

## **115 FIGHTER WING**



### **MISSION**

#### **LINEAGE**

115<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Support Wing  
Redesignated 115<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing  
Redesignated 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing

#### **STATIONS**

Truax Field, Madison, WI

#### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

##### **Mission Aircraft**

F-16

##### **Support Aircraft**

C-26

#### **COMMANDERS**

BG David Hoff

BG Joseph Brandemuehl

#### **HONORS**

##### **Service Streamers**

##### **Campaign Streamers**

##### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

## Decorations

### EMBLEM



### MOTTO

### NICKNAME

### OPERATIONS

2003 The 115th Fighter Wing has been in the thick of things since Sept. 11, 2001. F-16 from the wing's Madison headquarters at Truax Field were either aloft or on strip alert constantly in the days and weeks following the terrorist attacks. On October 8, they assisted NORAD with an emergency situation in midwest airspace. Their role was regularized with the inception of Operation Noble Eagle and the Oct. 23 mobilization of 62 personnel. From February through April 2002, six aircraft and 100 personnel deployed to Langley Air Force Base, Va., to fly combat air patrols over the nation's capital.

The unit's F-16s remain on round-the-clock alert, 365 days a year. Members of the 115th Security Forces Squadron were mobilized in October 2001 and sent to Air Force bases in the continental U.S. to support Noble Eagle. The mobilization has since been extended from one year to two. As the tempo of operations for all security personnel continues extremely high, some squadron members have already deployed to bases in the U.S. and worldwide two or three times.

Not only F-16 pilots and crews, and the security forces, but other unit members played roles as well. In January 2002, two members of the 115th Civil Engineering Squadron deployed to a Stateside location, and six of the wing's firefighters headed for the CENTCOM area of operations. Six more airmen deployed overseas in March for a 180-day rotation. As this issue of At Ease went to press, 17 security troops from the 115th remained on deployment in Southwest Asia to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**2005 1 Sep** The 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin ANG, deployed its RC-26B and six personnel to Ellington Field, Texas to support hurricane relief efforts.

**2 Sep** Nine members of the 115<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron, 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Wisconsin ANG, were placed in SAD to support hurricane recovery and security operations.

**14 Sep** One RC-26B and five personnel assigned to the 115<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Wisconsin ANG, returned to home station at Truax Field, Wisconsin. During their deployment, the RC-26 crew flew seventeen sorties and forty eight flying hours in support of hurricane relief efforts.

**29 Sep** Seven 115 Security Forces personnel, Wisconsin ANG, deployed to Alexandria, Louisiana for hurricane relief operations.

2008 115th also responded to the widespread flooding last spring, using its RC-26 aircraft to downlink real-time video to the state's Department of Emergency Management. This capability allowed our state leaders to deploy resources more effectively.

Approximately 350 members of Madison's 115th Fighter Wing set aside their civilian lives from January to March and temporarily said goodbye to their families as they set up shop at Balad Air Base, Iraq. It was the wing's third full-scale deployment for Operation Iraqi Freedom. In addition to the unit-wide deployments, smaller contingents of 115th members have deployed to many locations in support of current operations. Specific preparation for the Iraq deployment culminated with a November 2007 deployment to Arizona.

"The Snowbird deployment was our opportunity to go to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, where they have a facility set for Air National Guard units from northern regions to go and prepare for their wartime tasking in a desert environment," said Brandemuehl. To fully prepare for the Iraq mission, the wing deployed more than 165,000 pounds of equipment and nine F-16s to the Arizona base, and dropped over 100,000 pounds of munitions on its ranges. While in Iraq, the wing's primary mission was to provide air support for ground forces, including reconnaissance flights, weapons delivery to specific targets and monitoring vehicle movements in a particular area.

The 115th Fighter Wing's unique capabilities were an asset to the overall mission shared with other units, Brandemuehl said. Since returning from Iraq, the wing continues to hone its skills to be ready for the next Air Expeditionary Force deployment that comes its way 2009/2008

2009 Lt. Col. Doug Read, 115th Fighter Wing Operations Support Flight commander, is greeted by 116th Combat Wing commander Col. Kostas Vouzious upon arrival to Araxos Air Force Base, Greece June 20. The reunion between the two friends, who worked together when Read was stationed there 12 years ago, occurred during an F-16 delivery by four 115th pilots to the Hellenic air force. Four pilots with the 115th Fighter Wing proved developing the bonds of comradeship with coalition partners can occur in the most unique situations when they delivered four F-16s to Araxos Air Base, Greece, on June 20.

