

# 174<sup>th</sup> FIGHTER WING



## **LINEAGE**

**STATIONS**  
Syracuse, NY

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**WEAPON SYSTEMS**  
**Mission Aircraft**

**Support Aircraft**

**COMMANDERS**  
Col Curtis J. Irwin, 1 Jan 1958  
LTC Paul Schempp 12 February 1977  
LTC David Hamlin, Jr., 1993

**HONORS**  
**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

Patch was designed by SSG David Getty and other unit members. The York Rose represents the state of New York where the unit was constituted, with 13 seeds for the original colonies. The sword formed by a stylized aircraft and its Jetstream alludes to the striking power of the Group,

while the wings signify combat in flight. The background depicts the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The emblem bears the national and Air Force colors.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

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## **OPERATIONS**

1987 The 174th Tactical Fighter Wing pursued its aggressive training program throughout the year in continuous preparation for its wartime mission. The 174<sup>th</sup> provides command policy and support for its subordinate groups the 103rd Tactical Fighter Group Bradley Air National Guard Base, East Granby, Connecticut, and the 104th Tactical Fighter Group. The 174th trains continuously from Hancock Field using the aerial gunnery ranges it operates at Fort Drum in Watertown. In addition to training at home base, the Wing's pilots, maintenance and support personnel and A-10 fighter aircraft deploy elsewhere in the country and to their European theater of operation throughout the year. The 174th's major deployment during 1987 occurred in September. Twelve A-10 and 250 members of the 174th deployed to Lechfeld AB, Federal Republic of Germany, from September 11th -26th to take part in Exercise CORONETROCKET. The Wing's people trained and lived side-by-side with their West German Air Force counterparts as they would in a combat situation. The 174th was accompanied to West Germany by local Syracuse newspaper and television media personnel who reported on deployment activity daily. Although CORONETROCKET represented the 174th's major deployment, members of the Wing travelled elsewhere during the year for training. Fifty seven members of the Civil Engineering Squadron went to Luke AFB, Arizona, for annual training in early April. At the same time, 54 members of the Weapons Systems Security Flight and support personnel proceeded to Patrick AFB, Florida, for training. During May, logistics and supply personnel deployed to Spangdahlem AB, West Germany, for training and check out of prepositioned equipment. As in years past, the 174th and its neighbor, the 152nd Tactical Control Group, together hosted National Guard participation in the annual New York State Fair.

1988 The 174th Tactical Fighter Wing pursued its aggressive training program throughout the year in continuous preparation for its wartime mission. The 174<sup>th</sup> provides command, policy and support for its subordinate groups the 103rd Tactical Fighter Group, located at Bradley Air National Guard Base, Connecticut, and the 104th Tactical Fighter Group, Westfield, Massachusetts. The 174th trains continually from Hancock Field using the air-to-ground munitions range it operates at Fort Drum, Watertown. In addition to training at home base, the Wing's pilots, maintenance and support personnel, and aircraft, deploy elsewhere in the country and to their European theater of operation throughout the year. The 174th began 1988 on a high note when the Department of the Air Force announced the unit would convert from A-10 to F-16. In addition to the conversion, the 174th will also become the first Air Force organization to

fly the F-16 with a Close Air Support mission. Despite this conversion, the unit continued its aggressive deployment and training schedule with three OCONUS and four CONUS deployments involving more than 250 personnel. The 174<sup>th</sup> TFW continued to maintain its record of excellence. In June, the unit received its fourth AFOUA.

2 August 1990 Iraqi troops cross the border into Kuwait. This marks the beginning of the Members of the 174th Tactical Fighter Wing are encouraged to update their personal affairs.

12 August 1990 The 174th steps up training and readiness in lieu of activation.

28 November 1990 The first members of the 174th are called to active duty, eighteen services personnel are to go to the Gulf.

30 November 1990 174th pilots are put on alert for duty in the Gulf.

30 November 1990 The first 18 members of the unit leave for the Gulf.

9 December 1990 The unit is scheduled to be deployed 6 January 1991.

18 December 1990 Two more unit members, Lt. Colonels Purple and Richter leave for the Gulf via commercial airlines.

19 December 1990 Forty-four Security Police are called to active duty.

20 December 1990 The first plane load of SPs leave for Camel Lot. Total of 44 people under the command of Lt. Kegley.

27 December 1990 The unit activation date has been moved from 4 January 1991 to 29 December 1990.

2 January 1991 Two hundred and sixty two members of the unit board a DC-10 for deployment to Saudi Arabia. 1400 Hours. The first of eighteen F-16s start taking off for the Gulf; in little over an hour all planes are gone. Brigadier General Mike Hall, Commander of the 174 TFW7 and nineteen unit members go to Griffiss AFB to board two KC-10s heading for the Persian Gulf.

