

## 4315 COMBAT CREW TRAINING SQUADRON (MISSILE)



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

4315 Student Squadron designated and organized, 1 May 1958

Redesignated 4315 Combat Crew Training Squadron (Missile), 14 May 1963

### STATIONS

Cooke AFB (Later, Vandenberg AFB), CA

### ASSIGNMENTS

392 Air Base Group, 1 May 1958

704 Strategic Missile Wing, 15 Nov 1958

1 Missile Division (1STRAD), 1 Jul 1959

392 Strategic Missile Wing, 18 Oct 1961

1 Strategic Aerospace Division, 20 Dec 1961

4315 Combat Crew Training Squadron, 14 May 1963

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1970

1 STRAD, 14 Jan 1975

### COMMANDERS

Col. Grover C. Graves, Jr.

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## Decorations

### EMBLEM



On a grotto blue disc, in base a demi-sphere, AF blue edged and [grid-lined] white, horizontally above an Air Force yellow key with an AF blue book superimposed on it with white pages, in vertical position on top of the book, a gray missile, all detailed AF blue, emitting a red and AF yellow flame over demi-sphere. Below the emblem a blank AF yellow scroll edged AF blue. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The operational readiness trainings of Missile Combat Crews is depicted by the golden key which opens the book of knowledge. The missile in flight signifies the ultimate aim of Missile Combat Crew training. (Approved, 4 May 1964)

The operational readiness training of Missile Combat Crews is depicted by the golden key which opens the book of knowledge. The gray missile in flight with its red and yellow exhaust superimposed on a dark blue demi- sphere signifies the ultimate aim of Missile Combat Crew Training. A motto "Training - Keystone of Peace"- was approved in January 1974 so that the original design was altered adding a second identical scroll to the top of the disc.

### MOTTO

### OPERATIONS

Since it is responsible for the Strategic Air Command Missile Combat Crew Training Program, a prerequisite to combat readiness designation—all combat ready missile crew members within SAC have at one time or another completed the Operational Readiness Training (ORT) conducted by the squadron, and embryo missiliers who will man the operational sites in the future are awaiting their turn to attend. Every operational weapon system in SAC's deterrent fleet is represented in the vast curricula.

Missile Procedure: Trainers which precisely simulate the conditions and equipment involved in an actual launch are used to train officer and enlisted students in as operationally realistic an atmosphere as is possible. The newest training section in the squadron covers the Airborne Launch Control System (ALCS). Student and instructor training programs are constantly monitored for currency and sufficiency.

Training standards are developed for new and improved programs of instruction to take care of new missile systems or modifications of existing systems within SAC. Because of the multiple weapon systems involved in the instruction, personnel assigned to the 4315th CCTS must be specialists in their assigned system and are selected from the most highly qualified and experienced available. Many of the instructors were on instructor or standardization crews of the operational units before joining the 4315th. Many participated in the Minuteman Air Force Institute of Technology and received Master's Degrees from various civilian institutions.

All are eminently qualified by experience and personality to teach a wide variety of students of all ranks in an equally wide variety of subjects. Some are even called upon to instruct general officers and high-ranking civilian personnel of the Department of Defense and all three armed services in the Ballistic Missile Staff Course, a familiarization course on the various ballistic missile and space programs conducted here at Vandenberg.

The 4315th CCTS assumed its present role as a Combat Crew Training Sq. (Missile) May 15, 1963, taking over the training of missile combat crews previously conducted by the 576th, 394th and 395th Missile Squadrons. Since that time, over 6,000 missiliers have received their operational readiness training from the squadron, while thousands of high ranking military and civilian personnel in the government have attended the Ballistic Missile Staff Course.

In recent years, the squadron has been required to expand its techniques into other fields, particularly by working with personnel of the 3901st SMES during the annual SAC Missile Competition. In these competitions, the best Combat Crews from operational units travel to Vandenberg to test their skills on the 4315th CCTS Missile Procedures Trainers to determine the "Best Missiliers in SAC." During the first such competition in 1967 and the second held this year, combat ready crews performed difficult exercises under the close observation of personnel from the 4315<sup>th</sup> and the 3901st SMES.

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