Lt. Cols. Bruce Fischer, Matt McCunn and Doug Read and Maj. Bart Van Roo flew four new F-16s purchased by the Hellenic air force. This is the fourth F-16 contract they've had with Lockheed since the base began their conversion from the A-7 Corsair to the F-16. As the pilots taxied in on a fresh asphalt taxiway into a shiny new hangar finished the day before, they were each met by the Greek pilots of the newly delivered F-16s. From the initial shaking of hands and

trading of patches, to a formal reception in the hangar, the 115th FW pilots said they were received by the 116th Combat Wing members like they were part of the family.

“It’s certainly very rare to get an opportunity to do something like this ... to bring F-16s to one of our allied partners there and have instant friends when you land, even though we have never met them before,” said Fisher, 115th Fighter Wing Air Sovereignty Alert commander. Even with all the countries Lockheed delivers aircraft to, Van Roo, 176th Fighter Squadron assistant director of operations, said the rarity of the experience is so high because there are so few deliveries that any one pilot would get to do. The opportunity for the 115th FW pilots arose in part from Read’s former working relationship and ongoing friendship with the current 116th CW commander, Col. Kostas Vouzious, who was his squadron commander during a one year remote active duty tour at Araxos Air Base.

When the Greeks purchased their second F-16 contract with Lockheed in 1997, part of what they paid for was two American instructors to come over and train them for a year on the aircraft. Read was one of the instructors who flew with one of their squadrons. It was another relationship he made while stationed in Greece that brought the prospect of the F-16 delivery to his attention. During his year there, Read met the Lockheed rep that lived in Greece, Ken Hayes, who just moved back to Greece recently to manage the current purchase. Both Read and his wife are good friends with Hayes and his wife and keep in touch with each other.

“When I found out Kostas was the wing commander, I thought it’d be nice if we could go over and take him some airframes,” said Read, 115th Operations Support Flight commander. “So when the Lockheed folks got back to us and said not only do they have one but four [aircraft] to take over, we welcomed [the opportunity].”

The reception of all the 115th FW pilots given by Vouzious and the 116th CW was characteristic of the same Greek hospitality Read recalled experiencing during his previous time there. “The relationship is really the neat part of the whole thing because ... we can learn a lot from them in terms of hospitality,” Read said. “They just have a wonderful level of hospitality they extend to you when you’re over there.” The extension of that hospitality was shown also to the spouses, Lt. Col. Anne Fischer, Kelly McCunn and Wendy Read, who were able to fly separately, at their own expense, and be there for the reception of the four pilots.

“When I was stationed there in 1997, there was an opportunity to take my family over and have them with me, it would just be at my expense, and when I first met Col. Vouzious, he was absolutely insistent that I do that because they wanted to welcome the family over there and extend the hospitality to them,” Read said. “The family thing is very important to them, and having Wendy go back and the other wives go, that shows.” The day after the pilots arrived, the Greek squadron hosted a family get together. They shared about flying, family, what they do in their country, how they’re going to use the aircraft and they training they do. “ It was neat to really get to know them a little bit even if it’s only for a few days, and see how they’re going to use them, what they think of us and our training and what they think of their training,” Van Roo said.

“There’s a level of trust there with what we’re doing, in particular since Colonel Read had been there and worked with several of the guys who happened to be at this wing ... so we got some special insight into it all.” level of trust that McCunn, 115th FW Air Sovereignty Alert director of operations, said extends all the way to the current Hellenic Air force chief of staff who was the 116th Combat Wing commander when Read was there. “The relationships go both

ways because the impressions [their leadership] got from Lt. Col. Read, which were obviously favorable, will certainly influence their thoughts of the USAF," McCunn said. In the end, all the pilots described the most valuable aspect of the experience being the relational ties between two coalition air forces they were able to strengthen.

"I think it's really important for us to get outside the walls and the borders of our country and go to places, meet other people and see how they do things," Fischer said. "If we were ever to wind up going and fighting alongside these people it sure is nice to have something to fall back on, even just a little insight, knowledge and understanding of the people you may be working with."