3 January 1991 Twenty eight members of the 174 TFW/MMS depart for the Gulf region via C-141. All F-16s deployed arrive safely at Camel Lot in Al Kharj; Saudi Arabia,, during a very intense sand storm. Thirty-seven more 174 TFW/MMS personnel leave Hancock Field.

5 January 1991 174 TFW/MMS sends eleven more of its personnel.

9 January 1991 One hundred and five additional members leave for duty in Saudi Arabia.

13 January 1991 The 174th loses an F-16 due to mechanical failure; the pilot ejects safely. An additional six personnel from 174 TFW/MMS depart for Saudi Arabia.

14 January 1991 Six more members of the 174 TFW deploy to AOR for a grand total of 516 deployed personnel.

16 January 1991 Pilots of the 174th take part in the second wave of the bombing attacks,, all return safely.

18 January 1991 Eight hundred relatives of members of the 174th gather for support.

31 January 1991 Nearly 20 more members of the 174th unit are called to active duty.

4 February 1991 Seventeen unit members deploy via four C-141s. Small groups return to the states but are reassigned to other TAC bases. Langley AFB, VA; Shaw AFB, SC; George AFB, Homestead AFB, Myrtle Beach AFB, Eglin AFB.

26 February 1991 Maj. Denny Miller makes it back to base after his plane A/C 391 is damaged by a surface to air missile.

1 March 1991 The 174th is informed it may be there a while. First in; first out policy is

implemented. 174th pilots pick up CAP mission over Iraq. Flying continues seven days a week.  
20 March 1991 20 members of the unit return, 300 people gather to welcome them home.  
26 March 1991 Brig. Gen. Hall is back from the Gulf. He says unit will return in stages.  
11 April 1991 Maj. John Androski ejects from his F-16 after the nose tire and left main tire blows out and the plane goes off of the east side of runway.  
16 April 1991 The first mass return of the 174th, 228 people return onboard Hawaiian Airlines in the early morning hours.  
12 May 1991 Five people return to Hancock Field via C-141 and C-5.  
17 May 1991 CAP and alert missions cease for the 174th. Jets are prepared for redeployment.  
19 May 1991 Fifteen F-16s return to Hancock Field; 2 are delayed for three days in Spain with mechanical problems. One hundred and sixty six members also return that day via KC-10 and C-141.  
24 May 1991 Two unit members return to Hancock Field via C-5.  
9 June 1991 Two unit members return home via commercial airlines.  
3 July 1991 With the return of Lt. Col. Robert Purple and Lt. Col. Paul Richter all members of the unit are finally home.

More than 190 members of the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing left Hancock Field ANGB in Syracuse June 4 on the unit's final F-16 deployment to the Middle East before transitioning to a new mission later this year. The four-month tour is the unit's eighth to Southwest Asia since 1991 and its first since January 2007, Syracuse's Post-Standard reported June 4 about 500 wing personnel will rotate in and out of the combat theater on this deployment, the newspaper said. Upon returning, the wing will begin to convert this fall from flying F-16C to operating MQ-9, wing spokeswoman 2nd Lt. Greta Lewis told the Daily Report June 4.

According to Rep. Dim Walsh (R-N.Y.), he has secured House Appropriations Committee approval for more than \$10 million to support upgrades and construction for the New York Air National Guard new unmanned aerial vehicle mission in Syracuse. Per BRAC 2005, the 174th Fighter Wing is losing its F-16s; the wing is in the midst of its last deployment to Southwest Asia as an F-16 unit. It will be taking up MQ-9 Reaper UAV operations. Walsh said in a June 25 release "Throughout my tenure in Congress, I made it a priority to upgrade their facilities and ensure that they have the best base possible. The Reaper mission is the final piece of the puzzle that firmly establishes Hancock Air National Guard Base as a critical part of our defense and our community for years to come." According to the release, half of the \$10 million appropriation, if approved by the full Congress, would convert existing facilities to house the UAV operations center, ground control station, and associated squadron functions, and the rest would alter the facility's Air Support Operations Squadron buildings "to meet new training and operation requirements."

First F-16s Depart Hancock: The New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing yesterday started its 18-month transition from the F-16 fighter to the MQ-9 with the departure of the first two F-16s for good from the wing's home at Hancock Field ANG Base, near Syracuse. These F-16s are headed for a new assignment at Edwards AFB, Calif., and represent the beginning of the end of the 174th's F-16 mission, according to a release by the New York State division of Military and Naval Affairs. Col. Charles Dorsey, the wing's vice commander, said it was "bittersweet" to see the first F-16s go, as the unit has been flying Vipers since 1988. But added

that the unit is "excited to open a new chapter of combat aviation" with the coming MQ-9 mission. More F-16s will depart Hancock as the transition progresses, and wing members are supposed to begin training with MQ-9s in 2010. Nearly 200 of the wing's airmen and 14 of its F-16s returned home in August from the unit's eighth and final rotational deployment to Southwest Asia with F-16s.

