

73rd Air Division At Tyndall Gets New Mission, Will Provide Combat Ready Crews For Defense

TYNDALL AFB — A new mission, that of providing fully combat ready aircrews to the Air Defense Command's Fighter - Interceptor Squadrons, will go into effect in September for the 73rd Air Division and Tyndall AFB, according to an announcement from Brig. Gen. Robert W. Burns, commander of the 73rd Air Division at Tyndall.

In making the announcement, Gen. Burns stated that the Air Defense Command's job of guarding and protecting North America from air attacks, demands the aircrews of supersonic interceptors maintain the highest degree of combat effectiveness. To accomplish this, aircrew training methods must be improved to keep pace with improvements in weapons systems and an enemy's threat capability.

It is to meet this necessity of having the best trained aircrews that has brought about the new job for Tyndall AFB.

Under the old concept of training, pilots coming into ADC were transitioned and received initial combat training in the F-102 aircraft at Perrin AFB, Texas under the Air Training Command. All aircrews that were assigned to F-101 or F-106 squadrons received this transition, combat crew and continuation training within their own unit.

Later all aircrews were deployed to Tyndall AFB with their squadrons to receive the final portions of their training and to fire the primary weapons for their respective aircraft.

A new concept which has gone into effect makes ADC responsible for all transition and combat crew training of interceptor aircrews for the continental United States and overseas commands. This will be accomplished through the 73rd Air Division's two bases. The F-102 students will receive training at Perrin AFB, which came under ADC command July 1, and the F-101 and F-106 students will be trained at Tyndall AFB.

All students from both bases will fire armament at Tyndall prior to their assignment to a fighter interceptor squadron. This concept will provide fully combat capable aircrews to the fighter interceptor units, saving them many months of training which in the past had to be completed in the squadron.

The training of the F-102 pilots is already under way at Perrin AFB and the first trial classes are scheduled to be held at Tyndall AFB in September. By October, Tyndall is expected to begin regular classes with a full peak load by mid-November.

Flight deployment of fighter-interceptor units as has been conducted in the past at Tyndall, will be replaced by a select firing program to evaluate capability and to improve interceptor tactics and techniques under supervision of the Test Squadron.

The Air Defense Command, which is the Air Force component

as the Weapons School, Senior Officers Course, NORAD Commanders Course, Interceptor Weapons Testing and Air Training Command's Weapons Controller School, will remain the same as in the past.



Brig. Gen. ROBERT W. BURNS
... reports on Tyndall's new mission

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