

131 BOMB WING



MISSION

The 131 Bomb Wing's primary operational mission is to provide full spectrum, expeditionary, B-2 global strike and combat support capabilities. Wing manpower is also dedicated to providing for the unit's overall combat readiness, operating support functions for tenant and attached units, and for performing combat and emergency duty in support of both federal and state missions.

LINEAGE

131 Fighter Bomber Wing
131 Bombardment Wing, (Light)
131 Fighter Interceptor Wing
Redesignated 131 Tactical Fighter Wing
Redesignated 131 Fighter Wing
Redesignated 131 Bomb Wing

STATIONS

St Louis, MO
Whiteman AFB, MO

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

B-26
F-15
B-2

Support Aircraft

C-12F

COMMANDERS

Col John B. Logan, #1954

BG Charles H. DuBois

Col Virgil L. Zoller, Mar 1952

Glennon T. Moran, 1961

Col Donald J.M. Blakslee

BG Robert E. Buechler, Oct 1968

Col Harding R. Zumwalt, 3 Dec 1972

Col Greg D. Davis, #1993

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



Azure, on a pile issuing from sinister chief Argent an aircraft rocket Sable banded of the second leaving a trail Gules between two general purpose aerial bombs in bend sinisterwise of the third; all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "PARATI AD AGENDUM" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The position and shape of the pile symbolize a concentrated aerial attack on a specific point -- precision bombing from medium and low altitudes. The aircraft rocket and general purpose bombs are typical of the weapons used by a light bombardment wing in strikes of this type. The Latin motto, "PARATI AD AGENDUM," translates to "READY FOR ACTION" in English.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In February 1951, the Missouri Air National Guard underwent extensive redesignation, under AGMo General Order No. 7. Additionally the order called for the activation of seven new units.

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron of the 131st Composite Wing was redesignated Hq and Hq Squadron, 131st Fighter Wing and the 131st Composite Group was redesignated the 131st Fighter Group. The 110th was also reorganized, with support personnel going to the squadrons activated by General Order No. 7, the 131st Maintenance Squadron, the 131st Supply Group, the 131st Motor Vehicle Squadron, the 131st Communications Squadron, the 131st Food Service Squadron, the 131st Air Police Squadron and the 131st Installations Squadron. The 131st Medical Group was also activated.

The reorganizations preceded an order in March 1951, calling the Missouri Air Guard into federal service for duty during Korean Conflict. They left two weeks later for Bergstrom Air Force Base, After serving on active duty during the Korean emergency, all units reverted to state control in November 1952.

As part of the nation's readiness posture during the Korean Conflict, the 131st Tactical Fighter Wing became part of the U. S. Air Force on 1 March 1951. The induction order was read to a troop formation in front of the National Guard hangar at Lambert Field by Maj. James P. McDonough.

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Afterward, the squadron formations were inspected by Col. Ben Lichty, Wing Commander and by Col. C.E. Henry, Vice Commander of the 10th Air Force.

In the ceremonies at Jefferson Barracks, Col. Charles DuBois, Wing Operations Officer, inspected troops.

Inducted at Lambert were elements of the 131 st Fighter Group, commanded by Lt. Col. John Striebel. The 110th Fighter Squadron was commanded by Maj. Fred Munder.

Two other fighter squadrons, the 170th at Springfield, IL and the 192nd at Reno, NV were formally taken into federal service at their home stations.

In the Lambert formation were support units commanded by Lt. Col. Lester David, Maj. Harry Beck, Capt. Joe Foshage, Capt. John Balmer, Capt. Joe Funk, Lt. Gil Engel, Lt. Kenneth Queenon, Lt. George White and Captain Ed Koch.

Jefferson Barracks units included Wing Headquarters Squadron, commanded by Maj. Charles Bobbett, a medical group under Maj. Augustin Jones, and the 571 st Air Force Band, under WO George Schmidt.

Members of the wing were transferred to Bergstrom Air Force Base at Austin, TX for training.

The days immediately following World War II demobilization found the Missouri Air National Guard developing its role for the postwar years. The unit received federal recognition in September 1946, with Brig. Gen. Winston Kratz as commander.

It was first designated the 57th Fighter Wing, later to become the 71 st Fighter Wing. The famed P-51 "Mustang" fighter of World War II distinction was its prized equipment.

Brig Gen. Winston W. Kratz, who had been a member in the early years of the Missouri Air National Guard, called his men together in a hangar at Lambert-St. Louis Field on a November night in 1946, to read the text of a federal certificate of recognition which had just been issued. It made Missouri the first state to achieve such recognition following World War II. The certificate was for the 57th Fighter Wing, with Gen. Kratz as commander. The unit would fly the famed P-51 "Mustang" fighter.

Also formed at the same time was the headquarters of the 131 st Fighter Group, which remains in existence today although the wing was later redesignated.

Missouri's own President Harry S. Truman lauded the unit for being the first to receive federal recognition.

