

## 3550 PILOT TRAINING WING



### MISSION

3550 Combat Crew Training Wing (Interceptor) mission was training all-weather interceptor pilots for the United States Air Force.

### LINEAGE

3550 Training Wing (Interceptor Aircrew) established, 1 Sep 1951

3550 Combat Crew Training Wing (Interceptor)

Redesignated 3550 Flying Training Wing (Advanced Interceptor), 15 Aug 1958

Redesignated 3550 Pilot Training Wing, 5 Jan 1961

Inactivated 1 Dec 1973

### STATIONS

Moody AFB, GA, 1 Sep 1951-1 Dec 1973

### ASSIGNMENTS

#### COMMANDERS

Col Robert R. Stewart

Col Lester S. Harris, #1959

#### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

### **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS**

During the summer of 1953 the mission of training the all-weather fighter crews began to be relocated to Moody AFB, Valdosta, Georgia, as Tyndall was becoming too crowded with all of these other programs. At Moody, the new unit was the 3550th Combat Crew Training Wing, which included the 3553rd Combat Crew Training Squadron that was dedicated to training F-89 crews. They received some of the later F-89Cs, which were then sent to operational squadrons along with their crews when the first classes were graduated, then these C models were replaced with early block F-89Ds.

From James Connelly, pilots and ROs moved to Moody AFB and the 3550th Combat Crew Training Wing for the final melding of the pilots and ROs as an interceptor team. Assignment to the F-89 program was not considered to be a happy choice, as the aircraft's reputation had not only presaged it, but the F-89 was also garnering a bad name at Moody with a high attrition rate in crews and aircraft. One dangerous maneuver that was initially required to be demonstrated was that of the split-s at night and on instruments, which resulted in some "spectacular nose dives straight into the swamp." This requirement was later removed from the curriculum.

In June 1957 the Advanced Phase of the navigator-radar interceptor course moved to James Connelly from Moody AFB and brought about the transfer of all of Moody's F-89s to James Connelly. In 1959 the F-89 training program was transferred entotal to James Connelly and 3550th PTW assumed responsibility for training both USAF and ANG crews until the program was phased out at the end of the Scorpion's career.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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#### Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
Unit yearbook. *Moody AFB, GA, 1958*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1958.