

USAF TACTICAL MISSILE SCHOOL

MISSION

LINEAGE

USAF Tactical Missile School
Discontinued, 15 Mar 1967

STATIONS

Orlando AFB, FL, 1 Jul 1959-15 Mar 1967

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Airmen assigned to the new missile units had gone through technical training schools for a myriad of subjects before being assigned to the development or operational squadrons for missile crew training. The Air Training Command had the responsibility to train individual specific skills, from basic military training to electronics, but not the crew training that was an integral part of missile

operations. The Tactical Missile School at Orlando specifically called their courses "Combat Crew Training."

Every student who arrived had already graduated from an ATC technical school, most ranging in length from 17 weeks for a Missile Specialist, Engine & Airframe, to 32 weeks in length for TM-61C Guidance and Control Officers. Basic military training had been centralized to a single facility at Lackland AFB, near San Antonio, Texas. While the electronics used by the missilemen such as radio and radar were originally taught at the Air Training Command center at Keesler AFB, Mississippi, the majority of electronics, including guidance and controls, was Taught at Lowry AFB, in Colorado. In 1951, the host wing at Lowry AFB, the 3415th Technical Training Wing formed several school squadrons as part of its new Guided Missiles Department, dedicated to teaching the new missile courses. A byline in the October 1951 Air Force Magazine had a listing for the recently added missile courses.

At Lowry AFB, Colo.; Guided Missile Guidance and Control Officer, 125 academic days; Guided Missile Fundamentals, 35 days; Guided Missile Guidance Technician, 80 days, Guided Missile Attitude Control Technician, 50 days. At Chanute AFB, IL; Rocket Propulsion Technician, 45 days.

By 1962 the Matador had been retired from the course material, but the follow-on Mace tactical missile was at the height of its program. By this time the 3415th was graduating over 1000 missilemen a year for all missile systems, including the air-to-air Sidewinder and Falcon.

The 4504th Tactical Missile Wing (Training) was renamed on July 1, 1958, to 4504th Missile Training Wing (Tactical), 20 and on July 1, 1959, formally established as the U.S. Air Force Tactical Missile School.

The 4504th Missile Training Wing and the USAF Tactical Missile School are one single military organization with a single training mission.

By 1962, the Tactical Missile School had graduated over 3500 students, and in the month of April, 1962, graduated a record 260 officers and airmen, 24 both launch and maintenance, bound for Germany and Okinawa. The school was inactivated on March 15, 1967, and all remaining equipment moved to the Lowry Technical Training Center, Lowry AFB,

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 16 Nov 2022
Updated:

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