

# **3415 SPECIAL TRAINING GROUP**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

3415 Special Training Group

## **STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

In January 1970, the Air Force initiated a test program for selective airmen with administrative discharges. Airmen who successfully completed the program could be discharged under honorable conditions. Lowry became the test site because it housed the 3320th Retraining Group. The 3415th Special Training Group was activated on April 1, 1971, with the first airmen arriving on May 2. In contrast to the 3320th, those airmen coming to the 3415th Special Training Group were not prisoners. In February 1973, drug rehabilitation became part of the group's mission. In May, the Air Staff approved continuation of the special program on a permanent basis. On April 15, 1974, the 3320th moved into a new facility with dormitories, dining hall,

gymnasium, and hobby shop.

As the United States reduced its Vietnam involvement during the early 1970s, the military drug problem decreased in severity. The Air Force no longer needed a separate drug program and the number of airmen entering the special training program decreased. As a result, the 3415th Special Training Group merged with the 3320th on February 1, 1975. The organization became the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group on June 15, 1976. By 1977, after 25 years of operation, more than 14,000 airmen had entered the retraining program and over 8,000 had been returned to active duty.

With the number of people in the retraining program continuing to decline, the Air Force reduced the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group to squadron status on March 1, 1977. In February 1978, the squadron moved into smaller accommodations. Also that month, the Air Staff directed the 3320th to close its Lowry confinement center for Air Force prisoners. The number of prisoners had declined to eighteen and maintaining a separate Air Force center for such a small number of people was not economical. The Air Force sent its prisoners to the Army's confinement facility at Fort Riley, Kansas. In June 1980, the number of Air Force prisoners increased at Fort Riley. As a result, Lowry reopened an Air Force confinement facility.

1971 Apr 1 The Air Force activated the 3415th Special Training Group at Lowry.

1973 Feb Lowry's 3415th Special Training Group began drug rehabilitation as part of its mission.

1974 Apr 15 The 3320th Retraining Group moved into a new facility at Lowry.

1975 Feb 1 The 3415th Special Training Group merged with the 3320th Retraining Group.

1976 Jun 15 The 3320th Retraining Group became the 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group.

1977 Mar 1 The 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Group was reduced to squadron level.

1978 Feb The 3320th Correction and Rehabilitation Squadron closed its Lowry confinement center.

Special Treatment Center 1974 After only three years, ATC inactivated the Special Treatment Center at Lackland AFB on 15 May. The Air Force had originally established the center in 1971 to provide psychiatric evaluation and behavioral reorientation for airmen with drug problems. As the war in Southeast Asia wound down and individual bases became more proficient in their rehabilitation efforts, the center's workload declined. Therefore, ATC suggested and the Air Staff approved the transfer of those services to the 3415th Special Training Group at Lowry AFB.

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