New 12th AF Bases...

Scott, Jr., consists of three squadrons—the 320th, 321st, and 323rd—which engage in continuous rivalry ranging from athletics to target practice. The most important is the gymnasia competition at Tripoli.

Other units stationed at Bitburg include the 364th Aircraft and Airways Control Systems, the 532d Engr. Aviation Co. B, the 434th Sig. Construction Bn, and the 376th Weather Sq., Det 1.

Service facilities for Bitburg personnel are still expanding. The dining room of the Officers’ Club is open and other parts of the club are being built. The service center, including a snack bar, library, and various recreation rooms, is complete. Work has been started on the Airmen’s Club, which will include a dining room, bar, game room, ballroom, writing room, and recreation room.

Both the theater and chapel are in operation. Plans are being readied for a gymnasium and for base landscaping. A library with three classrooms is being built.

Another welcome improvement is the new AFN 250-watt transmitter which recently went into operation at Bitburg.

Meanwhile, dependants still at Fuerstenfeldbruck await the scheduled opening of the housing area in June. The area will accommodate 1,200 families and will also house dependents from nearby Spangdahlem Air Base, the 4th Allied Tactical Air Force, and other units at Bitburg.

Six miles from Bitburg over the new runways being constructed at Spangdahlem Air Base, another building being molded for NATO’s defense.

Preparing The Way for the Arrival of the 10th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing from Toul-Rosiere, France, is the 2356th Air Base Sq. under the command of Lt. Col John L. Schroeder.

Among permanent installations being constructed are a theater, PX, officers club and mess, service center, airmen’s club, hospital, dental clinic, and barrack.

The 2356th, which arrived here in September, will begin construction on the buildings when the first units arrive.

Personnel of the 2356th are now living in prefabricated buildings, which include PX, snack bar and recreation facilities.

Other units on the base are the 881st FIS, 882d FIS, and 721st Tactical Control Sq.

At Hahn, midway between Tripoli and Koblenz on the east bank of the Moselle River, the 726th Air Base Sq. is pushing forward with work to make the base ready for the arrival of a fighter-bomber wing.

The runways, built by the French, are already completed and will be only slightly modified by the U.S. construction.

Lt. Col. Chester Brown, the 726th’s commander, said the base could be made fully operational immediately, although some permanent facilities for personnel dependents are completed yet.

The 726th, which arrived here Sept. 6, will be deactivated after the wing arrives. Although there are only about 800 American military personnel on the base now, more than 2,000 will be stationed there when it is fully operational.

The taxiways and runways are being widened for the new runway. A firing-in-bond, used for replace target practice and checking sights, is under construction.

Cement parking spaces for the aircraft are already completed. By summer, complete service facilities will be installed for the planes, making the base entirely independent in its operation. Roads are being lined and a wall is being constructed.

As at Hahn, the runway at Sembach Air Base was laid down by the French more than a year ago, but the modern efficient base going up beside it is being built by the U.S. Prone now is the 2,000 employees of German contracting firms building the base.

When the aircraft arrives, it will be the responsibility of the 10th Fighter-Bomber Wing at nearby Landstuhl, which will be quartered in the American housing area at Kaiserslautern. When completed and fully operational, the five bases will put more muscle in NATO’s defensive punch and act as a deterrent to any would-be aggressor.