

8508 AIR RESERVE SQUADRON (NAVIGATOR TRAINING)

MISSION

8508 Air Reserve Squadron (Navigator Training) mission was the training of reserve navigators. This encompasses a comprehensive training program in the following areas: dead reckoning; LORAN (Long Range Radio Navigation); celestial; radio; pressure pattern (utilizes weather pressure systems), polar or grid and radar navigation. In order to fully accomplish this training requirements, two TC-47s "Flying Classrooms" were assigned and utilized in round robin training flights; cross country flights and extended over water flights"

LINEAGE

8508 Air Reserve Squadron (Navigator Training)

STATIONS

Dobbins AFB, GA, 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

TC-47

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On 1 January 1955, the 8508th Air Reserve Squadron was activated at Dobbins for the purpose of training reserve navigators. Dobbins was one of 19 Centers in the United States responsible for conducting this new Navigation Training Program for Air Force Reservists. It is designed to provide previously qualified Reserve Aircraft Observers with refresher and continuation training interwoven into a three year curriculum.

The squadron held its first training assembly on 2-3 April at which time 6 officers were assigned from the old 94th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing. The programmed enrollment for this squadron was 15 navigators by 30 June. By 30 June, there were 20 navigators assigned giving the unit 133% of programmed enrollment. During the three training weekends held during the reporting period, the 8508th ARS accomplished 630 man hours of training and 127 hours of student flying time.

The section is assigned one TC-47 "Flying Classroom" equipped to carry 10 "student" navigators for training in dead reckoning, celestial, radio, and Loran navigation. As the unit shows continued signs of growth

Training was provided for a total of 434 regular and reserve personnel. The length of the course varied among the "student" personnel. Regular Air Force pilots received 24 hours of instruction and active duty aircraft mechanics were given 68 hours. Reserve pilots received 20 hours of training and instruction and reserve maintenance personnel received 48 hours. Although causing a severe shortage of personnel while in operation, the training increased the productivity and improved the quality of 2589th maintenance considerably.

Second TC-47 arrived at Dobbins in Jun 1956. Training involved cross country flights; including Miami, FL; New York, NY; and Houston, TX. 1956.

In March 1957 a policy of programming extended over water flights was inaugurated. A navigation training flight would leave Dobbins in the morning RON at Miami International Airport for overwater briefing and necessary additional equipment, depart next morning for Kingston Jamaica for refueling and continue to Albrook AFB, Panama Canal Zone.

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