

6200 TACTICAL FIGHTER TRAINING GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

6200 Tactical Fighter Training Group

STATIONS

Clark AB, Philippines, 1 Sep 1977

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 6200th Tactical Fighter Training Group (TFTG) was under the direct command of Thirteenth Air Force. The 6200 TFTG ran two unique programs: Cope Thunder and Combat Sage. Cope Thunder, which was first held in 1976, was a training exercise that brought units to Clark from throughout the Pacific area to participate in war games. Units from the US Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps, as well as some foreign air forces, sent fighters, bombers, transports, air-refueling tankers, and command and control aircraft to participate in very intense flying war games.

Cope Thunder was conducted in an area that stretched nearly half the length of Luzon starting at its north end and stretching south nearly 100 miles. Crow Valley, which was only 10 miles north of Clark Air Base, was at the southern end of the exercise airspace and held myriad bombing targets and scoring systems to assess the fighter pilots' bombing skills. In a typical war game, friendly forces, designated "Blue," would take off from Clark, fly up central Luzon, then fly south through the exercise airspace to attack the targets in Crow Valley. Enemy forces, designated "Red," defended Crow Valley. The Red forces consisted of "enemy" fighters, frequently US Navy jets, and an impressive array of radar transmitters that replicated Soviet surface-to-air (SAM) missiles and radar-controlled anti-aircraft artillery (AAA). All Red defenses had the capability to score their "shots" against Blue attackers. Every morning and every afternoon, throughout the year, dozens of Blue fighters and support forces hurtled south into Crow Valley, honing their wartime skills in thunderous swirling battles.

The 6200 TFTG's other mission, Combat Sage, was every bit as valuable and challenging as Cope Thunder. Combat Sage's mission was to evaluate the Pacific Air Forces' fighter units' capabilities to fire air-to-air missiles.

Fighter units from PACAF came to Clark regularly to fire missiles at target drones launched from Wallace Air Station, a small installation north of Clark. The Combat Sage troops provided missiles that were equipped with telemetry packages that transmitted such data as missile performance, pilot performance and miss distance to Combat Sage telemetry gathering stations. The data was then used to analyze missile, aircraft, and pilot performance. Commanders, logisticians, and

weapons developers throughout the USAF used the data to improve aircraft and missile systems as well as pilot training programs.

6200 TFTG: The LORAL (Ford) Aerospace Crow Valley Range contract was terminated on 30 Aug 91 after the successful recovery, pack-out, and shipment of over 200 million dollars worth of high value equipment (threat emitters, radars, vehicles, etc.). Contracts for drone and tracking operations at Wallace AS were terminated effective 30 Sep91.

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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