

# **7490<sup>th</sup> TECHNICAL TRAINING SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

Freising, Germany

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Walter C. Zelnski, #1953

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 7490th Technical Training Squadron (Electronics), located in Freising, contributes greatly to the many faceted mission of Erding Air Base and the US Air Force in Europe.

This squadron is especially interesting because of its unusual mission and designation as the centralized USAFE Communications and Electronics School

The mission of this unit is set forth in USAFE Regulation 24-18, dated October 28 1952, which provides for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a central communications and electronics school, operationally directed by Commander in Chief, US Air Forces in Europe, to provide for the training of US military personnel in Europe and foreign NATO students under the MDAP program. Over one dozen courses are in operation ranging from five to twenty-two weeks in duration with student capacities from 5, in an officers' course, to 54, in another type of highly specialized training. Establishment of new courses is directed by CINC USAFE and is dependent upon the availability of specific equipment, qualified instructor personnel and the need for such training as determined by CINC USAFE from field requirements. Training courses provided by this organization are all of an advanced type and are not basic in nature, thus eliminating the necessity for the training of certain types of technical personnel in the United States.

Students assigned are carefully selected by field units for their potential and retainability for overseas service. They attend instruction divided equally between class-room lectures and laboratory or shop instruction. Technical and scholastic requirements are necessarily high as the graduates of this course have a great responsibility in successfully maintaining electronics, radar and radio equipment, presently in use in the European Theater of Operations. Lack of incentive, unsatisfactory scholastic standing or undesirable behavior results in elimination from training and return to home stations. Elimination resulting due to inaptitude or lack of necessary prerequisites, as may happen in certain instances, takes place without prejudice. A letter of training accomplishments with the student's future potential is made a part of his permanent personal file as well as being sent to his unit commander.

A highly qualified staff of instructors, consisting of both military and civilian technicians, are assigned to provide technical instruction as well as supervising the use of training aids and highly complex technical equipment utilized in training.

Furthering a common bond and past agreements under the Mutual Defense Assistance Program, students of the NATO member nations are attending many of the technical courses available at this squadron and lend an international flavor to that location, because of the many varied and colorful foreign military uniforms which may be seen.

The first MDAP training at this organization began on January 12 1953 with formal commencement exercises attended by such notable visiting dignitaries as General Truman H. Landon, Then-Chief of Staff for Headquarters USAFE, Rear Admiral Earl E. Stone, Director Communications Division USEUCOM, General Alberto Del Monte of the Italian Air Force, Colonel Ben I. Funk, Erding Base Commander and a host of other important military representatives.

This first class consisted of 6 officers and 6 airmen of the Italian Air Force, who began formal training in a twenty-two-week long maintenance course. Since that date students of many different nationalities have been provided similar technical training.

This organization was formed under and is presently commanded by Major Walter C. Zelinski, who has with the exception of several "World War II years as a fighter pilot, spent his whole career

in the communications field. He enlisted in the US Air Forces in February 1937 at Langlev Field, Virginia, where he began his communications duties as an aircraft radio operator mechanic and has been on continuous active duty since.