

340 FLYING TRAINING GROUP



MISSION

The 340 Flying Training Group supports Air Education and Training Command's Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training, Joint Primary Pilot Training, Pilot Instructor Training, Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals, Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training, Basic Military Training and the United States Air Force Academy's Airmanship Programs.

The 340 consists of 425 instructor pilots assigned to six squadrons at Vance AFB, Joint Base San Antonio , Columbus AFB, Laughlin AFB, Sheppard AFB, and USAFA. Instructors are vital to one of the most rewarding missions in military flying -- training and mentoring the next generation of Air Force officers and pilots.

Instructors fly a variety of aircraft, including the T-1A, T-6A, T-38, T-41A, T-51A, T-52A, TG-15/TG-16 gliders, and UV-18B. There are openings with the 340 for traditional Reserve and active Guard and Reserve instructor pilots and jumpmasters.

LINEAGE

340 Bombardment Group (Medium) established, 10 Aug 1942

Activated, 20 Aug 1942

Redesignated 340 Bombardment Group, Medium, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Redesignated 340 Bombardment Group, Light, 8 Oct 1947

Activated in the Reserve, 31 Oct 1947

Inactivated, 19 Aug 1949

Redesignated 340 Bombardment Group, Medium and activated, 22 May 1968

Organized, 2 Jul 1968

Inactivated, 31 Dec 1971

Redesignated 340 Air Refueling Group, Heavy, 14 Jun 1977

Activated, 1 Jul 1977

340 Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 3 Oct 1952
Activated, 20 Oct 1952
Redesignated 340 Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Sep 1963
Discontinued and inactivated, 2 Oct 1966

340 Air Refueling Group, Heavy and 340 Bombardment Wing, Heavy consolidated, 31 Mar
1982

Redesignated 340 Air Refueling Wing, Heavy, 1 Oct 1984
Redesignated 340 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1992
Redesignated 340 Flying Training Group, and activated in the Reserve, 1 Apr 1998

STATIONS

Columbia AAB, SC, 20 Aug 1942
Walterboro, SC, 30 Nov 1942-30 Jan 1943
El Kabrit, Egypt, Mar 1943
Medenine, Tunisia, Mar 1943
Sfax, Tunisia, Apr 1943
Hergla, Tunisia, 2 Jun 1943
Comiso, Sicily, 2 Aug 1943
Catania, Sicily, 27 Aug 1943
San Pancrazio, Italy, 15 Oct 1943
Foggia, Italy, 19 Nov 1943
Pompeii, Italy, 2 Jan 1944
Paestum, Italy, 23 Mar 1944
Corsica, 14 Apr 1944
Rimini, Italy, 2 Apr-27 Jul 1945
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 9 Aug 1945
Columbia AAB, SC, 2 Oct-7 Nov 1945
Tulsa Muni Apt, OK, 31 Oct 1947-19 Aug 1949
Sedalia (later, Whiteman) AFB, MO, 20 Oct 1952
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 1 Sep 1963-2 Oct 1966
Carswell AFB, TX, 2 Jul 1968-31 Dec 1971
Altus AFB, OK, 1 Jul 1977-1 Oct 1992
Randolph AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1998

ASSIGNMENTS

Third Air Force, 20 Aug 1942-unkn
Ninth Air Force, 5 Apr 1943
Twelfth Air Force, 22 Aug 1944
XII Air Support Command, 1 Sep 1943
57 Bombardment Wing, 1 Nov 1943

XII Bomber Command, 2 Jan 1944
57 Bombardment Wing, 1 Mar 1944
Army Air Forces, Mediterranean Theater of Operations, 26 Jul 1945
First Air Force, 7 Aug-7 Nov 1945
310 Bombardment Wing, Light (later, 310 Air Division), 31 Oct 1947-19 Aug 1949
Second Air Force, 20 Oct 1952
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jul 1955
Second Air Force, 1 Jan 1959
17 Air (later, 17 Strategic Aerospace) Division, 15 Jul 1959
4 Air Division, 1 Sep 1963
19 Air Division, 1 Sep 1964-2 Oct 1966
Strategic Air Command, 22 May 1968
19 Air Division, 2 Jul 1968-31 Dec 1971
19 Air Division, 1 Jul 1977
Fifteenth Air Force, 16 Jun 1988-1 Oct 1992
Tenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1998

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-25, 1942-1945
AT-6, 1947-1949
T-11, 1948-1949
YRB-47, 1954-1956
B-47, 1954-1963
KC-97, 1954-1962
KC-135, 1959, 1963-1966
B-52, 1963-1966
T-33, 1969-1970
FB-111, 1969-1971
KC-135, 1977
T-37, 1998
T-38, 1998
T-1, 1998