2009 Members of the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing returned to Madison Nov. 12 following a two-month deployment to Iraq. A steady stream of smiling faces exited the plane and shook hands with Gov. Jim Doyle, Brig. Gen. Don Dunbar, adjutant general of Wisconsin, and Brig. Gen. John McCoy, deputy adjutant general for Air. Most echoed the sentiment uttered by Tech. Sgt. Todd Cottrill. "It went great," he said moments after exiting the plane. "We did really well — better than expected." Lt. Col. Erik Peterson, deployment commander, agreed.

"The mission was 100 percent successful," he said. The unit deployed approximately 200 members and 12 F-16 in September as part of its scheduled Air Expeditionary Force rotation. The unit supported ground forces in Iraq with nontraditional intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance missions — essentially helping look for insurgents and roadside bombs — as well as convoy and troop support. Peterson thanked each member of the 115th as they left the plane "for their good attitude and great work during the entire deployment." According to Lt. Col. Chris Rodel, public affairs officer for the 115th Fighter Wing, the deployed aviation package flew 417 missions and tallied 1,625 flying hours during what he termed as a safe, uneventful deployment with no significant actions reported.

He noted that the unit's aircraft maintainers kept the fighter jets at a higher rate of readiness than the average in Iraq. Peterson recently met with Col. Steven Bensed, commander of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Brigade Combat Team, during their Iraq deployment. "They're looking forward to coming home, too," he told Gov. Doyle. Approximately 20 members of the 115th volunteered to stay in Iraq and assist the 132nd Fighter Wing, Iowa Air National Guard, who have taken over the mission. The fighter jets are expected to return sometime in December. Most of the 115th Fighter Wing maintained day-to-day operations at its Truax Field base in Madison

2009 IRAQ — While more than 3,200 Soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard's 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team have their boots on the ground in Iraq, some of their fellow Guardsmen from the state's Air National Guard have their jets in the sky overhead. It isn't often that aerial support for Army Guard ground troops comes from an Air Guard unit from the same state, but for the past two months about 300 members of Wisconsin's Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing are in Iraq with about a dozen F-16 fighters.

The two top commanders — Army Guard Col. Steven Bensed and Air Guard Lt. Col. Erik Peterson — met at an air base in Iraq as the fighter unit was nearing completion of its mission here. "It really hits home because you are

protecting, you're helping the guys that you fight with every day back home, the guys that you live with everyday," Peterson said. "You're basically putting a face to the people on the ground that you are supporting." Benseid called it "very comforting" to know Wisconsin Air National Guard troops are helping to protect the Soldiers of his 32nd Brigade. "Knowing that there are Wisconsin pilots in those planes protecting us is a great feeling," Benseid said. "Not very often do we get to say 'Yeah, I know that guy...and he knows I'm down here.'" It takes a lot more than just pilots to keep the F-16s flying. Most of the approximately 300 Air Guard personnel provide support on the ground to keep the jets in the air.

They also understand the troops their aircraft are supporting are fellow Wisconsinites. "It definitely gives you a purpose when they are your own guys," said Staff Sgt. Tim Blommel, an egress systems maintenance specialist who was working on one of the jet's ejection seats inside a maintenance hangar. The 115th Fighter Wing is not deployed in its entirety, with most of the wing maintaining operations at Truax Field in Madison.

The deployed fighter package's mission includes around-the clock overwatch, reconnaissance, and both counter IED and counter mortar support. "I think it's a pretty great experience for all of us," Peterson said. "You know every time we come over here we are focused on helping the guys on the ground and we see that as our primary mission while we are here." "If we know that we've saved just one life, that makes it for us," Peterson said. The troops on the ground agree.

2009 The 115th Fighter Wing launched 14 F-16 Sept. 22 as a part of the Wing's scheduled Air Expeditionary Force rotation that began when approximately 200 Airmen deployed to Iraq days earlier. The F-16s flew to a stopover location in Europe for a pilot rest period before continuing to theater. Take-off times correlated with specified arrival times at their destination. The Airmen are expected to serve for approximately two months before being relieved by the Iowa Air National Guard from Des Moines.

The 115th has previously deployed their aviation package in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom in December 2004 to Southwest Asia, and June 2006 and January 2008 to Iraq. Their mission is to support ground forces in Iraq with close air support and other combat capabilities directed by the combatant commander. This is an historic situation in that the Wisconsin National Guard has more than 3,200 Soldiers on the ground in Iraq and they are among those the Wisconsin Air National Guard may support while in theater.

