

164 AIRLIFT SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

363 Fighter Squadron constituted and activated, 1 Dec 1942
Inactivated, 20 Aug 1946
Reconstituted and redesignated 164 Fighter Squadron and allotted to OH NG, 24 May 1946
164 Fighter Squadron (SE) extended federal recognition, 20 Jun 1948
Redesignated 164 Fighter Bomber Squadron, 5 Nov 1952
Redesignated 164 Tactical Fighter Squadron, 10 Nov 1958
Redesignated 164 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 5 Jan 1976
Redesignated 164 Airlift Squadron, 15 Mar 1992

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 1 Dec 1942
Tonopah AAFld, NV, 6 Mar 1943
Santa Rosa AAFld, CA, 3 Jun 1943
Oroville AAFld, CA, 18 Aug 1943
Casper AAFld, WY, 7 Oct-9 Nov 1943
Raydon, England, 1 Dec 1943
Leiston, England, 1 Feb 1944
Neubiberg, Germany, 20 Jul 1945-20 Aug 1946
Mansfield, OH, 20 Jun 1948

ASSIGNMENTS

357 Fighter Group, 1 Dec 1942-20 Aug 1946
66 Fighter Wing
121 Fighter Wing, 20 Jun 1948

179 Tactical Fighter Group, 15 Oct 1962

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

P-39, 1943
P-51, 1943
F-51, 1949
F-80, 1953
F-84, 1954
F-100, 1972
C-130

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

Cpt Stuart R. Lauler, 8 Jan 1943
Cpt Clay R. Davis, 20 May 1943
1Lt Wesley S. Mink, 13 Jul 1943
Maj Donald W. Graham, 27 Sep 1943
Cpt Joe H. Giltner, Nov 1943
1Lt Montgomery H. Throop, 28 Jan 1944
Cpt Edwin W. Hiro, 16 May 1944
Maj Guernsey I. Carlisle, 21 Sep 1944
Maj Donald C. McGee, 2 Feb 1945
Maj Donald H. Bochkay, 22 May 1945
Cpt William O. Ash, 20 Jun 1948
Maj Albert B. Line, 29 Jan 1951
Maj Andrew Lacy, Feb 1959
Cpt Emerson E. Lewis, 18 Jan 1960
Maj Chester F. Jatczak, 15 Oct 1962
Maj James M. McMullen, 15 November 1965
Maj David E. Sherck, May 1966
LTC Raymond R. Sarafin, 15 Jan 1972
LTC William A. Millson, 11 Dec 1973
LTC William J. Phaneuf, Jr., 1 Feb 1978
LTC David L. Cotton, 29 Dec 1984
LTC Donald L. Eby, Oct 1986
LTC Gary A. McCue, Feb 2004-Jul 2006

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

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

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Germany, 6 Mar and 29 Jun 1944
Derben, Germany, 14 Jan 1945

French Croix de Guerre with Palm
11 Feb 1944-15 Jan 1945

Presidential Distinguished Unit Citations
Derben, Germany, on 14 January 1945,
Berlin, Germany on 6 May and 29 June 1944

French Croix de Guerre w/palm
Germany and France, from 11 February 1944 to 15 January 1945.

EMBLEM





Red and then white rings frame a deep blue background. On the background, is a smiling skull pierced from the top of the head on a down/left slant by a sword which emerges from the right lower cheek bone of the skull. The sword is tipped with blood red. A black field, surrounded by a red border encloses the lettering, "164th Fighter Squadron".

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Originally organized as the 363rd Fighter Squadron at Hamilton Field, California on 1 December 1942, it trained in the United States and departed for overseas on the Queen Elizabeth on 23 November 1943, arriving in England on 29 November 1943. The unit was awarded battle credits for Air Offensive Europe, Ardennes, Central Europe, Rhineland, Normandy and Northern France. It was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy over Germany. In July 1945 the unit was transferred from England to Germany.

