

12 FLYING TRAINING WING



MISSION

12 Flying Training Wing conducts training for instructor pilots, combat systems officers and introduction to fighter fundamentals student pilot training. Instructor pilot training is performed in the Raytheon-Beech T-6A Texan II, Northrop T-38 Talon and Beech T-1A Jayhawk aircraft. Combat systems officer training is conducted in the Boeing T-43A medium-range turbofan jet.

The wing also hosts more than 30 Department of Defense and Air Force associate units, including Headquarters Air Education and Training Command, the Air Force Personnel Center and Air Force Recruiting Service.

The 12 Flying Training Wing is the only unit that teaches Air Force pilots to be flight instructors for Air Education and Training Command's four undergraduate pilot training bases. Each year, about 350 instructor pilots graduate from the wing's 13-week training course. Using teaching techniques in the aircraft, the simulator and the classroom, trainees learn how to simultaneously fly and instruct.

It takes an average of 55 hours of classroom training, 30 hours of simulator training, and about 60 hours of actual flying to become an instructor pilot. The 559th Flying Training Squadron is responsible for training in the Air Force's newest pilot training aircraft, the T-6A Texan II. The first T-6A arrived on Randolph in July 1999. The wing currently has 49 T-6A Texan IIs. The T-6A represents the first new training propeller aircraft procured by the Air Force in more than 30 years and marks the beginning of a new era in Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training.

The 560th Flying Training Squadron qualifies fighter and bomber pilots as instructor pilots in the T-38C. The T-38C is the Air Force's advanced supersonic trainer; it was recently upgraded with a

"glass cockpit," GPS/INS navigation systems, Terminal Collision Avoidance System, and the J-85R Propulsion Modernization Program (PMP) engine system. These modifications will keep the aircraft relevant through 2020. The squadron executes 13 syllabi to train USAF instructor pilots, USAF and USN Test Pilot School candidates, allied nation fighter and instructor pilots, and USAF pilots identified for transition to fighter aircraft. The squadron currently has 39 aircraft and 61 assigned and attached instructors, and flies a total of 9700 hours each year.

Advanced training for those students identified to go into heavy aircraft receive their advanced training in the T-1A at the 99th Flying Training Squadron.

The 12 Flying Training Wing conducts Combat Systems Officer (CSO) training for Air Force and Navy personnel at the 562nd and 563rd Flying Training Squadrons. Under the program that began in the fall of 2004 as a replacement for the Joint Specialized Undergraduate Navigator Training (JSUNT) course, portions of the previous navigator and electronic warfare officer (EWO) training courses were combined to form a curriculum that develops a more complete aviator with cross-flow capability between the two positions on combat aircraft. In addition, the curriculum has been updated to include a wider range of topics with an increased emphasis on warfighting. That emphasis helps students develop leadership, decision-making and mission management skills.

The 435 Fighter Training Squadron conducts Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals (IFF) student training, and is the only squadron in the Air Force that teaches fighter pilots to be instructors for IFF. After graduating from undergraduate pilot training, pilots who received an assignment to the F-15C, F-15E, F-16, or A-10 go through the 10 week program. The syllabus is tailored toward the student's follow-on formal training unit and includes training in basic fighter maneuvers as well as basic surface attack and low level navigation.

LINEAGE

12 Fighter Escort Wing, established, 27 Oct 1950
Activated, 1 Nov 1950
Redesignated 12 Strategic Fighter Wing, 20 Jan 1953
Redesignated 12 Fighter-Day Wing, 1 Jul 1957
Inactivated, 8 Jan 1958
Redesignated 12 Tactical Fighter Wing and activated, 17 Apr 1962
Organized, 25 Apr 1962
Inactivated, 17 Nov 1971
Redesignated 12 Flying Training Wing, 22 Mar 1972
Activated, 1 May 1972

