

Paul W. Airey NCO Academy

Building 837, (850) 283-3238

The Airey NCO Academy has a long and proud history. It began in March 1957 at Otis AFB, Massachusetts. It was the Air Defense Command's (ADC) first NCO Academy. In 1959, the Academy moved temporarily to Stewart AFB, New York; and then to Hamilton AFB, California in 1960. The first CMSAF, Paul W. Airey, graduated from the Academy at that location. The Academy remained at Hamilton AFB until August 1973 when ADC moved the school to Tyndall AFB, Florida. In December 1975, the ADC NCO Academy received member accreditation with the Commission on Occupational Education Institutions of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The academy moved into its present academic complex in October of 1978. The facility was constructed at a cost of almost 1.5 million dollars and was designed specifically for the NCO Academy.

On 1 October 1979, the ADC NCO Academy became the Tactical Air Command NCO Academy-East. The first enlisted commandant was CMSgt James E. Steinmark. In December 1980, the academy received full collegiate accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commissions on Colleges.

Then on 1 June 1992, the school became the Air Combat Command NCO Academy-Tyndall. On 1 November 1993, it became part of Air University with the establishment of the College for Enlisted Professional Military Education, and was known as the Tyndall NCO Academy. Recently, the Tyndall NCO Academy was renamed the Paul W. Airey NCO Academy. This took place on 13 December 2006, Chief Airey's birthday. It will now be known as the Airey NCO Academy at Tyndall.

The Airey NCO Academy has a rich 52-year history. Besides Chief Airey, it has had three other CMSAFs graduate from it. They are: CMSAF (#12) Benken, CMSAF (#13) Finch; and CMSAF (#15) McKinley. In September 1992, the Academy witnessed the occasion of its 20,000th graduate.