

For the airport in Oran, Salta, Argentina, see Orán Airport.

Ahmed Ben Bella Airport (Arabic: مطار أحمد بن بلة), formally Es-Sénia Airport (IATA: ORN, ICAO: DA00) is an airport located 4.7 nm (8.7 km) south of Oran (near Es Sénia), in Algeria.

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History[edit]

During World War II, La Sénia Airport was first used by the French Air Force as a military airfield, first by the Armée de l'Air, and after June 1940, by the Armistice Air Force (French: Armée de l'Air de Vichy) of the Vichy government.

During the Operation Torch landings in 1942, La Sénia was one of the primary objectives of the assault on Oran on 9 November. A paratroop task force was to be directly seize La Sénia, with an armored task force to thrust inland to insure the capture of the field. Just after daylight, eight Albacore dive bombers from H.M.S. Furious and six Hurricane fighter escorts from each of the two auxiliary carriers swung back over La Sénia airfield in broad daylight to be greeted by strong antiaircraft fire and Vichy fighters. The airfield was attacked in response by six 250-pound general-purpose bombs with which it accurately struck and wrecked the empty hangars on the northwestern side of the airdrome, inflicting destruction which was later to be regretted. In the ensuing dogfights, five Dewoitine 520 French fighters were claimed shot down and others damaged. A second attack on La Sénia airfield were delivered a few minutes later by ten Seafires from H.M.S. Furious in low-level strafing runs against grounded planes and antiaircraft batteries. Again Vichy French fighters contested the action. The Vichy fighters, however only defended the airfield vicinity and did not oppose the ground forces landing at Oran Harbor. The planned air assault against the airfield was redirected, and the airfield was captured by Company B, of the 1st Armored Regiment about 1000, after many Vichy Aircraft already flown off, presumably to French Morocco. A few remained dispersed on the ground or in the hangars.[5]

After its capture, the airport was used by the United States Army Air Forces Twelfth Air Force as a combat airfield during the North African Campaign. The following units were assigned to the base in 1942 and 1943:[6][7]

HQ, XII Fighter Command, 12 November–December 1942; 12 January – 20 March 1943

HQ, 51st Troop Carrier Wing, 28 March – 13 May 1943

3d Reconnaissance Group, 10–25 December 1942 (Various Reconnaissance aircraft)

31st Fighter Group, 12 November 1942 – 7 February 1943, Supermarine Spitfire

52d Fighter Group, 14 November 1942 – 1 January 1943, Supermarine Spitfire

86th Bombardment Group, 12 May – 3 June 1943, A-36 Apache

320th Bombardment Group, 2 December 1942 – 28 January 1943, B-26 Marauder

Once the combat units moved east to other airfields in Algeria and Tunisia during the late spring of 1943, the airfield came under the control of Air Transport Command, under which

it functioned as a stopover en route to Algiers airport or to Port Lyautey Airfield, in French Morocco on the North African Cairo–Dakar transport route for cargo, transiting aircraft and personnel.[7][8]

Expansion[edit]

Andrade Gutierrez, a Brazilian company has won a contract to construct a new runway in Oran Airport, located in the second largest city in Algeria. The construction was estimated to cost EUR 20 million. Oran has a population of around 650,000. Being the second largest city in the country, Oran is an important industrial, educational and cultural centre. The construction work at Oran airport is the second contract won by the company in Algeria.[citation needed] The new 9,843 feet long runway 07R/25L has been operational since 12 February 2009.[9]

Currently, the airport is composed of two terminals, one for domestic flights, and the other for international flights. The international terminal is basically the previous airport, while the domestic terminal is a recent "huge tent" as the Algerians call it.[citation needed]

Actually the new international terminal (under construction) will be operational in 2020, the future terminal 2 will have a surface area of 41,000 m², which should allow the reception of 3.5 million passengers, extendable to 6 million passengers per year, which will bring the total capacity with the current terminal to 5.5 million passengers, and which will have 6 telescopic gangways as well as two cargo hangars with a surface area of 2,000 m² and a capacity of 15,000 t/year. It will also be equipped with photovoltaic panels for its electrical energy needs.

