16th TRAINING SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE[1]
3416th Technical Training Squadron designated and activated, 1 Apr 1972
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1993
Redesignated 16th Training Squadron, 20 Oct 2009
Activated, 23 Oct 2009

STATIONS
Kirtland AFB, NM, 1 Apr 1972-1 Oct 1993
Holloman AFB, NM, 23 Oct 2009

ASSIGNMENTS
3415th Technical Training School, 1 Apr 1972
USAF School of Applied Sciences, 1 Aug 1972
3460th Technical Training Group, 30 Apr 1976
3440th Technical Training Group, 1 Jan 1990
3400th Technical Training Group, 1 Feb 1992-1 Oct 1993
49th Operations Group, 23 Oct 2009

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

COMMANDERS
Unkn, 1 Apr 1972-1 Oct 1993
Lt Col Peter M. Marsch, 23 Oct 2009

HONORS
Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1979-30 Apr 1980
1 Jan 1982-30 Apr 1983
1 Jan-31 Dec 1987
1 Jan-31 Dec 1989

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award
1 Oct 1992-1 Oct 1993

EMBLEM

Approved, 17 Aug 1984

MOTTO

OPERATIONS[2]

Provided instruction in nuclear weapons programs and emergency response procedures at Kirtland AFB until inactivation in Oct 1993.

Since Oct 2009, provided academic and simulator instruction to pilots and sensor operators learning to fly the MQ-1B Predator and MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft, using the Predator Mission Aircrew Training System.

The 16th Training Squadron is the lead producer of MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators. They have been active on Holloman since 2009, graduating more than 600 students annually. The high standards in training ensure that Reaper pilots and sensor operators are prepared for real world conflicts or operations.

Since 2009 the 16th TRS trains all of the pilots and sensor operators on Holloman. “We graduate more students than any other formal training unit. We have a lot of sensor operators and students ranging from airman basic up to lieutenant colonel,” said Lt. Col. Dustin Barbour, 16th TRS director of operations. The training that students go through is a combination of both academics and hands on learning through simulated missions. Before graduating, MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators must go through four phases of training over the course of three months.

First is the transition phase where they learn the flight basics of an MQ-9, the ins and outs of using the sensors and procedures for in flight emergencies. Next they go into the basic surface attack phase, which takes what they learned and employs weapons into their learning. After the BSA phase they undergo the kill chain phase where all their training is put together within the MQ-9 simulators with minimal instructor guidance. The final phase of training is the advanced kill chain phase where the students combine previously learned skills with the addition of a mission scenario. After getting a mission scenario, the pilot and sensor operator must construct a mission brief and present it to their instructors.

“What I think the 16th TRS does really well is they consolidate effort to the students through the simulators,” said Nicholas Pisciotta, 16th TRS sensor operator instructor. “As we keep going through iterations of the course we’re moving in a direction that is more simulator heavy and the 16th TRS has been a good center point for that effort.” The 16th TRS does a lot of behind the scenes to continually improve the training, in addition to training the MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators. They are also responsible for managing all of their students, maintaining the simulators, training future instructors for the 16th TRS and more. “I think the 16th TRS plays a key role on Holloman by taking students from the 6th, 9th and 29th Attack Squadrons and centralizing the training in this building with the simulators,” said 2nd Lieutenant Andrew Evenson, 16th TRS remotely piloted aircraft student pilot.

[2] Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.