Erection of the Berlin Wall by the Russians signaled the beginning of a new period of international tension. As a deterrent, the United States government made plans to deploy selected Air National Guard units to augment NATO forces. Well trained and mission ready, the 131 Tactical Fighter Wing was recalled in October 1961 and deployed to Toul-Rosieres Air Base, France. The Wing remained on duty in France until it was demobilized on August 20, 1962.

Throughout the 1960's the 131 st Fighter Wing conducted annual training at Volk Field, Wisconsin. Generally referred to as summer camp, 131st guard members packed up equipment and supplies and headed to a site right outside of a town called The Dells. The citizens of The Dells welcomed the 131 st with open arms and even sponsored a town party in its honor. In return, the 131st enhanced the town economy by supporting the local businesses. Additionally, a few of the 131st guard members sponsored a Ms. Summer Camp contest. Local young women were encouraged to enter the contest and compete for the coveted title. The ladies wore sashes identifying various 131st sections: Ms. Photo Shop, Ms. Maintenance, Ms. Comm Flight, etc. The winner was named Ms. Summer Camp. She was awarded a gift certificate and a free meal at a local restaurant.

For the first time in several years, the 131 st Tactical Fighter Wing (TFW) went to Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport, Mississippi for annual field training. The primary reason for going south to Mississippi instead of north to Wisconsin is the role the unit played in a unique exercise dubbed Brave Shield 80. The majority of 131 TFW guard members participated in this special exercise. From 16 August through 22 August 1980, 131st aircrews became part of an opposing force, flying against F-15 Eagles, which attempted to intercept them. The training site is the home of the Mississippi Air National Guard. It is located 75 miles from New Orleans, LA and 75 miles from Mobile, AL. The 131 TFW has continued to perform periodic Summer Camps at this location.

The first Eagle rolled into the hangar of the 131 st Tactical Fighter Wing on Thursday, May 30, 1991. It marked a milestone for this Air National Guard Unit as it was the first of 24 A- and B-model F-15's that replaced the Phantom II as the wing's operational aircraft.

The A-model Eagle, # 030, was brought home by LTC George Graves, the wing's Air Commander. Graves became a qualified F-15 pilot during his tenure at Dobbins Air National Guard base in Georgia. Graves flew to the depot at Warner Robins, GA, to get the wing's first Eagle.

Graves marked the occasion by doing a highspeed pass over Lambert before turning sharply to the south and bringing the F-15 down in its characteristically soft landing. And when he climbed from the cockpit, with the Eagle sitting proudly in front of Base Operation, he was greeted by Brig. Gen. James Renschen, who welcomed him with a red and-white-can filled with a cold St. Louis beverage.

Graves was also greeted by a media onslaught, an indication of what the city of St. Louis thinks of its hometown Guard unit going from one St. Louis built fighter to another. Like the Phantom, of course, the F-15 was built by the McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company.

In addition, a crowd of Missouri Guardsmen gathered to watch the first Eagle arrive and to inspect up-close the aircraft that has since shaped the future of the 131 st. Also on hand were two representatives from McDonnell Douglas, one of whom remarked that he couldn't be prouder to have the F15 stationed "at home."

The first Eagle was used as a maintenance trainer, giving CAM Squadron personnel hands-on experience to accompany the "book learning" they got in the makeshift classrooms built in Hangar 1 and the training they received at various Air Force Training Schools. Pilots attended an 11-week school that taught them to fly the F-15.

Air Guardsmen from the 131st MSS, 131st MSF, 110th WF, 131st SPF, 131st SF, and the 131st CF traveled to Cannon Range, near Fort Leonard Wood during the summer of 1992 to participate in a training deployment. The deployment accomplished three major objectives: it oriented people who usually work in an office environment to field conditions. It exposed participants to a realistic air base ground defense scenario and weapons training. Finally, it generated the kind of teamwork between combat support agencies that leads to greater esprit de corps. One of the best things about the trip was the chance for the guardsmen to view F-16's and A-10's making their bombing and strafing runs on the range targets. The following pictures convey the guard's members in action during the combat exercise

Beginning on July 4th, 1993, more than 2,000 Missouri National Guardsmen were called to serve on state emergency duty to battle the Flood of '93. This call to duty marked the third largest callup of the Guard for state duty since record keeping began. Included in that number were approximately 500 Lambert Air Guardsmen, representing every unit on base. Guard members assisted people in 36 counties across the state from Holt County in Northwest Missouri through the Kansas City area to Carroll County on the Missouri River, and from Clark County in Northeast Missouri down to Scott County South of Cape Girardeau.

Whether it was securing flood ravaged communities, providing traffic control, testing drinking-water purity, establishing mobile communication and power capabilities, reinforcing levees, manning sandbag lines or many other vitally needed acts of community support--Missouri guardsmen were there.

The initial 131st Fighter Wing response was met by security police, who helped evacuate mobile home parks and provided security for communities in St. Charles, Missouri.

The 131st Civil Engineering Squadron helped reinforce levees; combat communicators from the 239th provided power. By late August, virtually every unit on base had contributed in some way to flood relief.

The first Missouri National Guard unit called to active federal service in support of Operation Desert Shield was the 131st Security Police Flight. They arrived in Saudi Arabia in mid-

December. The unit had 100 percent training levels and desert-capable equipment, as well as the support of their fellow Air Guardsmen at Lambert.