The New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing, which transitioned from the F-16 to the MQ-9, conducting its first Reaper mission in Afghanistan in December 2009, will be converting to an attack wing, according to a New York National Guard release covering a visit to the unit last week by Air Force Gen. Craig McKinley, NGB chief. The last of the 174th's F-16s left Hancock Field in March. Last fall, Hancock also became home to the field training detachment that provides MQ-9 maintenance training for active and reserve airmen. 2010

As of Tuesday, airmen of the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Field ANGB in Syracuse have entered steady-state operations flying MQ-9 in support of operations in Afghanistan. According to a wing release the focus of these missions is "primarily on providing overwatch of American soldiers and marines on the ground." The New York Air Guardsmen control the Reapers over Afghanistan from ground stations in Syracuse, sending commands to the aircraft in theater through satellite networks. The New York wing is the first Air Guard unit to operate MQ-9s, having shed its F-16 flying mission in June 2008 per BRAC 2005. It also opened the Air Force's sole MQ-9 maintenance schoolhouse in October. 2009/2010

Members of the New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing in Syracuse began flying training sorties with MQ-9 out of the Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield on the grounds of Ft. Drum. Federal Aviation Administration approval for these flights came earlier this month, enabling the first sortie to occur on Oct. 18, according to wing officials. These training flights will support the new MQ-9 formal training unit that is scheduled to begin operating at Hancock Field, the wing's headquarters, in November. Initially, the wing will conduct approximately three training sorties per week from Wheeler-Sack in the special-use airspace in that area. The Air Guardsmen of the FTU will train active duty, ANG, Air Force Reserve, and foreign military MQ-9 pilots and sensor operators. Ft. Drum is located near Watertown, which is north of Syracuse near eastern shore of Lake Ontario. 2011

The New York Air National Guard's 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Field in Syracuse will host a schoolhouse for MQ-9 Reaper pilots and sensor operators, announced Air Force officials Thursday. The MQ-9 formal training unit will add 44 full-time personnel and five contractors to Hancock Field, they said. The wing already operates the remotely piloted MQ-9s in combat over Afghanistan, from Syracuse, and it trains MQ-9 maintenance personnel from across the active duty component, Air Guard, and Air Force Reserve. The new schoolhouse will instruct MQ-9 operators from across those three components, too. "The addition of the pilot training mission is a natural extension of our MQ-9 Field Training Detachment which has been active since October 2009," said Col. Kevin Bradley, 174th FW commander. Wing officials have said MQ-9 training flights would take place over the Adirondack Mountains in northeastern New York. 2011

The New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing in Syracuse reached its 1,000th flight hour with the MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft as part of its Reaper schoolhouse functions,

according to a unit release. The wing, headquartered at Hancock Field ANG Base, hit the milestone in March and has since accumulated about 200 additional flying hours, states the April 2 release. It has been flying its MQ-9s-a total of four-from Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield since October 2011. "It's a great accomplishment," said CMSgt. Mark Shearer of the wing's Maintenance Operations Flight. "Some people thought we would never fly because of the weather here," he said. The wing's schoolhouse, which trains Reaper pilots and sensor operators, is the only formal MQ-9 aircrew training facility in the Air Guard. Initially, the wing flew just one flight per day, but now routinely flies two flights daily, with an average flight time of just over three hours, states the release. Shearer said his mechanics are now "some of the most experienced maintainers in the world operating the MQ-9 in a cold-weather environment." 2013

The Federal Aviation Administration has authorized the New York Air National Guard's 174th Attack Wing in Syracuse to fly its MQ-9 Reaper remotely piloted aircraft over a larger portion of the state, reported Syracuse's Post-Standard on Monday. Col. Greg Semmel, 174th AW commander, briefed reporters on this change at the wing's headquarters at Hancock Field on Aug. 5. The wing has been operating MQ-9s-it now has four-from Fort Drum's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield near Watertown since October 2011 as part of the wing's Reaper schoolhouse activities. The MQ-9 training flights have taken place to date over a large swath of northern New York. The FAA has now cleared them to stretch into restricted airspace further south over parts of central New York, including Madison, Onondaga, and Oswego counties, according to the newspaper's report. The extra airspace will give the wing more opportunities to operate the MQ-9s around bad weather, thereby reducing the amount of delayed or cancelled training sorties, said Semmel. 2013



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Air Force Order of Battle  
Created: 5 Oct 2010  
Updated: 28 Aug 2013

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