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 20 Aug-2 Sep 1942
LTC Adolph E. Tokaz, 3 Sep 1942
Col William C. Mills, 21 Sep 1942
LTC Adolph E. Tokaz, 7 May 1943
Col Charles D. Jones, 8 Jan 1944
Col Willis F. Chapman, 16 Mar 1944-7 Nov 1945
Unkn, 31 Oct 1947-19 Aug 1949
LTC Leonard S. Flo, 20 Oct 1952
Col Franklin K. Reyher, 18 Feb 1953
Col Chester C. Cox, 20 Nov 1953

Col Abe J. Beck, 2 Jul 1954
Col Robert T. Calhoun, 29 Jun 1957
BG Harold E. Humfeld, 23 Sep 1957
Col Robert T. Calhoun, c. 16 Jul 1959
Col George L. Newton Jr., 1 Sep 1959
Col Willis F. Lewis, 1 May 1961
Col Carl G. Payne, 10 Jul 1963
Col Lowell B. Fisher, 13 Aug 1963
Col Frank P. Bender, 1 Sep 1963
Col Edwin H. Garrison, 16 Aug 1965
Col William Marchesi, 1 Jun-2 Oct 1966
None (not manned), 22 May-17 Jul 1968
Col Frank L. Voightmann, 18 Jul 1968
Col Winston E. Moore, 1 May 1969
Col Kenneth J. Green, 1 Dec 1969
Maj Thomas J. Wilkinson, 1 Oct-31 Dec 1971
Col Arthur D. Seely, 1 Jul 1977
Col Alan B. Walters, 7 Jun 1978
Col Samuel H. Shockey Jr., 19 Nov 1979
Col Foster N. Dickson, 10 Sep 1981
Col Howard L. Kravetz, 30 Mar 1983
Col Densel K. Acheson, 29 Jan 1985
Col Dennis P. Tewell, 23 Jul 1987
Col John R. Clapper, 27 Jun 1989
Col Richard W. Salsbury, 29 Jul 1991-1 Oct 1992
Col Patrick A. Collins, 1 Apr 1998
Col Michael J. Vanzo
Col Patrick A. Collins, 1 Apr 1998
Col Neil A. Rohan, 20 Jun 2000
Col William T. Cahoon, 5 Jan 2003
Col Robert D. Williamson, 25 Apr 2005

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Combat, EAME Theater; Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Central Europe
Po Valley

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
North Africa and Sicily, [Apr]-17 Aug 1943
Italy, 23 Sep 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982

EMBLEM



A shield per fess nebuly, azure and argent, in chief two cloud formations proper, one issuing from the dexter and one issuing from the sinister, in base three stars of five points, of the first, two and one, all surmounted in fess, with an ear of wheat proper and a lightning flash, Gules in saltire, and edge around the shield sable. Attached below the shield a white scroll edged with a

narrow yellow border and inscribed "340th FLYING TRAINING GROUP" in blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The two-part division of the field of the shield denotes two forces – freedom versus oppression, right versus wrong, America versus the aggressor. The nebuly ramparts indicate strength and peace– through–power, which is the purpose of this group. The clouds, sky, stars, and limitless horizon denote that the unit functions during any weather at anytime and place. The wheat, superimposed over the lightning indicates the inherent power is for peace. (Approved, 12 Sep 1955)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Trained with B-25s, Sep 1942-Jan 1943. Arrived in Mediterranean theater in Mar 1943, and entered combat the next month, first with the Ninth and then with the Twelfth Air Force. Attached to Desert Air Force, Apr-c. Jun 1943, and Tactical Bomber Force, 3 Jun 1943-1 Mar 1944. Sometimes conducted strategic bombing, but mostly flew close air support and interdiction missions against airfields, railroads, bridges, road junctions, supply depots, gun emplacements, troop concentrations, marshalling yards, and factories in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, France, Austria, Bulgaria, Albania, Yugoslavia, and Greece. The group also dropped propaganda leaflets behind enemy lines. Participated in the reduction of Pantelleria and Lampedusa in Jun 1943, the bombing of German evacuation beaches near Messina in Jul, the establishment of the Salerno beachhead in Sep, the drive for Rome during Jan-Jun 1944, the invasion of southern France in Aug, and attacks on the Brenner Pass and other German lines of communication in northern Italy from Sep 1944 to Apr 1945.

Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation (DUC) for the period Apr-Aug 1943, when it supported the British Eighth Army in Tunisia and Allied forces in Sicily. Earned a second DUC for the destruction of a cruiser in the heavily defended harbor of La Spezia on 23 Sep 1944 before the enemy could use the ship to block the harbor's entrance. Returned to the United States, Jul-Aug 1945.

Between Oct 1947 and Aug 1949, the group performed medium bombardment training in the Air Force Reserve.