The 31 Wisconsin National Guard Airmen deployed from the 115th Security Forces Squadron have integrated with their deployed counterparts and provided a smooth transition for operations as part of the 376th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron at the Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic. "We play a direct role in securing base personnel, coalition forces and resources here," said Capt. John Wheeler. "We will have an excellent opportunity to leave a lasting and positive legacy for the future and any challenges that lay ahead." The Transit Center at Manas is a vital air mobility hub for resources, including personnel and equipment, to enter and exit Afghanistan. The base also supports aerial refueling, combat airlift and airdrop, aeromedical evacuation and strategic airlift missions.

With such a large array of support functions at the air base, maintaining security and stability is critical. "The 115th SFS troops are performing at a very high level," Wheeler said. "I am very proud of our men and women and for good reason. They have proven to be very fast

studies of their jobs and are ready to pass that knowledge on to the second and third rotations coming in behind them.” In addition to securing the air base and playing an integral role in personal security operations, the Madison-based Airmen also support humanitarian objectives and work to maintain the positive relationship with the Kyrgyz Republic. The security forces Airmen visit a local village school every couple of weeks and help with construction projects and other humanitarian services. “Our work with the local village can undoubtedly add to our relationship with the host nation,” Wheeler said. The members assigned to the coalition air base serve as a joint force, encompassing more than 1,000 service members and 650 defense contractors from the U.S., Spain and France.

KEFLAVIK, Iceland – Approximately 100 Airmen from the Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, were among 450 NATO military members to take part in Operation Northern Viking 11 June 6-10, focusing mainly on air-space protection and interoperability between forces. The biennial exercise was held at the former Keflavik Naval Air Station, near the coast of southwest Iceland, miles from the snow-covered volcanoes that have erupted into world-wide news the past two years.

The volcanic eruption at Grimsvotn volcano in Iceland was officially declared over May 28 according to a situation report from the Icelandic Meteorological F-16s return to Iceland after a mission June 6, as Airmen from the Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing, Wisconsin Air National Guard, participate in Operation Northern Viking, training in Iceland with NATO forces focusing mainly on air-space protection. 115th Fighter Wing photo by Senior Airman Ryan Roth Office and the University of Iceland’s Department of Earth Sciences. Northern Viking an annual United States-led NATO and partner nation interoperability exercise based on a 1951 bilateral treaty between the government of Iceland and the U.S. validates participant readiness and their ability to respond quickly to conflict or emergency situations.

“This exercise allows a venue for NATO forces to come together, train as we would fight, operate within the European theater and this kind of training provides that continuity from year-to-year to sustain our combat capability,” said Lt. Col. Brian Vaughn, Northern Viking exercise director. Military members from Denmark, Italy and Norway trained with the United States. The Icelandic Coast Guard assisted in the exercise as well. Of the nearly 450 participants, roughly 150 were from the U.S. — including active duty Airmen from the European command and the Air Force Reserve. Iceland is the only member of NATO without an active military.

Participants from the U.S. military included the 115th Fighter Wing; the 459th Air Refueling Wing, Joint Air Base Andrews, Md.; the 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force, Mildenhall, England; the 1st Combat Communications Squadron and the 603rd Air Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany. “This is a great opportunity for Euro Fighters to fly together with F-16s and learn from each other,” said Maj. Eros Zaniboni, a pilot with the 36th Fighter Wing, Gioia Del Colle, Italy. NV11 is the first time Euro Fighters from Gioia Del Colle have trained with U.S. and Norwegian F-16s.

Likewise, 115th Fighter Wing pilots have never flown against the Italian Euro Fighter 2000 Typhoon aircraft. Two Norwegian DA-20 electronic warfare aircraft performed electronic warfare operations with fighter jets, implementing communication and radar jamming during the training exercise. A KC-135 from the 459th Air Refueling Wing, Joint Air Base Andrews, Md., is also gaining joint-force training, having already refueled numerous U.S. and Norwegian F-16s.

“In a real world scenario, it is always going to be a coalition of partners,” said Lt. Col. Ivan Rismo, detachment commander for the Norwegian forces. “The fact that we are able to operate with [our partners] and different fighters will allow us to be interoperable with these other units at any given time.”