STATIONS

Turner AFB, GA, 1 Nov 1950
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 5 Dec 1950-8 Jan 1958
MacDill AFB, FL, 25 Apr 1962-31 Oct 1965
Cam Ranh Bay AB, South Vietnam, 8 Nov 1965

Phu Cat AB, South Vietnam, 31 Mar 1970-17 Nov 1971
Randolph AFB, TX, 1 May 1972

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Misawa AB, Japan, 15 May 1953-10 Aug 1953
Misawa AB, Japan, 12 May 1954-11 Aug 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

Second Air Force, 1 Nov 1950
Eighth Air Force, 5 Dec 1950
42 Air Division, 9 Apr 1951-8 Jan 1958
Tactical Air Command, 17 Apr 1962
Ninth Air Force, 25 Apr 1962
836 Air Division, 1 Jul 1962
2 Air Division, 8 Nov 1965
Seventh Air Force, 1 Apr 1966-17 Nov 1971
Air Training Command, 1 May 1972
Nineteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1993

ATTACHMENTS

7 Air Division, 20 Jul-30 Nov 1951
39 Air Division, 18 May-10 Aug 1953 and 10 May-7 Aug 1954

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-84, 1950-1957
KB-29, 1955-1957
F-84, 1962-1964
F-4, 1964-1970, 1970-1971
TH-1, 1972-1977
T-29, 1972-1974
T-37, 1972
T-38, 1972
T-39, 1972-1978, 1990-1991
T-41, 1972-1973, 1992-1994
T-43, 1992
C-21, 1993-1997
AT-38, 1993-2002
T-1, 1993
T-3, 1994-1998
T-6, 2000

COMMANDERS

Cpt James M. Ross, 1 Nov 1950
Col Cy Wilson, 20 Nov 1950

Col Charles A. Gayle, 1 Apr 1952
Col Richard O. Hunziker, 4 Aug 1952
Col Howard G. Cook, 23 Apr 1954
Col Robert W. Stephens, 20 Jul 1956
Col William D. Dunham, 10 Aug 1956-8 Jan 1958
None (not manned), 17 Apr-13 May 1962
Col Harold M. McClelland, 14 May 1962
Col Raymond A. Bradley, 17 Jul 1965
Col Levi R. Chase, 8 Oct 1965
Col Jones E. Bolt, 18 Oct 1966
Col Joel D. Thorvaldson, Mar 1967
Col Woodard E. Davis Jr., 9 Apr 1967
Col Floyd White, 5 Apr 1968
Col Ramon R. Melton, 7 Apr 1969
Col Harry B. Trimble, 31 Mar 1970
Col Larry M. Killpack, 13 Apr 1970
Col Ralph S. Parr, 4 Oct 1970
Col Richard H. Schoeneman, 19 Feb 1971
Col Albert L. Melton, 4 Oct-17 Nov 1971
Col Hoyt S. Vandenberg Jr., 1 May 1972
BG Malcolm E. Ryan, 14 Aug 1972
Col John P. Rollston, 1 Nov 1973
Col Kenneth R. Fleenor, 30 Jun 1975
BG Edward N. Giddings, 10 Apr 1978
BG Wilson C. Cooney, 18 Jun 1980
BG Billy J. Rhoten, 10 Jul 1981
Col Hector M. Cuellar, 10 Feb 1983
Col Ralph R. Rohatsch Jr., 5 Feb 1985
Col Nicholas B. Kehoe III, 18 Mar 1987
Col Ronnie K. Morrow, 4 Aug 1988
Col Lloyd W. Newton, 25 May 1990
BG Donald L. Peterson, 31 Jul 1991
BG Robert E. Gatliff, 28 Jan 1993
BG Thomas O. Fleming Jr., 18 Jan 1994
BG Garry R. Trexler, 21 Aug 1995
BG Richard A. Mentemeyer, 20 Jun 1997
BG Lawrence H. Stevenson, 12 May 1999
BG Peter U. Sutton, 27 Jun 2000
Col Mark W. Graper, 5 Aug 2002
Col John W. Hesterman III, 28 May 2004
Col Richard M. Clark, 20 Jan 2006
Col James Gifford, Jr.
Col Richard Murphy
Col Gerald Goodfellow

