

3605th AIRCRAFT OBSERVER TRAINING WING

LINEAGE

STATIONS

Ellington AFB, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Norman L. Callish, #1956

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The first and only post-war USAF Navigator Training School. This designation was changed to the 3605th Observer Training Wing when a new Observer Training Program went into effect September 12, 1949.

Col. Benjamin T. Starkey assumed command on April 15, 1949. He was succeeded by Col. William L. Lee in March 1950, and he, in turn, was succeeded by Col. Merlin L. Carter in August 1952. Col. Norman L. Callish, the present commander, assumed command July 21, 1953.

The primary mission of the 3605th Aircraft Observer Wing is to train Observers to take their place as crew members in U. S. aircraft of the new jet age. The Primary-Basic Observer Training course, as conducted at this base, trains the students in academic and flying subjects such as electronics,

celestial, and radar navigation. Upon completion of this 42-week course, graduates are awarded the aeronautical rating of Aircraft Observer (AFSC 1531). They are then assigned either to an advanced observer course or are sent to operational units in other major commands as observers. With more ROTC graduates coming into the program, the Aviation Cadets started to phase out at Ellington during the last half of 1955. The main student body is now made up of young officers who do not have an aeronautical rating. These student officers are also being trained in a new Officer Development Course conducted at this base.

The aircraft used in the training program is the Convair T-29, commonly referred to as "The Flying Classroom." These aircraft are equipped with the most modern and up-to-date electronic equipment and air navigation instruments.

In addition to this primary mission, Ellington Air Force Base supports other essential Air Force activities, such as the 2578th Air Reserve Flying Center, charged with the flight training of Reserve personnel of the 444th Troop Carrier Wing. C-46 and C-45 type aircraft are used to accomplish this training mission. Extensive ground school facilities and repair shops are maintained to support this operation.

The 3605th Aircraft Observer Training Wing is charged with training the best Observers in the USAF. Ellington was one of the first bases to turn out the highly qualified technician trained in navigation, bombing and radar. Because of the high speed and altitude at which the present day planes operate, the Observer must be precise and adept. He must be able to translate the presentations on a radar scope, to distinguish between a mountain, thundercloud, or an isolated single target in a complex major city.

To take young men and mold them into the specialists they become is not a simple task. Military training must be rigorous, and the courses difficult, for these men are directly concerned with operating our country's Air Power.

Cadets, and officers of the USAF, and Foreign Nationals are enrolled in this training which includes Primary and Basic Observer training as well as Primary, Basic, and Aircraft Technical Upgrading.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources