

123 AIR BASE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

123 Air Base Group federally recognized, 4 Jan 1954
Inactivated, 30 Jun 1957

STATIONS

Charlotte, NC

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Henry C. Byrd, Jr.

Maj Samuel Martin, 1952-1953

Col William Dunn Ott, 1953

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

123rd Air Base Group contained support units for the 156th.

Former 118th personnel from the Charlotte area, on their return from Korean service, were reassigned to the 156th Fighter-Bomber Squadron and to the 123rd Air Base Group, which contained support units for the 156th.

Lt Col Henry C. Byrd, Jr. returned from active duty in 1952 to command the newly formed 123rd Air Base Group. The 123rd was federally recognized on 4 January 1954.

On 3 Dec 1953 the 123rd Air Base Group was transferred to the State of North Carolina by Order of the Secretary of the Air Force and under the provisions of the National Defense Act of 1916, as amended. This action, in effect, transferred the 123rd Air Base Group from the Kentucky Air National Guard to the North Carolina Air National Guard.

The 123rd Air Base Group, and subordinate units, played a major role in the North Carolina Air National Guard until its inactivation effective 30 Jun 1957. The Group and subordinate units, at this time, were relinquished to the National Guard Bureau. The reason for inactivation of the 123rd Air Base Group was the allocation of the 145th Fighter Group (Air Defense) and subordinate units to the North Carolina Air National Guard effective 1 Jul 1957.

A 123d Air Base Group came into being from July-November with Lt Col William "Dick" Senn in command. During that time Lt Col Sam Martin took charge of the old 123d Maintenance and Supply Group but the Air Base Group was shelved again (it had existed during the 1952-53 period) and Senn resumed command of the M&S Group. As late as 1959 Kentucky and Arkansas were still disputing which state should have control of the 123d Air Base Group. Eventually, however, Maj Gen Winston P. Wilson, the chief of NGB, decided in favor of Arkansas, thus ending the discussion.

March 31-April 1 1960... The 123d Tactical Reconnaissance Group and the 123d Maintenance and Supply Group were inactivated as of March 31. On April 1 the 123d Armament-Electronics Maintenance Sq was activated and the 123d Field Maintenance Sq was redesignated as the 123d Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Sq. The 123d Transportation Sq and 123d Air Base Group were assigned to Arkansas but located in Louisville.

April 1951, A Douglas C-47D Skytrain (built as a C-47B-1-DK), 43-48298, of the 123d Air Base Group, Godman AFB, Kentucky, with nine officers and 12 enlisted men on board to attend the funeral of a pilot who died in a crash Thursday, crashes eight miles NE of Kanawha Airport, Charleston, West Virginia, when it clips the top of a hill at 1156 hrs. Nineteen are killed and two suffer serious burns. Wreckage of the plane was scattered over an area 250 feet wide by 100 feet long. A section of earth was gouged out on the side of the hill where the plane struck. It then apparently vaulted over the top of the hill and struck 50 feet on the other side, where it sheared off trees. Several Air Force veterans said if the plane had been 30 feet higher it would have cleared the hill top. At the time of the crash it was misting rain and the ceiling was almost at tree-top level. Pilot was Lt. Col. James K. McLaughlin of Charleston, deputy commanding officer of the 123d Fighter-Bomber Wing, of which the men are members. The

two injured men were taken to Staats Hospital, where attendants said they had a 50-50 chance of surviving. They were identified as Capt. Harry K. Blackhurst of Charleston and Maj. Isaac E. Bonifas of Portland, Indiana. The airmen were to comprise an honor guard for the funeral at St. Albans yesterday of Maj. Woodford W. (Jock) Sutherland, 34. Sutherland, who was also stationed at Godman Air Force Base, was killed in a ground crash when his F-51 collided with another fighter at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida.

Air Force Unit Histories

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Sources

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