The pilots were not the only ones training together in Iceland. “The controllers that talk to these pilots are shared between the Norwegians, the U.S. and Italy,” Rismo said. “We are very happy to see this exercise come through and it is very interoperable in the way we are doing it.” The importance of this type of training is still evident today, 60 years after the treaty. “All the big conflicts we have seen have always consisted in an alliance, whether in NATO or in a coalition,” Rismo said.

To maintain and improve interoperability, NATO members take advantage of the opportunity to train at one location together. “Being together where we can all talk together in the same room and get a common picture of how we need to operate is paramount,” Rismo said. The 1st Combat Communications Squadron and 603rd Air Operations Center, Ramstein Air Base, Germany, from United States Air Force Europe also contributed to NV11. Col. Erik Peterson, 115th FW operations group commander and fighter pilot, believes the training received through NV11 can be invaluable toward ensuring NATO partners adapt and plan accordingly to ensure mission success in real world engagements. “The exercise is a prime example of how partner countries can act collectively to address common, natural challenges,”

FEB 2010 Approximately 60 Wisconsin National Guard members from three different units returned in late January from overseas deployments. This latest wave of homecomings began Jan. 21 when approximately 30 Airmen from the Wisconsin Air National Guard’s 115th Security Forces Squadron, based in Madison, arrived at the Dane County Regional Airport following a six month deployment to Transit Center at Manas, Kyrgyz Republic, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Airmen supported the 376<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Security Squadron at Manas by performing airbase ground defense. “Our job was security,” said Staff Sgt. Philip Steffens, a member of the 115<sup>th</sup> SFS who worked in the armory while deployed. “We knew our job and did it well.” Their actions were acknowledged by the 115th Security Forces Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Brian Buhler, who welcomed them home.

“This is a wonderful example of quality Airmen successfully applying skills and techniques that they were exposed to in training at the 115th Fighter Wing,” Buhler said. “Their accomplishments reassure us that our pre-deployment preparations were right on target and have adequately prepared our Airmen for real world missions.” Operations at Manas began in December 2001 to support the military’s operational needs in Afghanistan while serving as a staging ground for the mission. Upon returning, the Airmen promptly in-processed at Truax Field and headed home across the Midwest.

“It goes without being said that we missed the individual talent and skills of each and every security force member who volunteered for this deployment,” Buhler said. “But thanks to the collaborative efforts of our traditional Airmen, full-time active guard reserve and state security officers, we were able to seamlessly fill the void of our deployed members.” The final band of Wisconsin Army National Guard Soldiers who deployed for the past year with the 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team returned from Iraq Jan. 24.



The Soldiers were greeted by Wisconsin National Guard leadership and the 132nd Army Band at the Dane County Regional Airport upon their return. Just under 20 Soldiers assigned to a "trail party" remained in Kuwait to take care of administrative and logistical details concerning the brigade's redeployment to the United States. Twelve military intelligence Soldiers, assigned to the Madison-based Company B, 32nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, also returned from Fort Lewis, Wash., where they conducted demobilization activities following their tour in Iraq.

Company B's arrival brought to a close the year-long saga which began Feb. 1, 2009 when the 32nd Brigade, augmented by six other Wisconsin Army National Guard units, was ordered to active duty. The brigade deployed to Iraq in April and May following two months of training at Fort Bliss, Texas. During training and while in Iraq, the brigade was organized into 27 company-sized units. Rather than operating as a brigade, the 32<sup>nd</sup> was tasked with a variety of missions throughout Iraq.

APR 2010 Following a similar flight path of migrant snowbirds, Wisconsin Air National Guard members departed the cool Wisconsin weather in March on a mission to the southernmost part of the United States. Approximately 145 Airmen of the Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing spent almost two weeks gaining valuable training as their F-16 sparred against Navy F-18 and F-5 Tigers here. The weather was a perk, but the true advantage at the Naval Air Station was the increased airspace and the ability to fight different types of adversaries.

"This is great training that we do not experience back home," said Lt. Col. Steve Kensick, 176th Fighter Squadron director of operations. "A lot of our pilots have not fought a dissimilar asset like a Hornet, and this is great training for them." There are three types of missions flown here — basic fighter maneuvers, more commonly known as dogfighting; air combat maneuvers which involves two F-16s versus one F-18; and air combat training that involves three or four F-16s versus any number of adversaries. "When we do a dog-fight, it is full-on — he is fighting his best, I am fighting my best," Kensick said.