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Vietnam

Vietnam Defensive

Vietnam Air

Vietnam Air Offensive

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase II

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase III

Vietnam Air/Ground

Vietnam Air Offensive, Phase IV

TET 69/Counteroffensive

Vietnam Summer-Fall, 1969

Vietnam Winter-Spring, 1970

Sanctuary Counteroffensive

Southwest Monsoon

Commando Hunt V

Commando Hunt VI

Commando Hunt VII

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Presidential Unit Citation

Southeast Asia

8 Feb-8 Apr 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

15 Oct 1965-30 May 1966

1 Jun 1966-31 May 1967

1 Jun 1967-31 May 1968

1 Jun 1968-31 May 1969

1 Jun 1969-31 Mar 1970

1 Apr 1970-21 Oct 1971

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 May 1972-28 Feb 1973

1 Jan-31 Dec 1975

1 Jan 1987-31 Dec 1988

1 Jan 1990-31 Dec 1991

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1996
1 Jul 1996-30 Jun 1998
1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 2000
1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Crosses with Palm
15 Oct 1965-10 Nov 1971
1 Apr 1966-17 Nov 1971

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 12 Operations Group prior to 1 Nov 1950.

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Egypt-Libya
Tunisia
Sicily
Naples-Foggia
Rome-Arno
Air Combat, EAME Theater
India-Burma
Central Burma
China Defensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
North Africa and Sicily, Oct 1942-17 Aug 1943

EMBLEM



12 Fighter-Escort Wing and Strategic Fighter Wing emblem



Approved for 12 Group, 3 Feb 1942; slightly modified for 12 Wing, 15 Mar 1963.



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Provided fighter escort, air defense for SAC bomber forces, 1950-1957.

Deployed at Manston RAF Station, England, 20 Jul-30 Nov 1951, and at Misawa AB, Japan, 15 May-10 Aug 1953 and 10 May-11 Aug 1954.

Provided air refueling support, 1955-1957.

Engaged in aerial combat in Southeast Asia, 19 Nov 1965-21 Oct 1971.

Provided close air support, interdiction, rescue combat patrol, MiG patrol, and other activities. Supported the South Vietnamese attack on enemy sanctuaries in Cambodia and Laos in 1971. Replaced, and absorbed resources of, the 3510 Flying Training Wing at Randolph AFB, TX, in May 1972.

Responsible for operation and maintenance of Randolph AFB and operation of the USAF Instrument Flight Center.

The Center was responsible also for development, testing, and evaluation of flight instruments and flight instrument systems. From 2 May 1973 to 12 Nov 1976, wing provided T-37, T-38, and T-39 pilot requalification training for more than 150 USAF ex-prisoners of war.

Trained instructor pilots for Air Training Command's undergraduate pilot training program wings and for foreign countries under the Joint Security Assistance Program.

Beginning in 1985, supported the Accelerated Copilot Enrichment program at various operating locations. Designed and fabricated F-16 aircraft simulation training systems for USAF bases and several NATO nations during 1983-1988; after 1986, undertook similar efforts for the B-1 bomber program.

Deployed support personnel during operations in Southwest Asia, 1990-1991. From 1991, engaged in flight screening and undergraduate pilot training.

Due to impending closure of Mather AFB, California, in 1992 wing assumed undergraduate navigator training.

Conducted specialized undergraduate pilot training. In 1995, began transition to joint navigator training.

Produced joint and international instructor pilots and navigators, 1996-. Served as host unit for Randolph AFB, TX including Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC), Air Force Services Agency, Air Education and Training Command, Nineteenth Air Force and 340 Flying Training Group, 1996.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 11 May 2024

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.