

## 6514 TEST SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

6514 Test Squadron

### STATIONS

Edwards AFB, CA, 15 May 1970-18 Sep 1973

Hill AFB, UT, 18 Sep 1973

### ASSIGNMENTS

### WEAPON SYSTEMS

NC-130

DC-130

### COMMANDERS

### HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

### EMBLEM



#### **MOTTO**

Quaerite Optimum—Seek the Optimum

#### **OPERATIONS**

Another large tenant assigned to Hill AFB because of the accessibility of the Utah Test and Training Range, was the 6514th Test Squadron of the Air Force Systems Command; it arrived at Hill on 1 July 1973. The organization was responsible for the testing of remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs).

After months of dry runs and aborted launch schedules, the first local ground launch of the AQM-34H series drone was accomplished 1 December 1974. Later, on 13 May 1976, the first free flight of the AQM-34V tactical electronic warfare RPV was successfully launched at 15,000 feet from a DC-130E aircraft. After reaching an altitude of 25,000 feet, the RPV was retrieved by an HH-53 helicopter in midair. The parent command of this organization was the 6545th Test Group, formed at Hill AFB on 1 January 1979, along with the newly developed 6501st Range Squadron which was attached to the group that same date.

HH-53C 68-10354: Ops loss, Oct 1986, 6514 TS, Hill AFB, UT, no fatalities; Aircraft settled with power and crashed short of LZ during a ridgeline approach. Destroyed in post-crash fire.

On 19 May 1975, an annex to Hangar 295 for the 6514th Test Squadron (AFSC), was dedicated. The \$503,464 structure consolidated the operations of the squadron, making its job easier and more efficient. The 67,000-square foot structure contained laboratories, an engine shop, a drone maintenance and assembly area, a battery shop, and offices for its remotely piloted vehicle test mission. An additional construction project for the 6514th — a \$1.8 million addition to the Engineering Test Facility, Building 206 was begun on 17 October 1977. Titled the Drone Engineering Test Facility (Phase I), the project was completed 15 July 1979. This facility was employed by the squadron for aircraft open fuel cell repair, aircraft cleaning, and remotely piloted (drone) vehicle checkout. Construction of a second unmanned aerospace vehicle facility for the 6514th began 10 August 1978. This \$4.1 million project, the Drone Engineering Test Facility (Phase II), was completed 31 July 1980. Located adjacent to the base transient aircraft hangar, Building 1, the two-story concrete and steel structure contained 140,000 square feet of floor space.

The following off-base Radio Relay Annexes, under Hill AFB jurisdiction, were activated in support of the tenant organization the 6514th Test Squadron for its remotely piloted vehicle testing program: Dutch Mountain, Ochre Mountain, Montezuma Peak, Mudlake, Sandem, Fish Springs No. 1, Fish Springs No.2, Black Rock, Dugway No. 1, Dugway No. 2, Cedar, Bonneville, Swassy Mountain, Barrow, Clive, Grassy Mountain, Jedediah, Lakeside, Newfoundland, and Groome. 23 FEB 1976

13 MAY 1976 The first free flight of the AQM-34V tactical electronic warfare remotely piloted vehicle (RPV) was successfully conducted by the Hill AFB tenant, the 6514th Test Squadron. On its maiden flight, the RPV was launched from a DC-130E at 15,000 It reached an altitude of 25,000 feet before initiating its recovery sequence for a midair retrieval by an HH-53.

Ground breaking for a \$4 million unmanned aerospace vehicle facility was held. The 140,000 square foot, two-story, concrete and steel structure was located adjacent to the base transient aircraft hangar. These two facilities would be interconnected with walkways and tunnels. The 6514th Test Squadron, an Air Force Systems Command organization and tenant at Hill Air Force Base, will be the user of the facility and will be housing its HC-130 in the base transient hangar. 10 Aug 1978

A new 84,300 square foot hangar was finished to accommodate aircraft undergoing flight testing following Programmed Depot Maintenance. Concurrently, a 21,000 square foot hangar was completed for use by the 6514th Test Squadron. 30 Sep 1980

---

USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 7 Aug 2022  
Updated:

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