

3565 NAVIGATOR TRAINING WING

MISSION

LINEAGE

3565 Pilot Training Wing (Basic)
3565 Navigator Training Wing

STATIONS

James Connally AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Col Robert B. Collins, #1959

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Pilot graduates from Ellington moved on to James Connally AFB, Waco, Texas, and assignment to the 3565th Navigator Training Wing. Some went into B-47s where they became "triple threats,"

navigators, radar navigators, and electronic weapons officers. Those selected for assignment to all-weather fighters, as well as the future radar officers, also assigned to James Connelly from Ellington, commenced initial training in TB-25Ks and TB-25Ms, the WWII Mitchell bomber modified by Hughes Aircraft Corporation to become an airborne radar trainer with the Hughes E-1 or E-5 systems, respectively. Training in these TB-25s was not considered to be "good duty," as the primary training position was located behind the bomb bay in the old waist gunners position, an extremely noisy location. There were three radar scopes in this area, one for the primary student, one for the instructor, and the third for a second student to monitor what the primary student was attempting while awaiting his turn in "the pit." A third student rode in the nose to act as an extra set of eyes to preclude a collision and monitor the interception.

Almost two and one-half years after its inactivation, on 1 August 1949, ATC reopened Waco AFB. On 28 August the command discontinued Waco's base unit and established the 3565th Pilot Training Wing (Basic). Its first class began on 25 October.

During 1952 ATC redesignated a number of its wings, as it reorganized its flying program under the Flying Training and Crew Training Air Forces.

Previous Designation New Designation Date Changed

3565th PTW (Basic) 3565th OTW 27 Jun 52

OTW = observer training wing

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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