

3750 CONSOLIDATED MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

3750 Consolidated Maintenance Squadron

STATIONS

Sheppard AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Less than eight hours after the Airmen's Club fire, one of the new CH-3C helicopters exploded on the maintenance ramp. During what was termed a simple engine run-up so that the 3750 CMS could check the pressure on a newly installed hydraulic component, the helicopter took off without a pilot. The maintenance crew on board had run up the engines to produce the needed power, and the cyclic control

had become unlocked, causing the helicopter to rise from the ground. It hovered briefly above a stunned ground crew, then heeled over sharply into the ground. On impact, jet fuel sprayed from the doomed helicopter as its rotors wreaked havoc. In less than a second, the aircraft burst into white-hot flames, followed shortly by an explosion. All but one of the maintenance crew escaped the doomed helicopter. A1C Overton A. Lyle was killed and five other men were injured. One sergeant was found later wandering in shock near the control tower. In seconds, all that remained of the \$978,000 aircraft was part of the tail assembly and the center of the fuselage. It was the single most devastating helicopter maintenance accident in Sheppard's history.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 19 Jan 2022
Updated:

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