

3630 FLYING TRAINING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

3630 Flying Training Wing

STATIONS

Sheppard AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

10 December 1965 the command organized the 3630th Flying Training Wing at Sheppard and reassigned the 3637th to the wing. The wing reported directly to HQ ATC. Eighty percent of the wing's graduates went directly to Southeast Asia, and virtually all of its instructors were veterans of that conflict.

A new mission landed on Sheppard AFB in 1966, one that had an important role in rebuilding the German Air Force. On 24 August the 3630th Flying Training Wing embarked on an undergraduate flying training program for German pilots. For a short period in the 1960s, pilots from Nicaragua, Turkey, Ecuador, and other countries also participated in the program. The first pilots received their wings in early 1967.

The first group of German student pilots embarked upon training on 24 August 1966. The course was designed to last 55 weeks, but its length was partially dictated by the number of flying days that were available to a given class. In North Texas, weather was mostly favorable, and from the start most classes finished ahead of schedule.

Effective 15 March 1971, ATC reassigned the 3630th Flying Training Wing from the Sheppard Technical Training Center to HQ ATC. In the 1960s, the wing had reported directly to HQ ATC, but concerns about duplication of effort between the wing and its host caused ATC to reassign the 3630th to Sheppard. Because of the importance of the wing's foreign training mission--it conducted a special UPT program for the German Air Force--ATC realigned the 3630th directly under the command headquarters.

In June 1971, the 3630 FTW phased out the helicopter portion of its training mission. The House Appropriations Committee had decided the previous year that the Army should take responsibility for training helicopter pilots, and that the Air Force and Navy should cease their programs. Altogether, the 3630 FTW at Sheppard had produced 2,211 pilots during its stay. Most of the wing's helicopters and equipment were transferred to Hill AFB, Utah, where advanced helicopter training took place.

1 January 1973, Air Training Command replaced 3630 FTW with the newly activated 80th Flying Training Wing.

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