Test Pilot School
General Info Folder

Attachment 1
Brief Chronology of USAF TPS Lineage

- 9 Sep1944 – USAAF Air Technical Service Command (ATSC) Flight Test Training Unit established at Wright Field, OH.
- Jan 1945 – Renamed ATSC Flight Performance School and moved to Vandalia Airport, OH.
- Nov 1945 – Moved to Patterson Field, OH.
- 9 Mar 1946 – Redesignated Air Materiel Command (AMC) Flight Performance School.
- 1949 – Renamed AMC Experimental Test Pilot School (TPS).
- 4 Feb 1951 – AMC Experimental Test Pilot School moved to Edwards AFB, CA.
- 2 Apr 1951 – Redesignated Air Research and Development Command (ARDC) Experimental Test Pilot School.
- 1 Jan 1953 – Redesignated USAF Test Pilot School.
- 9 Jun 1955 – Renamed USAF Flight Test Pilot School (note: from this date until 12 October 1961, the school was also called: USAF Flight Test School, USAF Experimental Flight Test Pilot School, and USAF Flight Test Pilot School).
- 3 Jul 1956 – Approval of the TPS shield was granted by HQ USAF in accordance with AFR 900-3.
- 12 Oct 1961 – USAF Flight Test Pilot School redesignated USAF Aerospace Research Pilot School (expanded curriculum to include first-of-its-kind astronaut training program for U.S. military test pilots).
- 1 Jul 1972 – Redesignated USAF Test Pilot School (resulted from military man-in-space program termination; has remained the designation up through the present).
- 15 May 1973 – The USAF Test Pilot School was officially inactivated as a "Named Activity" and a new USAF TPS was constituted and activated as an altogether different "Named Unit." Technically, this meant that the "Named Activity's" lineage—and the shield that was approved for it in 1956—were no longer applicable. As a "Named Unit," the TPS effectively became a squadron-level organization and therefore only entitled to wear a disk emblem. Unfortunately, neither AFMC/HO nor AFFTC/HO have been able to locate any documentation indicating that the MAJCOM HQ at the time, HQ Air Force Systems Command, ever conveyed this information to the TPS or AFFTC. Thus no one ever did anything about getting approval for a new emblem (or approval to continue to use the old emblem). This issue was not addressed in the 1992-94 CSAF emblem review and thus the school continued to use the old emblem. The issue did not surface until the CSAF's 2006-07 review when the emblem was found to be out of compliance and, in fact, never approved for the "new" USAF TPS.