

# **3499 FIELD TRAINING WING**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

3499 Field Training Wing  
Discontinued, 1 Sep 1959

## **STATIONS**

Chanute AFB, IL

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Effective 1 September 1959, ATC discontinued the 3499th Field Training Wing at Chanute. This unit had managed field training operations, but ATC had decided that there would be less duplication of effort if field training responsibilities were reassigned to the technical training

centers. The command established field training squadrons at Sheppard on 15 June, at Amarillo on 15 July, and at Chanute on 15 August.

Effective 24 June 1957, ATC discontinued the 3499th Mobile Training Wing and activated the 3499th Field Training Wing at Chanute. The new wing operated the command's extensive field training program.

3499th Field Training Wing. Effective 1 September 1959, ATC discontinued the 3499th

During the 1950s, Sheppard became the most diversified training center in the Air Force. Comptroller, intelligence, and transportation training transferred from Lowry AFB, Colorado, in 1954, followed in 1958 by utilities and communication instruction from F.E. Warren AFB in Wyoming. One year later, Sheppard assumed responsibility for field training, previously under the oversight of the 3499th Field Training Wing at Chanute.

In 1954, the 4499th Mobile Training Wing (later redesignated the 3499th Field Training Wing) at Chanute began experimenting with a new training concept. It began using a Mobile Training Detachment at Nellis AFB to provide Air Force specialty training formerly provided at the training centers. While Nellis lacked the special equipment and trainers needed to provide full hands-on instruction, the results were initially encouraging, and ATC persuaded the Air Staff to allow a three-year test program of field training. In January 1956, ATC selected non-prior service students who had graduated from basic resident training and sent them to field training detachments (FfDs) at three installations: Smoky Hill AFB; Foster AFB, Texas; and Hamilton AFB, California. These students learned the specifics of weapons systems. The overall success of the test led the Air Force to approve field training, and immediately FfDs began moving to the operational units.

In 1958, ATC began refining the field training concept. Under the prime training center philosophy, a specific technical training center would be responsible for a particular weapons system. In the summer of 1959, Amarillo AFB became responsible for all fighter aircraft FfDs. Chanute supervised those FfDs dealing with bomber and tanker training, and Sheppard oversaw all cargo and helicopter field instruction. In June 1959, a total of 53 detachments were transferred from the 3499 FfW at Chanute to Sheppard where they became a branch of the Department of Aircraft Maintenance Training. Courses taught by the FfDs ranged anywhere from five to thirty academic days. By 1960, Field Training had become a separate branch that taught a total of 104 courses, the majority of which were in the missile field. Today, the 3785th Field Training Wing at Sheppard, the successor to the 4499th MTW, oversees the operation of more than 90 FfDs and operating locations assigned at

Supervisors and Planners course in San Diego. The Military Electronics Equipment Division of General Electric, in Syracuse, New York, supervised radio inertial guidance training for the Atlas D while the American Bosch Corporation of Garden City, New Jersey, taught airmen the inertial guidance system on the Atlas E. The same generalization applied to the Titan I and II missiles. Between June 1959 and March 1962, three different contractors, the Martin Company of Denver, Colorado, the Aerojet General Corporation of Sacramento, California, and the A.C. Spark Plug Division of General Motors were involved in some aspect of training.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
*Sustaining the Wings, A Fifty-Year History of Sheppard Air Force Base (1941-1991)*. Dwight W. Tuttle. Midwestern State University Press. Wichita Falls, TX. 1991.