

121 FIELD MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

Detachment A, 221 Air Service Group (Ftr) activated, 2 Nov 1947

121st Maintenance Squadron (Fighter)

Redesignated 121 Field Maintenance Squadron

STATIONS

Dayton Municipal Airport, Vandalia, OH

Springfield ANG Base, Springfield, OH

ASSIGNMENTS

55 Fighter Wing, 1947-1950

121 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1950-1959

COMMANDERS

LTC William D. Littlejohn, Nov 1947

Maj Ronald S. Huey, Feb 1956

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Concurrent with the re-activation and receipt of federal recognition of the 162nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron, the Detachment A 221st Air Service Group (Ftr) was activated receiving its Federal recognition simultaneously on 2 November 1947. The Det A's parent Group Headquarters (221st Air Base Group) was located at Cleveland, Ohio commanded by Col Robert K (Mike) Kelly. Detachment A was initially commanded (2 Nov 47-31 Dec 48) by Maj James A. Lee. On 1 Jan 49 thru Mar 56, Det A was commanded by Capt William D. (Bill) Littlejohn. Bill also served as the full-time (air technician) Base Maintenance Officer. Later designations of Det A were: 121st Maintenance Squadron (Ftr); Field Maintenance Squadron, and Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

The primary mission of the Det A and its subsequent designation were responsible for the Organizational and Field Level maintenance of the aircraft, airframes, engines, and allied maintenance, armament and electronic systems and equipment; munitions, loading, release, gun services; storage and handling of all the assigned weapon systems of the Tactical Fighter Squadron. In addition, the responsibility of performing maintenance on all support aircraft, support equipment and transient aircraft was inherited and accomplished. The early days of operation were most trying, as the receipt of aircraft consistently and predominantly preceded the delivery of most hand and special tools, ground support, and servicing equipment. Much improvising and borrowing was necessary during the initial years of operation in order to provide operational aircraft to the parent tactical squadron. This immense roadblock was hurdled mainly because of a few highly-skilled, dedicated, enlisted maintenance personnel, initially selected to perform/accomplish the organizations assigned maintenance mission. The equipment/facilities that are now provided definitely make the "Ole Rope" a lot easier to push.

During the subsequent years, several major aircraft conversion, F-51D, F-51H, F-84E, F-84F, F-100D, have followed, always being accomplished in a commendable manner causing very little interruption to the flying operations. Support aircraft maintained and serviced by this organization over the years included the AT-6, AT-11, B-26, C-45, C-47 and C-54. On 23 February 1956, Lt Col Bill Littlejohn relinquished command of the then "Field Maintenance Squadron" to Maj Ronald S. Huey. Maj Huey had served during World War II for approximately 6 Vz years and had entered the Air National Guard in June 1948 wherein he was assigned as a Personal Equipment Officer in the 121st Fighter Group. Prior to his going on active duty during the Korean Conflict (1951), he was assigned as a Maintenance Officer in the 121st Maintenance Squadron. Upon his return from active duty (1953), he returned to the Field Maintenance Squadron as a Maintenance Officer and became the Squadron Commander in Feb 1956.

One of the primary problems facing the Squadron was "Recruiting" of new enlistees. The recruiting problem was attacked vigorously and then came the job of training these personnel into effective airmen. This was accomplished by both OJT programs and thru the use of ECI

courses. The 121st Field Maintenance Squadron was under the control of the 121st Maintenance and Supply Group which was located at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Ohio. When Fighter Squadrons of the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing would deploy to a field training base, the Field Maintenance Squadron would also deploy and would accomplish that maintenance beyond organizational level. The Field Maintenance Squadron would be supplemented by personnel assigned to the Field Maintenance Squadron at other bases (i.e. Mansfield and Lockbourne). Maj Huey, now Lt Col Huey, was commander of the Squadron until December 1959 when the Squadron was inactivated.

Air Force Unit Histories

Created: 22 Dec 2020

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.