

OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL

MISSION

LINEAGE

USAF Officer Candidate School
Officer Candidate School, USAF

STATIONS

Lackland AFB, TX,

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

On 17 February 1942, General Arnold directed the Technical Training Command to establish an Officer Candidate School (OCS). General Weaver located it at Miami Beach, where it activated on 21 February 1942 and continued to operate until June 1944, when it moved to the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center at the site of what later became Lackland Air Force Base. In June

1945 the Officer Candidate School again transferred to Maxwell Field, Alabama. The Officer Candidate School began as a 12-week course, but it expanded to 16 weeks in 1943. It also began as a uniform program for all officer candidates, but after 1943 the last phase of training was divided into specialized training for adjutants and personnel officers, as well as supply, mess, intelligence, guard company, and training officers. Later, it expanded to include physical training and technical officers as well. Then, in October 1944 as enrollment declined, the school dropped the specialized training altogether. Through the end of the war, the school graduated a total of 29,106 officers. These graduates had entered the school from a variety of backgrounds. Some were warrant officers or enlisted men who met the standards for admission to officer training. These sources were not adequate to meet all of the needs of the Army air arm so it commissioned some individuals with special qualifications directly from civilian life. These people required some military training, so Technical Training Command also set up an Officer Training School (OTS) at Miami Beach to provide six weeks of military instruction. It became an integral but separate part of OCS in June 1942. Most OTS students were 30 years old or more, with the bulk of them in their 30s or 40s. They came from all walks of life, but most were teachers, businessmen, or professionals. The majority was slated for administrative or instructional duties in the Army Air Forces, but others became ferry pilots. Beginning in the winter of 1942, Medical, Dental, and Sanitary Corps officers also attended Officer Training School in courses separate from those for other officers. On 26 June 1943, OTS terminated its activities, but by that date it had trained a total of 13,898 students, of whom 13,284 graduated.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 1 Jan 2023
Updated:

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