The 164th Fighter Squadron was formed and federally recognized at Mansfield Municipal Airport on 20 June 1948. The community leaders formed an advisory committee chaired by Colonel Alan P. Tappan (owner of Tappan Stove). Their objective was to locate an Air National Guard Unit in Mansfield, Ohio.

The committee received an ultimatum from the Air force: Provided the amount of men required to support a unit, and Mansfield would receive their unit. For three days in May 1948, Mansfield supported a major recruiting drive, thus resulting in the first 353 member unit.

In Jul 1949 the unit received F-51H which had been stored in Alaska for some period of time. While awaiting disposition of the F-51Ds the aircraft began to accumulate until at one time there were 43 aircraft assigned to the 164th.

Designing the unit began in 1949 with the construction of the old hanger. At a cost of \$640,000,

it seemed expensive at the time. The hanger was followed by the supply building, the motorpool, the base operations in 1951

An extensive recruiting drive was held during the month of October, November, and December 1949 so that the unit could reach a goal of 100% strength by 1 January 1950. This goal was successfully reached even though the 164th was the youngest unit in the state.

The summer camp of 1950 was held at Lockbourne AFB, OH, Aerial gunnery was staged out of Romulous, Michigan to the lower Lake Huron range. Ground gunnery was staged out of a base in Kentucky and the range at Fort Knox.

During the early years much progress was made in the facilities used by the unit. In 1949 ground was broken for a new hanger, supply warehouse, parking apron and fuel storage facility. These buildings were occupied in June 1950. Funds were made available for the administration building and the motor maintenance shop. The unit moved into the completed facilities on 1 December 1951.

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Summer camp 1951 was at Grayling, MI. The unit command changed in Jan 1951 with Maj Albert B. Line replacing Maj William O. Ash. Summer camp 1952 and 1953 were also held in Grayling.

The 164th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron participated in the ANG-ADC Augmentation Alert program during the period 15 Aug 1954 through 30 Jun 1956. During this period it accomplished 504 scrambles and 774 intercepts.

1958 Field training was held in Alpena, MI in Aug of the year. Members of the 164th participated in Exercise Dark Cloud-Pine Cone II, a joint exercise conducted at Fort Bragg, NC, during May 1959.

It was called to active duty on 1 Oct 1961 during the Berlin Crisis and contributed personnel and equipment to the 7121st Tactical Fighter Wing stationed at Etain Air Base, France. In Aug 1962, the unit was released from active duty and reverted to the control of the State of OH. Shortly thereafter, on 19 Oct 1962, the 179th TFG was activated with the Fighter Squadron retaining the original 164th designation.

During 1963 the unit performed field training at home station. A few men were deployed to Niagara Falls, NY, to aid in accomplishing air-to-air gunnery missions.

In Apr 1964 members of the unit participated in a five day training exercise designated Operation Shock Wave at Ramey AFB, Puerto Rico. Field training 1964 was performed in Jun at

Alpena.

Field training 1966 was performed at Alpena during Aug. In Sep the first F-84s returned from Travis Field, GA with the new olive, tan and white paint job.

15 Mar 1967 members of the unit departed for Hickam AFB, HI, to participate in Tropic Lightning III Exercise. Guardsmen numbering 156 supported the 30 day exercise. A huge air show marked the dedication of the Brig Gen Frank P. Lahm Building at Mansfield on 9 Sep 1967.

During 1968 the 179th supported the regulars by pulling aerial targets for F-4 gunnery missions at Eglin AFB, FL.

179th performed in a joint fire-power demonstration at Fort Lewis, WA. 179th Guardsmen also supported the Air National Guard Strike Two Exercise in 1968. Field training was held at Alpena again.

A one-week exercise in Alaska termed Punch Card V began the 1969 year. Field training that year was conducted in August at Savannah, Georgia. In April 1970 members of the 179th were at Cape Kennedy as guest of Astronaut and former member Fred Haise, a crew member on Apollo 13. Field training 1970 was held at Alpena in Jul.