Air Guard members' donations helped to purchase a television, which was sent to the unit in Saudi Arabia. They also brought a VCR with them on the deployment to enjoy video taped messages sent from loved ones and family members. A Desert Shield family support group called "Friendship Club" held family gatherings to help keep the moral high for the folks at home.

Airmen of the 131st Bomb Wing here completed the first B-2 sortie flown and launched by Missouri Air National Guard members Dune 18 at Whiteman Air Force Base. Col. Gregory Champagne, the 131st Fighter Wing vice commander, and Maj. David Thompson, a 131st FW pilot, were launched by Master Sgt. Bob Francis and Tech Sgt. Dohn Venable, both of the 131st Bomb Wing. The 131st FW is losing its F-15 mission due to the recommendation of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission. The initiative integrates Air National Guard aircrew, maintainers and support staff with their 509th Bomb Wing active-duty counterparts in support of the B-2 mission with the ultimate goal of enhancing warfighting efficiencies. "We are currently in the process (of transitioning)," Colonel Champagne said. "It is a 2.5 year process, and we are in the first year right now. We are right on time, everything is going well." Although guardsmen have been flying B-2 missions with 509th BW Airmen over the last year, this is first time during the wing's transition to Whiteman AFB that 131st FW aircrew and maintenance personnel completed a sortie from launch through mission execution. "We train the same. We are the same, and our goal is the same, which is the success of the mission," Colonel Champagne said. Presently, the Missouri Air National Guard has seven B-2 qualified pilots and four in training. There are 46 members of the 131st FW currently operating. out of Whiteman AFB. The Missouri Air National Guard will have 25 B-2 qualified pilots and approximately 500 maintainers, operations members and support staff at Whiteman AFB.

2005 9-10 Sep Two airfield managers assigned to the 131st Fighter Wing, Missouri ANG, and the 137th Airlift Wing, Oklahoma ANG, deployed in Title 32 orders to Gulfport CRTIC to augment the cadre of airfield managers deployed to this location.

The Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Fighter Wing held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 4 at Whiteman Air Force Base to recognize the unit's transition to the 131st Bomb Wing—the name change has yet to formally occur—and mark the grand opening of its new headquarters building at the base. Brig. Gen. Craig McCord, Missouri ANG commander, attended the event Under BRAC 2005, the 131st is giving up its F-15 that it operated from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport and forming a partnership with Whiteman's active duty 509th BW to jointly operate the Air Force's fleet of B-2A stealth bombers under a classic associate arrangement. "We are proud of our members and proud of our lineage as we transition from an Air National Guard fighter wing to a classic associate bomb wing," said Col. Robert Leeker, 131st commander. The wing's transition has been ongoing since the summer of 2007. Already the wing has about 10 pilots fully qualified to fly the B-2As and more than 80 personnel currently working at Whiteman. Capt. Bridget Zorn, wing spokeswoman, told the Daily Report yesterday

that the 131st still has some F-15s operating out of Lambert for the interim until the transition is complete. The last of the wing's fighters is expected to depart for good in the summer of 2009, she said. After that, the wing will still maintain some support functions at Lambert.

Air Guard B-2 Wing Certified for Nuclear Operations The Missouri Air National Guard's 131st Bomb Wing, which helps to fly and maintain the Air Force's B-2 fleet at Whiteman Air Force Base, is now fully certified to conduct the bombers' nuclear mission, according to a wing release. The unit achieved this certification after successfully completing a four-day initial nuclear surety inspection, states the Aug. 8 release. With this achievement, the wing reached full operational capability with the B-2, concluding a six-year process begun in 2007 when the unit transitioned from flying F-15s. "The airmen of the 131st Bomb Wing have proven they are up to the task in carrying out this critical national security mission," said Army Maj. Gen. Steve Danner, Missouri's adjutant general. The 131st BW operates the B-2s under a classic association with Whiteman's Active Duty 509th BW. The former has nearly 800 members. It is the first Air Guard unit cleared to deliver nuclear weapons, according to the release. 2013

The B-2 bomber fleet set a record in April for sorties and hours flown in a single month, according to officials at Whiteman AFB, Mo., home to these stealth bombers. Members of Whiteman's 509th Bomb Wing, together with their partners in the Missouri Air National Guard's 131st BW, flew 142 sorties in the month, amassing 839.3 hours, states the base's May 9 release. "Any bad guy in the world watching us over the last 30 days saw a whole lot of airplanes doing a whole lot of flying. That's a strong message," said Col. Chase McCown, 509th Maintenance Group commander. B-2 maintainers achieved a mission-capable rate of nearly 70 percent for the month, some 15 percent above the bombers' average rate, said McCown. That's not an easy feat, he said, given the amount of maintenance required to maintain the low-observable qualities of the 20-aircraft fleet. "We proved we have proficient operators and maintainers who can surge operations and put jets in the air," said Col. Edward Martignetti, 509th Operations Group commander. Among their activity, B-2 pilots flew long-duration sorties, trained with special operators, and worked with F-22s, he said. 2014