

# 32 AIR BASE GROUP (REINFORCED)

## MISSION

## LINEAGE

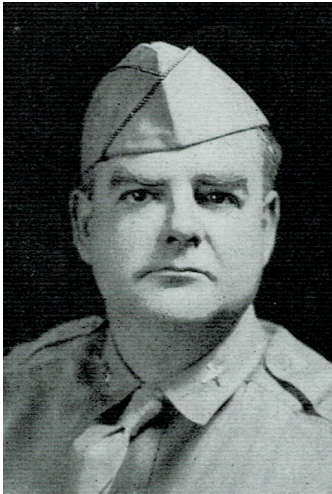
32 Air Base Group (Reinforced)

## STATIONS

## ASSIGNMENTS

March Field, CA

## COMMANDERS



Maj William A. Freye (USAAC photo)

Maj William A. Freye

## HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Only a few months old, but already wise from experience in a wide and varied field and loaded with the responsibility of operating the intricate machinery of the Air Base Headquarters, is the 32nd Air Base Group.

The group was activated 15 Jan 1941 with a strength of 28 Officers and 249 enlisted men. One hundred and forty trained Regular Army soldiers formed the cadre around which the group was built. These men had been transferred from the Fourth Air Base Group, organization formerly comprising the Base Force which was transferred to the new Air Base at Albuquerque, New Mexico, the balance of men were recruits newly turned to duty following their training at the Recruit and Casual Detachment.

At the time of activation, Col. Joseph H. Davidson, then wearing the maple leaves of a Lieutenant Colonel, was appointed commanding officer of the group in addition to his duties as Post executive officer. Captain Robert H. Herman was the first Group Executive Officer.

Two days after the birth of the 32nd Air Base Group, its four squadrons were activated. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 31st Air Base Squadron, 43rd Materiel Squadron, and 44 Materiel Squadron, were formed and their organizations began immediately.

Since activation, the group has grown from its original 277 officers and men to a total strength of 765.

The organization is now headed by Major William A. Frye, a charter member of the unit and former Post Adjutant, who assumed command August 1, 1941. Heading the list of officers assigned to the group is Colonel Benjamin G. Weir, March Field's commanding officer. Also assigned to the group are nearly all of Colonel Weir's general and special staffs. These officers are members of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.

Central point of activity for the administrator of the unit is the group headquarters. This office is run by Technical Sergeant Gerald L. Redd, Group Sergeant Major.

Duties of officers and men of the 32nd Air Base Group are varied and have a wider range than those performed by any other organization at the flying field. Officers and men who are charged with the operation of Air Base Headquarters call the 32nd Air

Base Group their home. Its force is composed of personnel trained and skilled in many specialties and technical work.

A huge body of clerks, scores of trained mechanics, technicians, and specialists leave the barracks each morning for their routine duties.

Proficient in their specialized lines, 32nd Air Base Group personnel also trains for efficiency in soldiery. A training program in effect includes instruction and drill in such subjects as military tactics, chemical warfare, close order drill, pistol, rifle, machine gun and others. Security of Post establishment and sub-air base and D P.

With its history before it and a commendable beginning in the past, the 32nd Air Base Group drives forcefully ahead toward a bright future, doing its part to "Keep 'Em Flying."

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *March Field Air Base, CA, 1941*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1941.