

178 WING



MISSION

Provide Ready units to conduct Intelligence, Surveillance & Reconnaissance and Operations Support to execute federal and state missions while maintaining an active involvement with the local community

LINEAGE

178 Tactical Fighter Group designated and allotted the National Guard, 11 Sep 1962

Activated and extended federal recognition, 15 Oct 1962

Redesignated 178 Fighter Group, 18 Mar 1992

Redesignated 178 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1995

Redesignated 178 Wing, 1 Jul 2014

Gaining Command[edit]

Tactical Air Command, 15 October 1962

Air Combat Command, 1 July 1992 – present

Elements gained by Air Force Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Agency, 10 June 2010

Springfield Municipal Airport (later Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport, Springfield Air National Guard Base), Ohio, 15 October 1962 – present

Aircraft[edit]

MQ-9 Reaper, 2017 – present

STATIONS

Springfield, OH

ASSIGNMENTS

121 Tactical Fighter Wing (later 121 Air Refueling Wing), 15 Oct 1962

Ohio Air National Guard, 11 Oct 1995

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

F-84, 1962

F-100, 1970

A-7, 1978

F-16C Fighting Falcon, 1993

MQ-1, 2010

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

LTC Andrew C. Lacy, 15 Oct 1962

Maj Chalmer E. Hunter, 5 Aug 1963

LTC Andrew C. Lacy, 13 Jun 1964

Col Robert E. Preston, 1976

Col Thomas W. Pape

Col Richard E. Higgins, 1980 August 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



The nebuly division and the blue are symbolic of the sky and the Air Force mission. The cubit arm, brandishing a sword, is for military protection of the sky above. The winged chaplet is for fidelity and loyalty.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

3-5 April 1974. After a tornado devastated the city of Xenia, approximately 800 Air Guardsmen from Ohio's 178th Tactical Fighter Group, based in nearby Springfield, were called up to help deal with the catastrophe. They protected property from looters, conducted search and rescue operations, and assisted with initial community cleanup

The 178th Fighter Wing, located in Springfield, spent the first full year in its new mission as a Flying Training Unit. In its new mission, the unit is responsible for training proficient combat pilots in the F-16. Though the majority of the unit lost its wartime tasking with this new mission, approximately 400 positions still maintain a wartime tasking for active duty in the event of a national emergency or war. During FY00, the unit's F-16 flew 2,998 sorties for a total of 3,702 accident-free hours. Because of the conversion efforts, the unit worked to increase its full-time manning, planned for the loss of traditional guard member slots, assessed construction requirements and worked to obtain new buildings and remodeling projects. The conversion was scheduled to be complete April 1, 2001.

The first transition class began with one student on July 1, 1999, while the second IP, or instructor pilot class, began with four students on Sept 1, 1999. The first full-up transition class of four students began April 17, 2000. After completing the academic part of the course, the students began flying in mid-March. In all, one air-to-ground course graduated one student; one transition course graduated one student; and two instructor pilot courses graduated seven students. In addition to adjusting to its new mission, the 178th dedicated most of the fiscal year to training exercises. About 450 unit members attended annual training at the Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) in Gulfport, Miss from July 25 through Aug. 7, 1999. Approximately 90 operations and maintenance personnel deployed to Tyndall AFB, Fla., Aug. 14-28, 1999, to support Combat Archer, an exercise which fired a limited number of live missiles at drones. From Jan. 22 to Feb. 5, 2000, about 75 unit members deployed to Savannah, Ga., for Dissimilar Aircraft Training. Several major training exercises also were conducted at tie flight and squadron level.

Springfield Gets New Missions: The Air Force publicly announced Tuesday that the Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield will gain three missions over the next several years as it loses its F-16 training role per BRAC 2005. Springfield, located northeast of Dayton not far from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, will host a ground control station for operating MQ-1 in combat zones and will serve as an interim site for F-16 bulkhead repair service officials said. The wing's Air Guardsmen will also support the operations of the National Air and Space Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson. "The overall manning at Springfield will remain the same," said Maj. Gen. Patrick Moision ANG deputy director. According to local press reports the new missions will

retain more than 860 jobs at the Air Guard base. 2010

Springfield Graduates Last F-16 Class: The Ohio Air National Guard's 178th Fighter Wing in Springfield has closed the book on its F-16 training mission by graduating the final class of Dutch F-16 pilots from its initial qualification training course. The four Dutch pilots completed the nearly nine-month course earlier this month. Col. Mike Roberts, 178th FW commander, said the Oct. 9 graduation ceremony was "a happy event" for the Dutch pilots, but was also "sad in a lot of ways" since it marked "the last time" the wing would be flying F-16s. The wing is transitioning to three new missions: operating MQ-1; analyzing intelligence for the National Air and Space Intelligence Center at nearby Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, and, for the interim, repairing F-16 bulkheads. Dutch F-16 pilot training is moving back to the Arizona ANG's 162nd FW in Tucson. 2010

7/31/2014 - SPRINGFIELD, Ohio -- The 178th is scheduled to hold a ceremony recognizing the official designation from 178th Fighter Wing to 178th Wing, Aug. 3, at 2 p.m. at the Springfield Air National Guard Base. The new designation, which administratively took place July 1, reflects the recent mission change from operating fighter aircraft to conducting intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and support missions. "This change represents the completion of our successful transition which began in 2010," said Col. Gregory Schnulo, commander. "The support from all of our Airmen, leaders, elected officials and local community were essential in making this success possible." In addition to the new designation, changes also include: the Air Force ISR Agency gaining the 178th ISR Group, the 178th Maintenance Group's official inactivation, and Air Combat Command gaining the remaining 178th units from Air Education and Training Command.

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.
Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.