

# **3500 USAF RECRUITING WING**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

3500 USAF Recruiting Wing

## **STATIONS**

Wright Patterson AFB, OH, 20 May 1954-8 Jul 1959

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

On 10 April 1954, as a part of its plan to manage Air Force recruiting, ATC activated the 3500th USAF Recruiting Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. The command formed the new unit using personnel from the former 3500th Personnel Processing Group which had been assigned at Waco.

Air Training Command reassigned its 3500th USAF Recruiting Wing at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, from the headquarters to Technical Training Air Force, effective 1 January 1956. The

reason for that reassignment was because of the new program that integrated basic military and basic technical training. Between this consolidation and an earlier headquarters reduction, ATC had cut its authorized personnel strength by about 10,000 spaces.

Prior to the mid-1950s, recruiting for the Air Force had been a joint responsibility of the Air Force and the Army and, in 1951, Wright-Patterson opened a processing center for Air Force recruits.

On March 6, 1954, the Secretary of Defense ordered the Air Force to take over the job of recruiting its own military personnel. Consequently, the 3500th USAF Recruiting Wing (Air Training Command) was designated on April 10, 1954. In late April, representatives of the new Recruiting Wing arrived at WPAFB to arrange for the establishment and location of their headquarters at this installation. The headquarters was established on May 31, 1954, and the Wing began full operations in Buildings 287 and 288 (Area A) on July 1, 1954.

With an authorized strength of 422 officers, 2,723 airmen, and 53 civilians, the Wing consisted of its headquarters and six recruiting groups located in or near principal population centers in six areas of the United States. The mission of the 3500th USAF Recruiting Wing was to select from civilian sources a sufficient number of qualified men and women to meet the requirements of the USAF. The Wing also monitored the important career retention program. (In 1965, after 11 years at WPAFB, the 3500th moved to Randolph AFB, Texas.)

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In response to the need recognized by the Commander, 3500th USAF Recruiting Wing (Wright-Patterson AFB, OH), representatives of recruiting detachments whose recruits were assigned to Sampson for BMT, were invited to visit the base. It was felt this first-hand experience would enable recruiters to relate more accurate and personalized information regarding basic training at SAFE. The visitation plan consisted of initial visits to the Wing Training and Operations Office. Next, at the office of the Base Inspector, specific cases involving alleged recruiting misinformation or deficiencies were discussed and analyzed. Base officials believed such misinformation tended to increase the possibilities of trainees going AWOL. The 3650th BMTG Training and Operations unit (S-3) hosted the groups to discuss training policies and

procedures. They then went to a training squadron for the Commander's Welcoming Talk, including the topic of Fraudulent Enlistment, followed by a visit to a training barracks bay. Next stop on the itinerary was the 3650th Personnel Processing Squadron in Building F-5, where Aptitude Testing, Counseling, Career Classification, Career Exhibits were viewed. They then observed Clothing Issue, Medical Processing, and Chaplain's Orientation. Classes in Academic Building K-3 were visited, followed by a trip to the Field Training complex. During the period July-December, ten recruiter groups visited the base. Col. Charlie H. Bell, the Base Inspector, felt the visitations were mutually beneficial.

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