

## **4750<sup>th</sup> TEST SQUADRON**



### **LINEAGE**

### **STATIONS**

Tyndall AFB, FL, 10 Jul 1957-1 Jan 1975

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-89

### **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

F-89

521834

### **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

### **UNIT COLORS**

### **COMMANDERS**

### **HONORS**

Service Streamers

## **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

*Designated as the 4750th Test Squadron (Tactical & Application Engineering), organized and assigned to the 4750th Air Defense Wing on 1 September 1956 Reassigned to the 73rd Air Division and moved to Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida on 7 July 1957*

52-1834 spent a short period with the 4750th Test Squadron at Tyndall AFB, Florida, after conversion from a D to a J model Scor-pion to conduct armament tests,

4750th Test Sq.: activated 1 Sep 56 at Vincent AFB, AZ, assigned to 4750th AD Wg (Wpns); transferred to 73rd AD 7 Jul 57 and moved to Tyndall AFB, FL; transferred to 756th AD Gp (Wpns) 1 Jul 61; transferred to 4756th AD Wg (Tng) 1 Jan 63; redesignated from 4750th Test Sq (Tactical and Application Engineering) to 4750th Test Sq (Operational) 1 Jan 63; reassigned to Air Defense Weapons Center 1 Jan 68; redesignated 47S Test Sq and inactivated on 1 Jan 75.

4750 TEST SQUADRON RELIEVED FROM 4750 AIR DEFENSE WING (WEAPONS), ASSIGNED TO 73 AD AND MOVED FROM VINCENT AFB AZ TO TYNDALL.

In late 1956 both the F-89 and F-94 gunnery and rocket proficiency training programs that had also been conducted at Moody AFB were relocated to Yuma County Airport, Arizona, where the 4750th Training Wing (Air Defense) was based. The curriculum remained the same, but came under some trying times during the periods of summer heat as flying could only be conducted during the early morning hours or in the early evening. It often got so hot that the asphalt would give way under the heavy F-89s, and the runway became far too short for safe takeoffs or landings in the ambient air conditions.

The 4750th Training Wing, which later became an Air Defense Wing, was also responsible for operating the Air Defense Command's air-to-air gunnery and rocket firing ranges. All ADC pilots or crews were expected to fly forty air-to-air gunnery or rocket missions per year, and squadrons were

rotated to Yuma/Vincent from their home bases to conduct these operations. The 4750th also ran and hosted the annual air defense aerial gunnery and rocketry competitions between 1953 and 1956. (There was no meet in 1957. In 1958 the competition was moved to Tyndall AFB.)

The test vehicle for this system was F-89A 49-2434 which was assigned to the 2750th Test and Evaluations Group at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, on March 2, 1951, long after the F-87 program had been dropped. Although demonstrated as operationally viable during ground tests, the rotating turret created a terrific amount of aerodynamic' unstability whenever the cannons were rotated or elevated from straight ahead. In November 1951 this F-89A, since redesignated as an EF-89A, was returned to Northrop and its airframe improved to become the first of the F-89A to B conversions. Then, on December 22, 1951, its designation was revised back to that of the EF-89A once again, and it was returned to Wright-Patterson as a test aircraft. It remained there until eventual reassignment to the 4750th Training Wing at Yuma County Airport, Arizona, where it continued to be flown with the Martin turret and evaluated against towed targets. In August 1955 it was flown to Kelly AFB, San Antonio, Texas, where it was then towed to Lackland AFB to serve as a display aircraft.

Likewise, at Vincent AFB, Arizona, the 4750th Training Wing (Air Defense, Weapons) was headquartered. (Nee Yuma County Airport and named for General Casey Vincent, who was the inspiration for the cartoon character "Steve Canyon.") This Wing had a similar numbered Group and Squadrons also based at Vincent, which in reality was one of the few Air Force bases run by fighter pilots for fighter pilots. Wing and base commander was Colonel (later General) Robert Worlet. Colonel Glenn Eagleston commanded the 4750th Group (18.5 air-to-air kills during WWII and two MiG 15s in Korea). Group Operations Officer was Colonel Vermont Garrison (7.3 kills in WWII and ten MiG 15s). Another example was Major James Jabara, who ran the F-86D squadron (1.5 kills during WWII and fifteen MiG 15s), The 4750th was responsible for all live air-to-air rocketry and cannon qualifications for Air Defense Command fighters, squadrons, and crews until the more sophisticated and longer ranged Falcon and Genie missiles came into use and required more geographical space than the Arizona Range had available and the entire operation had to be relocated to Tyndall AFB. The 4750th TW(AD,W) also included the 4750th Test Squadron which had a detachment at Griffiss AFB, New York. This detachment was involved with the development and then the operational testing and evaluation of the tracking systems for the XF-99 Bomarc anti-aircraft missile. Several of the Griffiss based F-89s were later redesignated as DF-89s and transferred to the US Army.

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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 13 Jun 2015

Updated:

Published:

#### Sources

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