

# 3625<sup>th</sup> TECHNICAL TRAINING SQUADRON (WEAPONS CONTROLLER)



## MISSION

Air Weapons Controller School

## LINEAGE

3625<sup>th</sup> Combat Crew Training Squadron (Aircraft Controller)

Redesignated 3625 Technical Training Squadron (Interceptor Controller [later Weapons Controller]), 15 Aug 1958

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1991

## STATIONS

Tyndall AFB, FL

## ASSIGNMENTS

## COMMANDERS

## HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

## EMBLEM



## MOTTO

### OPERATIONS

The 3625th Technical Training Squadron mission was to teach personnel to become air weapons controllers. The basic functions of an Air Weapons Controller are to direct, by radio and radar scope, fighter aircraft to intercept attacking bombers; to supervise operations of an aircraft and early warning system; to commit and coordinate air defense forces. The objectives of the school are to provide students with the basic principles and factors underlying aircraft control; to make students proficient in controlling aircraft from ground radar scopes; to make students in supervising aircraft control and warning operations.

One job in the 3625th was called a "T-4 Driver". The T-4 driver operated the AN-TPS-4 Target Generator. Utilizing the live radar from the radar site across the street, the T-4 driver would overlay simulated aircraft and other data for the students. It looked quite real; some of the students actually thought it was real. The T-4 driver would then act as pilots, talking to the students through an in-house radio system. The students would first start out just controlling the interceptor, after that they would move into a one-on-one with a target, and eventually work their way up to running on multiple targets. The training and exercises could be a lot of fun.

The traditional controller training program remains at the core of the course, but radar and passive sensor theory and application, as well as secure computer networking, wartime operations, and joint warfighting doctrine are added. Team building and airmanship receive emphasis throughout the training program. The weapons controller school is the oldest continuously operating unit at Tyndall AFB, opening in 1948. In early 1950, the school was transferred to Air Training Command and became the 3625th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS). In 1954, a new facility was dedicated, building 1270, to support increased student production. During the 1960s with computer advancements and utilization, the Air Force began

to combine multiple radar signals into a single radar picture at a central command facility. As a result, fewer controllers were needed and student production decreased.

With the reduction in weapons controller training requirements, ATC decided to redesignate its training group at Tyndall as a squadron and assign it to the 3380th Technical School, USAF at Keesler. On 1 July ATC renamed the group the 3625th Technical Training Squadron (Weapons Controller).1963

The 1970s witnessed a decrease in course length, from 13 weeks to just 6 weeks of simulator-only instruction. The 13 week course was still in effect as late as 1985 with students going to follow-on training at the ROCC or AWACS attending the long course and students going to 407L or manual remote sites going to the 6 week course. Also taught a short manual refresher course for controllers transitioning from automated systems such as the ROCC/RCC and AWACS back to manual sites in Germany, Korea and Alaska.

In 1979, the school's UPA-35 radar scopes were replaced by what would become the worldwide standard for tactical radar control, the legendary UPA-62. UPA 35s were still installed in the live lab as late as Dec 1986. Instructors monitoring live flying training missions normally used these terminals.

When the Cold War ended in the 1990s, the Air Force began a massive restructuring of its training efforts. At Tyndall, the 3625th and the 325th WCTS were combined and settled on the historic 325th Training Squadron designation.

The analog UPA-62s were replaced with Modular Control Equipment and training slowly expanded by adding more F-15 missions to the training syllabus.

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