

8707 PILOT TRAINING WING

MISSION

LINEAGE

8707 Pilot Training Wing

STATIONS

Brooks AFB, TX, 15 Jun 1952-18 May 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On October 17, 1951, 200 Air Force reservists gathered on Brooks Air Force Base to form the 907th Pilot Training Wing, christened the "Alamo Wing." Two years later, the 907th was deactivated; its personnel and nickname went to the 8707th Pilot Training Wing, where aircrews flew C-46 "Commandoes," C-45 "Voyagers," AT-6 "Texans," and T-28 "Trojans." In 1955, the 8707th deactivated, and its personnel assigned to the newly reactivated 433rd Troop Carrier Wing, which became the new Alamo Wing. Its aircrews now flew C-119 "Flying Boxcars." When the runways at Brooks AFB closed for the last time in 1956, the Alamo Wing moved to its new home and present location - Kelly Air Force Base.

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Reservists from the 8707th "Alamo" Pilot Training Wing, based at Brooks AFB, Tex., have completed a pioneer training and good-will flight to Mexico City.

Brig. Gen. John H. Foster, wing commander, led the flight of nine T-28s, two C-46s, and one B-25. The operation covered more than the monthly training period for the fifty Reservists who took part. 1955

The crews participated in their first test during Operation Maintenance Marvel, in September 1954. Crews from the Alamo Wing (8707th) kept a T-28 trainer flying for 78 hours and 15 minutes. The T-28 flew an estimated 15,288 statute miles with 39 pilots receiving training in navigation and hood instrument flying. This flight was broken only briefly for pilot changes and fuel. The longest time on the ground was 14 minutes. Gen Foster and Col Dodd flew the first leg of the operation.

The three-year-old 8707th Pilot Training Wing had as its nickname - The Alamo Wing. The name received official confirmation by directive from Headquarters, 14th Air Force, Robins AFB, Georgia, in Sep 1954. By the end of 1954, the wing had enlisted more than 400 men.

By early 1954, the wing was achieving a degree of maturity, with more than 100 men driving ten to two hundred miles to Brooks once a month for training. Among the newcomers was an illustrious "recruit" who was returning to the symbol of the Flying Tiger - Colonel David L. "Tex" Hill, fighter pilot with the old American Volunteer Group under Gen Claire Chennault in China. "Tex" took command of the pilot training group.

1955 Until May, pilots trained in the unit's eight T-6s, two C-46s, T-28 trainers and C-45 aircraft. The Wing again reorganized with the activation of the 433d Troop Carrier Wing (Medium) and the discontinuance of the 8707th Pilot Training Wing. The 433d Troop Carrier Wing officially began flying the C-46 Commandos as its mission aircraft after the discontinuance of the 8707th Pilot Training Wing.

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 16 Sep 2022

Updated:

Sources

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