

4750 AIR DEFENSE WING (WEAPONS)



MISSION

LINEAGE

4750 Training Wing (Air Defense) designated and organized, 1 Sep 1953
Redesignated 4750 Air Defense Wing (Weapons), 1 Sep 1954
Discontinued, 25 Jun 1960

STATIONS

Yuma County Airport (later Vincent AFB), AZ, 1 September 1953
MacDill AFB, FL, 1 June 1959

ASSIGNMENTS

Western Air Defense Force, Sep 1953
Air Defense Command, 1 Oct 1953
73 Air Division, 1 July 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Col Robert F. Worley, 1 Sep 1953
Col Milton H. Askins, 1956
Col Robert P. Baldwin, 1 Jul 1958
Col Benjamin H. King, 27 Oct 1958

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Awards Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Sep 1953-1 Nov 1957

EMBLEM

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

4750th Air Defense Wing (Weapons) was responsible for providing weapons proficiency training for fighter-interceptor squadrons of the Air Defense Command. It operates facilities at Vincent and Moody Air Force Base, Georgia, for air-to-air rocket firing for more than 60 all-weather interceptor squadrons which report annually for the 30-day rocket firing proficiency program. AC&W ground controllers also report annually for the 30-day controllers proficiency course.

The Wing's mission was to plan, organize, supervise and control the operations of the ADC Weapons Proficiency Centers. In addition to conducting the gunnery training, the wing was also responsible for developing improved gunnery training methods and supplying units with information on programs and solutions relative to weapons and techniques.

The first visiting units provided their own ammunition, targets and tow aircraft, but in succeeding months the base took over these services in addition to providing spare parts and assistance in major repairs and maintenance of aircraft.

The gunnery range which was used then, and still is used, is a large, deserted area southeast of the base and extending east for some 70 miles.

The gunnery range used is a portion of the Luke Bombing and Gunnery Range which extends eastward from Yuma along the Mexican border for some 170 miles. The proximity of the range, together with the excellent prevailing weather conditions make Yuma ideal for this type of operation.

All ADC pilots or crews were expected to fly forty air-to-air gunnery or rocket missions per year, and squadrons were rotated to Yuma/Vincent from their home bases to conduct these operations. The 4750th also ran and hosted the annual air defense aerial gunnery and rocketry competitions between 1953 and 1956. (There was no meet in 1957. In 1958 the competition was moved to Tyndall AFB.)

Wing had a similar numbered Group and Squadrons also based at Vincent, which in reality was one of the few Air Force bases run by fighter pilots for fighter pilots. The 4750th was responsible for all live air-to-air rocketry and cannon qualifications for Air Defense Command fighters, squadrons, and crews until the more sophisticated and longer ranged Falcon and Genie missiles came into use and required more geographical space than the Arizona Range had available and the entire operation had to be relocated to Tyndall AFB. The 4750th TW(AD,W) also included the 4750th Test Squadron which had a detachment at Griffiss AFB, New York. This detachment was involved with the development and then the operational testing and evaluation of the tracking systems for the XF-99 Bomarc anti-aircraft missile.

In late 1956 both the F-89 and F-94 gunnery and rocket proficiency training programs that had also been conducted at Moody AFB were relocated to Yuma County Airport, Arizona, where the 4750th Training Wing (Air Defense) was based. The curriculum remained the same but came under some trying times during the periods of summer heat as flying could only be conducted during the early morning hours or in the early evening. It often got so hot that the asphalt would give way under the heavy F-89s, and the runway became far too short for safe takeoffs or landings in the ambient air conditions.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit history. 4750th Air Defense Wing (Defense), Vincent AFB, AZ. 1958.