The unit closed out its tactical fighter mission on 5 Jan 1976, after eight years and eight months of accident-free flying in jet fighter aircraft. At that time it was redesignated as a Tactical Airlift Group and equipped with eight C-130B.

The years 1990 and 1991 were another transitional period. The last C-130B model aircraft left the base on 30 Nov 1990 to make way for the new C-130H which came in Apr 1991.

Last fall in Iraq, the Air Force and Army jointly tested a direct support concept of employment that had the 164th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron, a C-130 contingent from the Ohio Air National Guard, collocated with and under the control of the Army's 25th Combat Aviation Brigade. It worked. In fact, three senior Air Force officials told House Armed Services air and land forces panel April 28 that the 25th CAB commander said, "The 164th EAS exceeded my expectations with the Proof of Concept and the support we have received in such a short period of time; it is a leap ahead in joint capability." David Van Buren, Lt. Gen. Phillip Breedlove, and Brig. Gen. Richard Johnston also noted that the employment of C-130s was only "one way to provide DS to the Army." The currently reduced buy of C-27Js has opened the mission to the C-130 and possibly the C-17. 2010

The Ohio ANG's 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield has become the first of eight Air Guard combat-ready units to convert to the C-27J transport, the Air Force's newest airlifter. Army Maj. Gen. Gregory Wayt, Ohio adjutant general, joined wing officials and local and state politicians on Aug. 14 at the Mansfield Lahm Airport, the wing's home, to celebrate the conversion. On the previous day, "The Spirit of Mansfield," the first of the unit's four C-27Js arrived there. The wing

has flown C-130s since 1976. The Air Guard installation was initially recommended for closure through a 2005 base realignment and closure decision, but later received the new mission. The Mansfield News Journal reported Sunday that the wing expects to have all four of its C-27s in place by February 2011. Mansfield is also under consideration to host the C-27J schoolhouse.
Monday August 16, 2010

The Air Force's C-27 fleet was grounded at the end of December after the discovery of metal shavings inside the fuel cells of all eight aircraft in the service's inventory, officials told the Daily Report. It's not yet clear what caused the problem, but officials said they expect "it's something left over from the manufacturing process," considering that's the apparent common thread across all eight aircraft, said Col. Gary Akins, the Air National Guard's acting deputy director of air, space, and air operations. The three aircraft assigned to Robins AFB, Ga., have since been cleared to fly, but last we heard, the Spartans assigned to the ANG's 179th Airlift Wing at Mansfield Lahm Airport in Ohio, and the two aircraft undergoing pre-delivery modifications at contractor L3's plant in Waco, Tex., remained grounded as workers waited on spare parts. The desire to get the mini tactical airlifters to Afghanistan is great and Guard officials said they are feeling the "pressure" to deploy the first aircraft to theater in March. But the grounding delayed some much-needed training time for the Air Guard aircrews, who are still learning the ins and outs of the new aircraft. USAF is building a fleet of 38 C-27s for the Air Guard.

Airmen with the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing in Mansfield have embarked on the first-ever overseas deployment of the Air Guard's new C-27J, unit officials announced Tuesday. The Mansfield airmen headed to Afghanistan, along with National Guard soldiers from Georgia and Oklahoma, to work in conjunction with the 159th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Ft. Campbell, Ky. The C-27s will provide direct support to Army ground units via airlifts and airdrops. "I could not be more proud of the folks around the country and the agencies and organizations that assisted with getting these planes out the door," said Col. Gary McCue, 179th AW commander. This C-27J team will remain overseas for nine months, said Mansfield officials. The Ohio wing was the first Air Guard unit to convert to the C-27J capable of operating from austere airstrips. The challenges of bedding down the new aircraft, while simultaneously preparing for its maiden overseas rotation, delayed the deployment for several months. 2011

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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