

Sixteenth Squadron

The Sixteenth Squadron has been involved in two changes in its evolution - the first a change in personnel, and the second a change in numerical designation. Eleventh Squadron was created in June 1958 by drawing cadets from other squadrons. In June 1961 the Eleventh became the Sixteenth. Not illogically, the Sixteenth's present sponsor is the Eleventh Strategic Aerospace Wing, Altus AFB, Oklahoma.

When first activated as the Eleventh, (1958) the Sixteenth was commanded by Cadet Arthur Elser. The AOC at this time was Captain William Banta (USMC). The following year, Major Guy E. Hairston assumed the job of Air Officer Commanding. The cadet command fell heir first to Kenneth Bickle, and then to Richard Head. Probably the chief trait characterizing the present Sixteenth originated while it was still the Eleventh Squadron. Difficult to categorically define, it is best called "casual concentration."

In 1960-61, command of the Sixteenth shifted first to the shoulders of Cadet James E. Wilhelm and then to Teney K. Takahashi. Major Guy Hairston continued in his position of Air Officer Commanding.

Throughout its brief history, this squadron has enjoyed exceptional rapport between its AOCs and the cadet command. Perhaps because of this, the Sixteenth has been able to combine "casualness" with accomplishments. During the spring of 1959, for example, it won Wing championships in both speedball and rugby. In 1961 it added to its athletic reputation by topping the Wing in handball. Then, in the spring of '61, it baffled skeptics by finishing first academically in the Wing for that year.

With the '61 changes within the COC shop, Captains Charles Hammond and Robert Owens succeeded Major Hairston as the AOCs of the Sixteenth.