"We do not formally keep score, but we normally debrief after each mission and see if our guy won." Maj. Chris Hansen, a pilot with 176th Fighter Squadron of the 115th Fighter Wing, had never flown against a Super Hornet until this training exercise. He was grateful for the experience. "The Super Hornets are extremely capable and this opportunity provided valuable training for me," he said. Hansen said there were many differences between the two aircraft in terms of weight and thrust, which he witnessed first-hand for the first time that day. Lt. Phil Taggart, a Navy F-18 pilot from the Strike Fighter Squadron 213 (VFA-213) stationed at Virginia Beach, was preparing for his first training exercise with an F-16. "Coming to Key West brings a new perspective on how our tactics work, and it is interesting to see how that works against an adversary who does things slightly different," Taggart said.

Six F-16s and nearly 100 airmen from the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing in Madison are training alongside their Polish air force counterparts during a two-week deployment to Lask AB, Poland, according to US officials. This is the first rotation of F-16s to Lask since the standup of the US aviation detachment in Poland last November, states a May 16 release from the detachment.

This exchange, which runs through May 24, is meant to enhance the skills of US and Polish F-16 pilots through flying simulated air combat scenarios with other aircraft, including Polish MiG-29s and Su-22s. "We're doing things like air combat maneuvers, basic fighter maneuvers, and tactical intercepts," said Lt. Col. Brian Parker, 176th Fighter Squadron commander. "It's a building-block approach, so we'll start out with the basics and increase the tactics as we go through the two weeks," he said. The next fighter exchange is slated for July when F-16s from Aviano AB, Italy, come to Poland for air-to-ground training, states the release. In February, airmen from Ramstein AB, Germany conducted the first rotation of C-130Js to Powidz Air Base a part of the aviation detachment's activities. 2013

The Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing stood up an active association with an injection of Active Duty airmen at Truax Field near Madison, Wis., on Feb.7. "We're going to get young aviators, young maintainers, young support personnel, and they are going to work right alongside those of you in the guard who have been doing this for a lot longer than they have," said Lt. Col. J. Scott Gibson, commander of the new Active Duty 495th Fighter Group Det. 176 at Truax.

The detachment will add four Active Duty F-16 pilots, and a total of 40 Active maintenance and support personnel that will work alongside their Air National Guard counterparts, according to the unit release. Madison's association is part of the Air Force's overall Total Force Integration effort to stand up Active Duty detachments at each of its ANG and Air Force Reserve Command fighter units. 2015

A dozen Wisconsin Air National Guard F-16s are deploying to Kadena AB, Japan, this month as part of a theater security package to augment Pacific Air Forces, unit officials announced. "We are the first ANG F-16 unit to be stationed at Kadena" as part of a TSP, 176th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron deployed commander Lt. Col. Jon Kalberer stated in a Jan. 6 release. Personnel and aircraft from other Guard units are backfilling the Madison-based 115th Fighter Wing to allow the unit to continue its round the clock stateside Aerospace Control Alert mission. "We have taken steps to ensure that we can simultaneously execute both PACOM and ACA mission taskings," said alert detachment commander Lt. Col. Matthew Peltier. Approximately 250 pilots, maintenance, and support personnel are deploying to Okinawa with the jets, according to the release. ANG F-16s from the District of Columbia and New Jersey completed a similar deployment to South Korea and Australia last October. 2015

A small contingent of F-16 pilots and maintainers from the Polish air force visited the Wisconsin Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing in Madison for a week of subject-matter exchange as part of the Guard's State Partnership Program, according to a release. "The time here was excellent," said Lt. Col. Pawel Marcinkowski, commander of the Polish air force's 3rd Fighter Squadron. "We built lots of relationships and experiences we can take" back home, he said. The Poles have been partnered for years with the Illinois Air Guard's 183rd FW in Springfield under SPP. When the wing lost its F-16 flying mission in 2008, the Poles asked to expand the partnership by adding another unit still flying F-16s. The Wisconsin air guardsmen entered the fold in 2014, according to the May 14 release. During the Poles' May 2-8 visit, the Wisconsin

airmen discussed work center-level maintenance with their guests and demonstrated operations and maintenance best practices. 2015

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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