In Oct 1952, replaced the 4224th Air Base Squadron at Sedalia (later Whiteman) AFB, MO. Supervised base rehabilitation and construction until May 1954, when it commenced tactical operations.

Deployed to Lakenheath RAF Station, England, 13 Sep-3 Nov 1955.

Phased down at Whiteman AFB in mid-1963 and moved without personnel or equipment to

Bergstrom AFB, TX, absorbing the resources and mission of the 4130th Strategic Wing.

FB-111 group organized - Effective 2 July 1968, The 340 Bombardment Group, Medium, was organized at Carswell Air Force Base, Texas. Assigned to the 19th air division of second air force, the 340 was scheduled to be the first sac unit to receive FB-111 aircraft. The 340's primary mission was to train combat crews in the operation of the new bomber. Upon completion of their training, the crews would be assigned to an operational FB-111 wing.

From Jul 1977 to Oct 1992, conducted aerial refueling operations for USAF global missions. In 1990, in Operation Desert Shield the wing deployed aircraft and personnel to Saudi Arabia.

From 1998, the group trained veteran pilots as Air Force Reserve instructor pilots to take the place of regular AETC instructors.

The 340 activated at Randolph AFB, TX as the 340 Flying Training Group, organized to provide associate instructor pilots for the AETC SUPT mission. The Group consists of a headquarters element at Randolph AFB and five Associate Reserve Flying Training Squadrons. The 5th FTS at Vance AFB, 43rd and Columbus AFB, 96th at Laughlin AFB, 97th at Sheppard AFB, and the 100th at Randolph AFB will report to the 340 FTG.

The 340 FTG was activated at Randolph AFB, TX, on 1 April 1998. The organization was established to manage and administer all Reserve Associate flying training squadrons at AETC flying training bases. It had the stated purpose of pioneering a new way of doing business between the AF Reserve and the active duty Air Force – that of providing a cadre of reservists to train students in the flying arena. The 340 FTG had six Flying Training Squadrons (FTS). These were the 5 FTS at Vance AFB, OK, associated with the 71 Flying Training Wing (FTW); the 39 FTS at Moody AFB, GA, associated with the 479 FTG; the 43 FTS at Columbus AFB, MS, associated with the 14 FTW; the 96 FTS at Laughlin AFB, TX, associated with the 47 FTW; the 97 FTS at Sheppard AFB, TX, associated with the 80 FTW; and the 100 FTS at Randolph AFB, TX, associated with the 12 FTW.

The 340 FTG and FTSs trained and provided a reserve of experienced IPs to augment the AETC IP cadre. These units ensured assigned IPs were trained and prepared to accomplish instructor duties by participating in regular flights with both Reserve and AD student and instructor pilots. In the event of wartime and emergencies, the 340 FTG would be mobilized to offset the anticipated loss of AD weapon system-qualified pilot pipeline input to AETC pilot instructor training (PIT).

Since the Integrated Associate program began in 1997, active duty and reserve cultures have integrated into a seamless organization with a goal to optimize experience levels, crew ratios, sortie utilization rates (UTE) and annual flying hours programs in order to meet training requirements." By December 2005, integration remained in Phase I, which began in 1997 and ran through the end of FY 06. Employing a phased approach, AFRC and AD personnel functionally integrated using a bottom-up approach. All 340 FTG Reserve Associate IPs were assigned to an active duty FTS for flying related duties and to serve in any AD mission related wing, operations group, or squadron position or capacity as assigned by host AD leadership. Reserve Associate personnel occupied

positions according to their proficiency or capability within functional areas and replaced AD IPs with a combination of AGR and TR IP's to support the AD AETC wing.

In pursuing the goal of total integration, the 340 FTG Reserve Associate instructor pilots filled numerous positions in their own units as well as the associated active duty units. One IP served as Air Traffic Management Program Manager and two were Deputy Commanders of the AD Operations Groups they were associated with. Four IPs became Wing Chiefs of Joint Training for the associated AD wing. Another filled a wing Chief of STAN/EVAL. There were four Directors of Wing Training, a Wing Chief of Exercises and T-38 Flying Safety, fifteen squadron Assistant Operations Officers, six squadron STAN/EVAL Flight Examiners, a squadron scheduler, three squadron Life Support Officers, ten Flight Commanders, two Assistant Flight Commanders, ten Operations Supervisors, seven Functional Flight Check Pilots, and an Operations Group Executive Officer among others.

Some 340 FTG IPs were even assigned to the Air Force Academy. One IP was in charge of the Air Force Academy's Airspace Management Division. Another IP served as the Academy's Officer in Charge of the Aerial Control Team and managed over 75 aerial events.

The 340 FTG brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the force. Many of the most experienced IPs were Reservists. In fact, the IPs with the most instructor hours at Columbus were reservists. The 340 FTG and its active duty partners became truly integrated in the AETC flying training organization.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.