

3553 PILOT TRAINING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

3553 Combat Crew Training Squadron
3553 Flying Training Squadron
3553 Pilot Training Squadron

STATIONS

Moody AFB, GA, 1 Jul 1953-1 Dec 1973

ASSIGNMENTS

3550 Combat Crew Training Group (Interceptor)

COMMANDERS

Maj U. A. Geller

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

During the summer of 1953 the mission of training the all-weather fighter crews began to be relocated to Moody AFB, Valdosta, Georgia, as Tyndall was becoming too crowded with all of these other programs. At Moody, the new unit was the 3550th Combat Crew Training Wing, which included the 3553rd Combat Crew Training Squadron that was dedicated to training F-89 crews. They received some of the later F-89Cs, which were then sent to operational squadrons along with their crews when the first classes were graduated, then these C models were replaced with early block F-89Ds.

When the F-94Cs entered the inventory, the F-94A/Bs models were transferred from Tyndall to operational squadrons and replaced by the more modern version, again directly from Lockheed. Midway during this period, during the summer of 1953, it was decided that Tyndall had grown too crowded for the All-Weatherfighter school. Thus the F-94 training program was relocated to Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta, GA. Moody had become the home of the USAF Instrument Flying School when the AFB reopened in September 1951 after being dormant since the end of WWII. Joining the F-94 program at Moody from Tyndall was the F-89 Interceptor Training school, while the F-86D IT school stayed at Tyndall until 1957, and then moved to Perrin AFB, TX. The new parent unit was the 3550th PTW, which included the 3552nd and the 3553rd Pilot Training Squadrons. They had a total of 77 F-94Cs assigned, of which five were lost in training accidents. Moody's 3550th continued with the Starfire training program, along with the F-89 program in the 3553rd PTS until the Scorpion finally came full force into the USAF inventory after its teething problems were rectified. By 1956-57 the F-94Cs were either transferred to operational units or to

Yuma County Airport, AZ later Vincent AFB, and the 4750th Training Wing (Air Defense, and later, Air Defense Wing) to complete the curriculum under ADC direction.



3553rd CCTS building sign, Moody AFB, GA (USAF photo)

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *Moody AFB, GA, 1958*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1958.