdiction over the 1603d Air Base Group passed directly to Headquarters, Atlantic Division of MATS. At this time the station list remained the same, except for a weather unit, which had undergone a series of changes and was at the time the 29th Weather Squadron, and secondly the addition of the 1603d Maintenance and Supply Squadron. In July 1949 the 1603d Installation Squadrons were added to the station list, and in October 1949 Flight "C" of the 7th Air Rescue Squadron replaced the 2154th Air Rescue Unit.

20 July 1949, Headquarters USAF advised the Commander of the 1603d Air Base Group at Wheelus that the British Air Ministry and the United States Department of State had included an agreement which permitted jet fighter aircraft training in the Tripoli area. The agreement stipulated that large formations of aircraft would not fly over Tripoli city or over any other large towns in the area.

Proof of substantial growth was the establishment of the 526th Air Base Group on 19 May, 1948. The various squadrons comprising the Group were activated within the following two weeks. On 1 June, 1948, the Air Transport Command was dissolved and Wheelus Field became part of the world-wide Military Air Transport Service.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
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Unit History. *Wheelus Field; The Story of the US Air Force in Libya. The Early days 1944-1952*. R. L. Swetzer. Historical Division Office of Information USAFE. 15 Jan 1965.