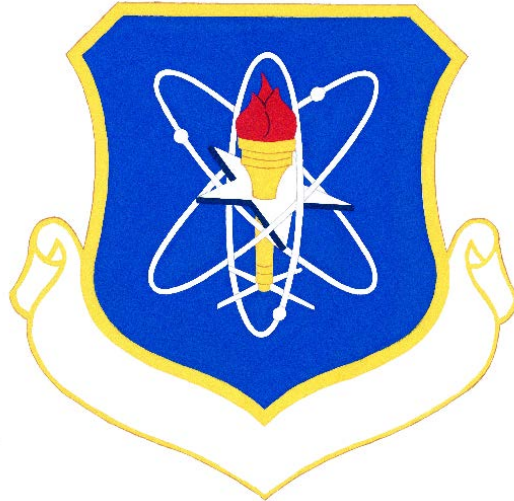


KEESLER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER



LINEAGE

STATIONS

Keelser AFB, MS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Keesler Technical Training Center:

Maj Gen John R. Sutherland	1 Jan 59
Maj Gen John S. Hardy	12 Jul 60
Maj Gen Romulus W. Puryear	27 Jul 64
Maj Gen James C. McGehee	1 Aug 67
Maj Gen Thomas E. Moore	1 Aug 69
Maj Gen Frank M. Madsen, Jr.	29 Nov 69
Maj Gen Bryan M. Shotts	26 Feb 73
Maj Gen Winfield W. Scott, Jr.	1 Aug 75
Maj Gen John S. Pustay	29 Jul 77
Maj Gen Don H. Payne	24 May 79
Maj Gen Thomas C. Richards	8 May 82
Maj Gen Thomas J. Hickey	26 Sep 83
Maj Gen James G. Jones	18 Aug 86
Maj Gen Paul A. Harvey	22 Jun 88
Brig Gen Paul E. Stein	30 Aug 91

Keesler Training Center:

Brig Gen Paul E. Stein 14 Feb 92
Maj Gen John C. Griffith 30 Apr 92

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

1969/1970

MAJ GEN JERRY D. PAGE ASSUMED COMMAND OF SHEPPARD TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTER (STTC) FROM MAJ GEN JOHN M. McNABB ON 19 AUG 1969.

MISSION OF STTC TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL MILITARY AND TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR OFFICERS AND AIRMEN OF THE AIR FORCE, AIR FORCE RESERVE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) AGENCIES.

Previously home to the largest airplane and engine mechanics school in the United States, Keesler entered a new decade determined to develop the best radar and communications training program in the world—an important goal as the deepening tensions between the democratic West and the communist East came to be called the Cold War. To attain this goal, Keesler sought funding for new and expanded classrooms and student dormitories needed to replace the "temporary" facilities it had worked in and lived with for over nine years. Those plans were abruptly set aside when the Cold War suddenly turned hot in a small Asian country called Korea.

The North Korean People's Army moved swiftly into South Korea in June 1950; defending U.S. forces were taken by surprise, and for a brief time the aggressors threatened to push them into the sea. Within days, the Air Force had assumed a virtual wartime operating tempo and by mid-July, Keesler's technical school had adopted a six-day work schedule to graduate the additional radio and electronics technicians needed in the Far East. Shortages of trained manpower impacted other USAF skill specialties as well, and Keesler again began to provide basic training to incoming recruits. In late 1951, Air Training Command opened two new basic training centers—one at

Sampson AFB, New York, and the other at Parks AFB, California—thereby downsizing that facet of Keesler's mission. Even so, Keesler still did not have the suitable facilities to accommodate its increased population.

The 1950s also meant organizational change for Keesler. Since August 1948, the 3380th Technical Training Wing had controlled all base activities. Under it were four subordinate units: the 3380th Technical Training Group, which operated the school; the 3380th Maintenance and Supply Group; the 3380th Air Base Group; and the 3380th Medical Group. In 1955, a fifth group was added—the 3380th Installations Group. That arrangement continued until 1 January 1959, when Air Training Command redesignated the wing as Headquarters, Keesler Technical Training Center (KTTC). At the same time, the training group was redesignated the 3380th Technical School, USAF, and all of its subordinate student squadrons were renamed school squadrons.

1 Jan 1959 Air Training Command redesignated the 3380th Technical Training Wing as the Keesler Technical Training Center and the 3380th Technical Training Group became the 3380th Technical School, USAF. All student squadrons became school squadrons.

1 Jan 1978 The USAF Technical Training School, Keesler, transferred from the 3300th Technical Training Wing to Keesler Technical Training Center.

1 Nov 1979 Air Training Command designated and activated the 3300th Technical Training Wing. Air Training Command reassigned the USAF Technical Training School, Keesler, from Keesler Technical Training Center to the 3300th Technical Training Wing.