Airlines and destinations[edit]

Airlines Destinations

Air Algérie Adrar, Algiers, Alicante, Annaba, Barcelona, Bechar, Bordeaux, Casablanca, Constantine, El Bayadh,[10] Ghardaïa, Hassi Messaoud, In Amenas, Istanbul, Lille, Lyon, Marseille, Mécheria,[10] Montpellier, Ouargla, Paris–Charles de Gaulle, Paris–Orly, Timimoun, Tindouf, Toulouse

Seasonal: Brussels, Frankfurt, Metz/Nancy

Air France Paris–Charles de Gaulle, Toulouse[11]

ASL Airlines France Seasonal: Bordeaux, Perpignan, Toulon

Iberia Regional Madrid

Tassili Airlines Adrar, Algiers, Bechar, Hassi Messaoud, Setif

Seasonal: Strasbourg

Transavia Lyon, Montpellier,[12] Nantes, Paris–Orly[13]

TUI fly Belgium Charleroi

Tunisair Tunis

Turkish Airlines Istanbul[14]

Volotea Marseille[15]

Vueling Alicante, Barcelona

Seasonal: Valencia[16]

Statistics[edit]

Traffic by calendar year. Official ACI Statistics

Passengers Change from previous year Aircraft operations Change from previous year

Cargo

(metric tons) Change from previous year

2005 850,198 2.39% 10,865 2.76% 1,374 11.58%
2006 865,704 1.82% 10,908 0.40% 1,961 42.72%
2007 971,134 12.18% 11,166 2.37% 2,857 45.69%
2008 994,273 2.38% 11,859 6.21% 2,122 25.73%
2009 1,101,797 10.81% 14,129 19.14% 1,336 37.04%
2010 1,085,753 1.46% 15,323 8.45% 1,189 11.00%
2014 1 558 614 % 19 222 % %
2015 1,675,930 7.09% 20,276 5.2% 843 %
2016 1,851,910 11% 21,929 8.15% 1,270 50.6%

Source: Airports Council International. World Airport Traffic Reports

(Years 2005,[17] 2006,[18] 2007,[19] 2009[20] and 2010)

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^ AIP and Chart from Service d'Information Aéronautique – Algeria (in French)

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< The template below (WAD) is being considered for deletion. See templates for discussion to help reach a consensus. >

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^ Airport information for ORN / DAOO at Great Circle Mapper. Source: DAFIF (effective October 2006).

^ "DAOO @ aerobaticsweb.org". Landings.com. Retrieved 31 July 2013.

^ Northwest Africa: Seizing the Initiative in the West, Chapter XII: The Seizure of Oran. published by the United States Army Center of Military History.

^ This article incorporates public domain material from the Air Force Historical Research Agency website <http://www.afhra.af.mil/>.

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a b Maurer, Maurer (1983). Air Force Combat Units of World War II. Maxwell AFB, Alabama: Office of Air Force History. ISBN 0-89201-092-4.

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^ [1]

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[^] "Archived copy". Archived from the original on 7 October 2015. Retrieved 23 July 2016.

[^] Airport Council International's 2005 World Airport Traffic Report

[^] Airport Council International's 2006 World Airport Traffic Report

[^] Airport Council International Archived 4 March 2016 at the Wayback Machine's 2007 World Airport Traffic Report

[^] Airport Council International Archived 11 August 2016 at the Wayback Machine's 2009 World Airport Traffic Report

External links[edit]

Oran Es Sénia Airport Translated into ENGLISH

Current weather for DAOO at NOAA/NWS

Accident history for ORN at Aviation Safety Network

Africa portalAviation portalWorld War II portal

show

vte

City of Oran, Algeria

show

vte

USAAF Twelfth Air Force in World War II

show

vte

Airports in Algeria