

7351 FLYING TRAINING GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

7351 Pilot Training Group
7351 Flying Training Group

STATIONS

Furstenfeldbruck AB, West Germany
Landsberg AB, West Germany

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Loren S. Nickels

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The initial planning for what might be referred to as the "European Training Command" was begun at USAF Headquarters in the early part of 1953. In November of the same year, Col. Mark H Vinzant, Jr. (presently Furstenfeldbruck Base Commander, 7330th Flying Training Wing Commander and USAFE Training Headquarters Commander) left his post as Director of Flying, Headquarters Air Training Command, and arrived at Furstenfeldbruck Air Base with a hand-picked cadre to activate the 7330th Training Group (MDAP) as a tenant unit on the base under

the jurisdiction of Headquarters Twelfth Air Force.

The MDAP School at Furstenfeldbruck began on April 5, 1954. Only 18 students from Spain, Turkey and Holland comprised the first graduating class. As of today, over one thousand flying students, from the air forces of twelve NATO plus four additional MDAP countries have received training.

Although the first students did not begin training until April 1954, Group personnel were busily engaged in writing course material, planning required new construction, and solving the myriad logistical and administrative problems which confront any newly-activated unit.

Early in 1954, it was recognized that the requirements of the training organization could best be met with a Wing-base type set-up and approval for such a reorganization was granted by Twelfth Air Force. As an interim measure to facilitate this change, the 7330th Training Group Commander (Col. Vinzant) assumed command of the base from the 7365th Air Base Squadron in May 1954. Until this time, the Group had existed as a tenant unit with its own Field Maintenance, Supply, Operations and Technical Training Squadrons. The shift now brought the 7365th under the jurisdiction of the Training Group as the Group assumed the housekeeping and support functions of the base.

The wheel of reorganization completed its full turn when the 7330th Training Group was redesignated a Wing on July 1, 1954, with jurisdiction over four groups and a Technical Training Squadron (the 7365th Air Base Squadron was inactivated on May 31, and its personnel absorbed within the Wing). Subsequently, the Wing was relieved of assignment to Twelfth Air Force and attached to the 7100th Support Wing at Wiesbaden for administrative and logistical support and directly assigned to Hq. USAFE for operational control. The word "Flying" was added to the official designation of the 7330th in October 1954.

In the meantime, other base facilities in the area were being surveyed for the future expansion of training activities. Obviously, Furstenfeldbruck could not support jet and conventional aircraft training as well as a technical training program. Negotiations were completed with the Army for the transfer of their installation at Kaufbeuren to Air Force control and in November 1954 the 7330th Technical Training Squadron (MDAP) was redesignated as the 7331st Technical Training Group (MDAP) with location at Kaufbeuren. In May 1955, the Group was redesignated as a Wing and assigned to the 7330th with the primary mission of providing MDAP students formal technical training and special training.

Landsberg Air Base was selected as the site of the conventional aircraft training program and the 7330th assumed jurisdiction over that base in January 1955. The 7351st Air Base Squadron at Landsberg was re-designated as the 7351st Flying Training Group (MDAP) the following April 1955, and as a Wing in September 1955, with the primary mission of providing Harvard Mark IV training to MDAP students.

The staff of the 7330th recognized the fact that Air Force organizational concepts were being

violated and the situation becoming untenable with the 7331st assigned to the 7330th and the 7330th, in turn, responsible to both USAFE and the 7100th Support Wing. Consequently, recommendations were submitted to higher headquarters for the establishment of an organization which would weld and coordinate the activities of the fast expanding training program.

The integration of this three-base complex into a tight organization having direct command channels was realized with the activation on July 1, 1955, of the USAFE Training Headquarters, Provisional.

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