14 Feb 1992 Air Training Command (ATC) redesignated the technical training center as Keesler Training Center, the 3300th Technical Training Wing became a group, and all technical training groups became squadrons. At the same time, Air Training Command inactivated the 3305th Student Group and its subordinate units. Also in line with this reorganization, the command redesignated the Keesler Technical Training Center Medical Center as the Keesler Medical Center.

In February 1992, Air Training Command redesignated the base's host unit as Keesler Training Center (KTC). The 3300th Technical Training Wing downsized and became a group, and its component technical training groups became squadrons. The 3305th Student Group also inactivated along with its subordinate squadrons. In mid-September all of the 3380th numbered units assumed the 393d designation, as the base further realigned itself to conform to the Air Force's objective wing structure. In addition, the technical training group assumed the 393d designation and its nine technical training and training support squadrons were renumbered to better reflect the new, simplified organizational arrangement.

1 Jul 1993 The command inactivated Keesler Training Center and all of its subordinate organizations, with the exception of the 393d Technical Training Group, which was redesignated as the 81st Technical Training Group.

Yet another major change occurred on 1 July 1993, when Keesler Training Center inactivated and its lineage and honors retired. On the same day, the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing, formerly located at RAF Bentwaters, United Kingdom, was redesignated the 81st Training Wing and concurrently activated to serve as Keesler's host organization. At the same time, HQ USAF redesignated Air Training Command as Air Education and Training Command (AETC) and activated Second Air Force at Keesler. Its mission was to oversee all technical training conducted within AETC.

Technical Training Bases Reorganized. Concerned that the size of each of the technical training bases was more than a single commander could successfully manage, in late 1958 General Smith asked Headquarters USAF for permission to redesignate the technical training wings as training centers. Headquarters USAF approved the request. Effective 1 January 1959, ATC renamed its military training wing and all five of its technical training wings. The 3700th Military Training Wing became the Lackland Military Training Center; while the 3320th Technical Training Wing was redesignated as Amarillo Technical Training Center; the 3345th, Chanute Technical Training Center; the 3380th, Keesler Technical Training Center; the 3415th, Lowry Technical Training Center; and the 3750th, Sheppard Technical Training Center.

Technical Training Center Reorganization. In an effort to standardize organization and save manpower, Air Training Command implemented a reorganization of all technical training centers on 4 January 1971. The command aligned comptroller, civil engineering, personnel, administrative, and band functions under the air base group and designated the air base group commander as base commander. Additionally, the command did away with the commandant of troops position at each of the technical training wings. In place of the wing staff position, on 1 March 1971, Air Training Command activated numbered student groups at each of the centers to manage the troops.

On 1 August 1972, ATC changed the name to the School of Military Sciences, Officer. This coincided with a similar name change for the Basic Military Training School at Lackland to the School of Military Sciences, Airman and the renaming of the schools at the technical training centers to School of Applied Aerospace Sciences. The idea behind these changes was to raise the prestige of the schools in the eyes of the civilian academic community. At that time, the Community College of the Air Force was seeking accreditation for a wide variety of courses. However, the name changes proved more confusing than helpful, and ATC reverted to the original designations on 8 April 1974.

Training Command inactivated the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences at each of its technical training centers and activated numbered technical training wings in their place on 1 April 1977. These included the 3250th Technical Training Wing at Lackland, the 3300th at Keesler, the 3330th at Chanute, the 3400th at Lowry, and the 3700th at Sheppard. Several months later Air Training Command published a second order that inactivated the wings effective 1 January 1978, based on realignment actions proposed by the Cadou study. (These wings were again activated in November 1979.) 1977

Keesler Air Force Base

Located at Biloxi, this base opened in 1941 as an Air Corps technical and basic training facility. After the war, basic training ceased, but the student population actually increased as technical training activities were consolidated here. The radar school arrived from Boca Raton, Florida, to join the mechanical schools in 1947 to make Keesler one of the Air Force's two largest technical school complexes. In 1949, mechanical training was shifted to Sheppard AFB, Texas, and Keesler focused on electronics training. The Air Training Command base was operated by the 3380th Technical Training Wing.

Keesler had become and remained the largest training base within ATC. During the 1970s, improvements in living quarters and medical facilities were made. In 1972, the 3380th Technical School was redesignated as the USAF School of Applied Aerospace Sciences. In 1977, this command was redesignated as the 3300th Technical Training Wing. An airborne electronics system training facility was completed in 1977. Computer programming and operator training was consolidated here in 1979. With the end of the Cold War leading to closure of other technical training facilities, Keesler remains as the Air Force's premier technical training center.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources