

3625 COMBAT CREW TRAINING GROUP (AIRCRAFT CONTROLLER)

MISSION

LINEAGE

3625 Flying Training Group

3625 Combat Crew Training Group (Aircraft Controller)

STATIONS

Tyndall AFB, FL, 25 Jun 1952-15 Aug 1958

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Air University transferred Tyndall AFB to ATC on 1 September 1950. At the same time, Air University's 3820th Air University Wing became an ATC asset; ATC discontinued the 3820th and established the 3625th Training Wing in its place to conduct weapons controller training. Tyndall had operated the Air Tactical School, but it was put on hold in July with the advent of the Korean War.

Interceptor pilot training ended at Tyndall on 20 June 1957. Less than two weeks later, on 1 July, ATC transferred control of the base to Air Defense Command. Loss of Tyndall meant the transfer of navigator radar intercept training to James Connally AFB in Texas. Tyndall's F-86Ds moved to Moody, Moody sent its F-89Ds to James Connally, and James Connally gave its F-94Cs to the Air National Guard.

Tyndall kept the interceptor weapons school, which also had transferred to Air Defense Command. Also on 1 July, ATC discontinued the 3625th Combat Crew Training Wing (Interceptor) at Tyndall. The only remaining ATC assets at Tyndall were the 3625th Combat Crew Training Group (Aircraft Controller) and its subordinate units.

As ground-controlled interception systems became more complex, the Air Force realized separate career fields were needed--one for aircraft controllers directing airborne intercepts and the other for those concerned only with air traffic control. The new career field, established in August 1958, was called weapons controller. For that reason, on 15 August ATC discontinued the 3625th Combat Crew Training Group (Aircraft Controller) at Tyndall and concurrently organized the 3625th Technical Training Group (Weapons Controller).

The most significant event influencing the weapons controller training program was the proposed transfer of resources for providing "live" intercept training. From 1953 until 1958, the Tyndall course had used T-33s to conduct ground control intercepts. After 1958 ATC placed less emphasis on live aircraft support, so that by early 1963 only ten T-33s remained in the 3625th Technical Training Group's inventory. At that time a disagreement developed between Air Training Command and Air Defense Command as to the need for live intercept training. Officials in ATC believed that adequate training could be provided through simulation. It took almost a year to accomplish and on 1 April 1964, ATC transferred all 11 aircraft and 59 manpower authorizations to Air Defense Command for simulator training.

FTAF/CTAF Merger. After months of discussion, ATC decided to combine all flying and crew training responsibilities under a single headquarters. Effective 1 July 1957, the command discontinued Crew Training Air Force at Randolph and transferred its mission, personnel, and assets to Flying Training Air Force. Eight wings and one independent group were included in that move: the 3525th, 3595th, and 3600th Combat Crew Training Wings (Fighter); the 3520th CCTW (Medium Bombardment); the 3550th and 3555th Combat Crew Training Wings (Interceptor); the 3510th CCTW; the 3635th CCTW (Survival); and the 3625th Combat Crew Training Group (Aircraft Controller). The command established Headquarters FTAF (Advance) at Randolph on the same day. Between July and October, Flying Training Air Force relocated its headquarters from Waco to Randolph.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.