

Fifteenth Squadron

The Fifteenth is an outstanding example of a squadron based solidly on the experience of cadets drawn from older, already established units. When the Fifteenth was originated on August 17, 1960, it was comprised entirely of upperclassmen shifted from the Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth squadrons, and was commanded by Cadet Ruben A. Cubero. The AOC at this time was Captain Leon McCrary.

No one looking back at this squadron could hope to appreciate its unique esprit without taking into account its dominant personalities. Characteristically still moving with cocky stride across the Fifteenth's memories is Howard "The Shark" Bodenhamer, marked by his levi's, his cowboy boots, and the ubiquitous black hat. And the fire of Ruben Cubero blends distinctively against the background laid down by more conservative cadets such as Austin Wedemeyer and Ken Needham. However, it isn't as a colorful squadron that the Fifteenth has really made its mark.

Probably the dominant facet of this squadron's image is that of quiet professionalism. Laid down at its inception, this has endured. Always high academically, the Fifteenth was consistently among the top three academic squadrons during 1960-61, and placed nine out of its fifteen second classmen on the Dean's List in the spring of 1961. This same year the squadron won the Wing rugby championship, and pulled up a close third in Honor Squadron competition.

In July 1961 Major David E. Fitton and Captain Charles S. Steen (USA) replaced Captain McCrary as AOCs. Shortly afterwards Cadet William R. O'Rourke was selected to command the squadron for the first semester