

142 FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

371 Fighter Group constituted, 25 May 1943
Activated, 15 Jul 1943
Inactivated, 10 Nov 1945
Redesignated 142 Fighter Group
Allotted to ANG (Ore), 24 May 1946
Extended federal recognition, 30 Aug 1946
Redesignated 142 Fighter Interceptor Group, Apr 1951
Redesignated
Redesignated 142 Fighter Group
Redesignated 142 Fighter Interceptor Group, 1 Oct 1972

STATIONS

Richmond AAB, VA, 15 Jul 1943
Camp Springs AAFld, MD, 30 Sep 1943
Richmond AAB, VA, 18 Jan-14 Feb 1944
Bisterne, England, Mar 1944
Beuzeville, France, Jun 1944
Perthes, France, 18 Sep 1944
Dole/Tavaux, France, 1 Oct 1944
Tantonville, France, 20 Dec 1944
Metz, France, 15 Feb 1945

Frankfurt/ Eschborn, Germany, 7 Apr 1945
Furth, Germany, 5 May 1945
Horsching, Austria, 16 Aug 1945
Stuttgart, Germany, Sep-Oct 1945
Camp Shanks, NY, 9-10 Nov 1945
Portland Mun Aprt, OR, A1Mar 1951
O'Hare Intl Aprt, IL, 11 Apr 1951-6 Feb 1952
Portland, OR

ASSIGNMENTS

Air Defense Command

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

O-47, 1941
O-49, 1941
O-46, 1941
BC-1, 1941
B-25, 1943
DB-7, 1943
P-39, 1943
F-5, 1944
B-25, 1945
F-51, 1946
C-47, 1952
F-86, 1953
F-94, 1954
B-25, 1957
F-89, 1957
F-102, 1966
F-101, 1971

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

Col Bingham T Kleine, 27 Jul 1943
LTC William P McBride, c. Sep 1945-unkn
Col Harold W Scruggs, 1951-Feb 1952
Col Waldo Timm
LTC Patrick O'Grady August 1962
LTC Jack Dobler August. Dobler

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Germany, 15-21 Mar 1945

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army
6 Jun-30 Sep 1944

EMBLEM

Azure, issuing from a barrulet engrailed, argent, a demi sun in splendour, or; in chief a stylized futuramic aircraft gules, fimbriated of the second; issuing from base a mountain of three peaks vert, capped argent. (Approved, 24 Jul 1951)

MOTTO

SEMPER VIGILANS—Always on Guard

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 371 Fighter Group (FG) was allocated to Oregon and redesignated the 142 FG on May 24, 1946. As the 371 FG, the unit was originally activated on July 15, 1943 in Richmond, Virginia and assigned to First Air Force. The 371st received credit for campaigns in Normandy, Central Europe, Northern France, Rhineland, and participated in the Air Offensive Europe. They received a presidential citation for exceptional heroism during 1945. The 371st was inactivated at Camp Shanks, New York in 1945 and the 123 Fighter Squadron (SE) was assigned to the newly-allocated group. It was then that the unit was first tasked with a fighter mission and assigned the F-51, which they flew until the early 1950s.

The 142 FG was comprised of 75 officers and 800 enlisted men and divided into Headquarters 142 Fighter Group, 123 Fighter Squadron, 123 Utility Flight, 123 Weather Station, Headquarters and Detachment A, 242 Air Service Group, 142 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron and the 1810 Aviation Engineer Company.

Ordered into active service on 1 Mar 1951

Inactivated on 6 Feb 1952

Returned to ANG and activated, on 1 Dec 1952

September 1953: The 142 FIG converted to the F-86A. With this new aircraft, the unit officially became part of the Air Defense mission.

Four polio patients were flown home to Oregon aboard the 142 FG's C-47. Commercial travel was unavailable to them because of the special electrical requirements of the patients' respirators. The aircraft was modified to accommodate the patients' special equipment, and a medical team made up of Oregon Guard members accompanied the flight. The patients were picked up in California and returned to their homes in Salem, LaGrande and Astoria. Maj. Gordon Gemmel and 1 Lt. Robert White piloted the plane. MSgt. Dave MacKinnon and TSgt. Kenny Powers were the crew chiefs.

July 1972: The 142d FG underwent an Initial Capability Inspection to determine the unit's ability to perform its mission in the newly-received F-101B. The group passed with flying colors. The 142d Fighter Group was redesignated the 142d Fighter Interceptor Group that following October.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.