

3700 TECHNICAL TRAINING WING

MISSION

LINEAGE

3700 Technical Training Wing

STATIONS

Sheppard AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1977-1 Jan 1978

Sheppard AFB, TX, 1 Nov 1979

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

BMT School. Known for years simply as BMTS, the Basic Military Training School at Lackland traveled the same path as OTS. On 1 February ATC redesignated BMTS as the 3720th Basic Military Training Group, and on 25 August it became the 394th Military Training Group, which

included not only basic military training squadrons, but the officer training squadron among others.1992

Objective Centers Established. Air Training Command converted its newly renamed training centers to the objective wing structure on 1 February, a step it had already taken at the flying training wings in December 1991. At the flying training wings, that meant the command abandoned the tri-deputy structure (with Deputy Commanders for Operations, Maintenance, and Resource Management and a combat support group commander) in favor of a group-oriented wing with an operations group and a support group. A similar situation existed at the training centers where the technical training wing, Deputy Commander for Resource Management, air base group, and clinic/hospital were replaced by a technical training group, a logistics group, a support group, and a medical group. 1992

Twice during the year, the Officer Training School (OTS) designation changed. On 1 February, as part of the major reshuffling of units, ATC redesignated OTS as the 3700th Officer Training Group. Then, on 25 August, the 3700th underwent another redesignation, becoming the 301st Officer Training Squadron. At the same time, Air Training Command relieved the 301st from assignment to Lackland Training Center and assigned it to the 394th Military Training Group at Lackland. 1992

Training Command inactivated the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences at each of its technical training centers and activated numbered technical training wings in their place on 1 April 1977. These included the 3250th Technical Training Wing at Lackland, the 3300th at Keesler, the 3330th at Chanute, the 3400th at Lowry, and the 3700th at Sheppard. Several months later Air Training Command published a second order that inactivated the wings effective 1 January 1978, based on realignment actions proposed by the Cadou study. (These wings were again activated in November 1979.) 1977

ATC Schools Redesignated. From its founding in 1959 until 1972, the Air Force commissioning program at Lackland Training Annex (Medina) was known as the Officer Training School (OTS). On 1 August 1972, ATC changed the name to the School of Military Sciences, Officer. This coincided with a similar name change for the Basic Military Training School at Lackland to the School of Military Sciences, Airman and the renaming of the schools at the technical training

centers to School of Applied Aerospace Sciences. The idea behind these changes was to raise the prestige of the schools in the eyes of the civilian academic community. At that time, the Community College of the Air Force was seeking accreditation for a wide variety of courses. However, the name changes proved more confusing than helpful, and ATC reverted to the original designations on 8 April 1974.

Military Training Center Redesignated. Since training officials felt the former designation of Lackland Military Training Center gave an impression that there might be other Air Force centers providing basic training, Headquarters USAF directed Air Training Command to redesignate the unit as the Air Force Military Training Center, effective 1 January 1973.

In an effort to standardize organization and save manpower, Air Training Command implemented a reorganization of all technical training centers on 4 January 1971. The command aligned comptroller, civil engineering, personnel, administrative, and band functions under the air base group and designated the air base group commander as base commander. Additionally, the command did away with the commandant of troops position at each of the technical training wings. In place of the wing staff position, on 1 March 1971, Air Training Command activated numbered student groups at each of the centers to manage the troops.

Concerned that the size of each of the technical training bases was more than a single commander could successfully manage, in late 1958 General Smith asked Headquarters USAF for permission to redesignate the technical training wings as training centers. Headquarters USAF approved the request. Effective 1 January 1959, ATC renamed its military training wing and all five of its technical training wings. The 3700th Military Training Wing became the Lackland Military Training Center; while the 3320th Technical Training Wing was redesignated as Amarillo Technical Training Center; the 3345th, Chanute Technical Training Center; the 3380th, Keesler Technical Training Center; the 3415th, Lowry Technical Training Center; and the 3750th, Sheppard Technical Training Center.

Technical Training Wings Activated. Air Training Command inactivated the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences at each of its technical training centers and activated numbered technical training wings in their place on 1 April 1977. These included the 3250th Technical Training Wing at Lackland, the 3300th at Keesler, the 3330th at Chanute, the 3400th at Lowry, and the 3700th at Sheppard. Several months later Air Training Command published a second order that inactivated the wings effective 1 January 1978, based on realignment actions proposed by the Cadou study. These wings were again activated in November 1979.

In 1979, Sheppard's computer training courses at the 3700th Technical Training Wing came under critical scrutiny. Sheppard had been, since the relocation of comptroller and communications courses, deeply involved in computer operator training. Its courses had evolved with the technology, and had been models of their kind. Unfortunately, both Keesler and Sheppard hosted mainframe computer training, and such redundancy did not go unnoticed in an era of budget cutting. In a drive towards greater efficiency, the Air Force decided to combine its computer operator training at Keesler.

The loss of the computer training courses was but a temporary setback. Technology had changed rapidly, and microcomputers began to proliferate in the Air Force. Each training center consequently began to rely, to a greater or lesser extent, on the capabilities of the new computers. Sheppard helped to lead the way, both in technical and medical training, in harnessing the new computer systems for training.

Technical training also concentrated on readiness issues in the 1980s. One of the more interesting and important programs for the Air Force was the Harvest Bare training conducted by the 3770th Technical Training Group. Harvest Bare trained civil engineers on the

construction and maintenance of deployable airbases. With Harvest Bare, so-called "bare bases" around the world could be turned into viable air bases in a matter of hours.

01 Apr 77 Air Training Command inactivated the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences and activated in its place the 3700th Technical Training Wing.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

Sustaining the Wings, A Fifty-Year History of Sheppard Air Force Base (1941-1991). Dwight W. Tuttle. Midwestern State University Press. Wichita Falls, TX. 1991.