

# **3650 MILITARY TRAINING WING**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

3650 Military Training Wing

## **STATIONS**

Sampson AFB, NY

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Col Karl L. Springer, 8 Dec 1950

Col Frederick W. Ott, 11 Dec 1950

MG Frank A. Armstrong, 15 Jan 1951

BG Norris B. Harbold, 7 May 1951

MG Richard C. Lindsay, 19 Jul 1952

BG Wycliffe E. Steele, 31 Mar 1954

Col Richard C. Boys, May 1956

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

On a shield blue, over a silhouetted representation of an Indian Thunder Bird Grey edged white, a torch of knowledge, the base maroon, the flame yellow, between the portals of a building maroon, highlights white in vertical perspective; the shield within a narrow border white.

On a shield azure, a silhouetted representation of an Indian Thunderbird proper (gray), fimbriated argent, charged with a torch of knowledge sanguine, flamant proper, between portals of a bulding sanguine, shaded argent, paly in prospect; the shield within a diminutive border argent.

**SIGNIFICANCE:** The blue is for the Air Force. The Indian Thunderbird, emlematical of a fortitude and magnanimity of the mind, is a highly reverend mythical creature of American Indian folklore. The qualities attributed to the Thunerbird are likewise important to the mission of indoctrination. The torch of knowledge and the portals are symbolic of indoctrination into the Air Force and relate to the instruction in the basic principles of things military.

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Located at Geneva, during World War II, Sampson was a U.S. Navy Training Center. Reopened in 1950 by the Air Training Command as a indoctrination facility, Sampson expended \$24 million to rehabilitate the infrastructure. To operate the facility, the Air Force established the 3650th Indoctrination Wing. The base was placed in inactive status in 1956.

The events of 25 June 1950 indirectly initiated the establishment of Sampson Air Force Base. On that date the North Korean Army crossed the 38th parallel invading South Korea. The United Nations, including the United States, immediately deployed troops to aide in the defense of South Korea. This created the immediate need to expand the U.S. Air Force. The sole Air Force basic training installation, Lackland AFB, TX could not accommodate increased numbers of basic trainees. Therefore, the former Sampson Naval Training Center was identified as the site to be the USAF's second basic training installation. During the next approximately six years, some 330,000 inductees received basic military training (BMT) from the 3650th Air Force Indoctrination Wing (AFIW) Sampson Air Force Base.

The 3650th Air Force Indoctrination Wing (AFIW) at Sampson was one of three USAF basic military training (BMT) installations in 1951. The others were the 3700 AFIW at Lackland AFB (San Antonio, TX) and 3275th AFIW at Parks AFB (Plesanton, CA). BMT was under the Technical Training Air Force (TTAF) (Gulfport, MS), which in turn was responsible to Air Training Command (ATRC) (Scott AFB, IL).

The emblem of the 3650th AFIW (Air Force Indoctrination Wing, Sampson Air Force Base) became Sampson's logo and most recognizable reference to SAFB over the next half-century. This familiar insignia appeared on many official signs, covers of publications, and now, the (unofficial) logo of Sampson Air Force Base Veterans Association. This shield-shaped design appears on the front cover of this book. It was approved by TTAF (Technical Training Air Force), SAFB's immediate superior organization, 4 April 1952. In addition to Sampson, the same emblem was approved for the two other Air Force basic military training installations: 3275th AFIW (Parks) and 3700th AFIW (Lackland).

Initially the 3650th AFIW, SAFE, had three Basic Military Training Groups: 3650th, 3660th and 3670th. in approximately 1952 they were consolidated into one: 3650th BMTG, with its

headquarters in Building Donaldson. The Group consisted of four Troops Please note that, depending on the era, as many as 24 Basic Military Training Squadrons were part of the 3650th AFIW. Numerous consolidations over time reduced that number to approximately twelve. The BMT Squadrons were located in C, D, E, G, and H Areas. In July, Col. Richard C. Boys replaced Lt. Col. James R. Patterson as Commander, 3650th BMTG. During Col. Boys' command, the Troop organization was eliminated, leaving the following traditional Air Force organizational structure in descending order: Wing, Group, Squadron.

Headquarters USAF directed Air Training Command to activate and redesignate a former US Navy training center as Sampson AFB on 15 November 1950. Air Training Command intended to use Sampson as a second basic military training center to handle the influx of recruits for the Korean War buildup, and established the 3650th Air Force Indoctrination Wing at the base. Sampson did not receive its first group of trainees until February 1951, and its basic military school was not established until 1 March.

On 6 January 1953, Technical Training Air Force redesignated its three indoctrination wings--the 3700th at Lackland, the 3650th at Sampson, and the 3275th at Parks--as military training wings.

Air Training Command discontinued its basic training school at Sampson AFB on 1 July 1956. Shortly thereafter, ATC discontinued Sampson's 3650th Military Training Wing. Three months later, on 1 October, Sampson transferred to Air Materiel Command.

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USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 3 Jan 2022  
Updated:

#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. Sampson AFB, NY. The Airman. 3-12 Feb 1954.