

## 140<sup>th</sup> WING



### LINEAGE

*140<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing federally recognized, 1 Nov 1950*

Redesignated 140<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing, 14 Apr 1951

Redesignated 140<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1 Jul 1955

Redesignated 140<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Wing, 1 Jul 1957

Redesignated 140<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Jan 1961

Redesignated 140<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing

Redesignated 140<sup>th</sup> Wing

### STATIONS

Buckley ANGB, CO

### ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth AF

Tactical Air Command

### WEAPON SYSTEMS

#### Mission Aircraft

A-7

F-16

#### Support Aircraft

C-26B

### COMMANDERS

Col John H Lowell, 1 Apr 1951

Col Gerald J Dix, Dec 1952-1 Jan 1953

Col Howard F Nichols, 1 Jul 1954

BG Joe C. Moffitt

Col. Walter E. Williams, Jun 1960

Col. John L. France, Jul 1974

BG George A. Frazen, Jr, Dec 1981

BG Mason C. Whitney, #1993

*BG Wayne Schultz, #2001*  
BG Trulan Eyre, May 2007

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

Per bend, argent and chequy, sable and argent, over all a bend white. (Approved, 4 Jun 1952)

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

MILITAT QUASI TIGRIS QUISQUE—Each Fights Like a Tiger

## **OPERATIONS**

The primary mission of the wing is to provide overall supervision and necessary advisory assistance to ensure the wing and Colorado Air National Guard assigned units, including the 120th TFS, maintain a high state of combat readiness. The wing is additionally responsible for establishing and maintaining war readiness material to provide supplies to the tactical squadron when it is deployed.

Following the war, in 1946, the Colorado Air National Guard was formed as a separate air arm of the state's National Guard. Its first unit, and the first to obtain federal recognition nationally, was the newly reorganized 120th Fighter Squadron. The 140th Fighter Group — the unit which would later become The 140th Tactical Fighter Wing — was formed on May 26, 1946, and federally recognized on Oct. 1 of the same year. The 86th Fighter Wing was redesignated as the 140th Fighter Wing and federally recognized on Nov. 1, 1950.

The wing has been called to federal active duty on several occasions, beginning in April and May 1951, when the pilots of the 120th (now a fighter-bomber squadron) were called into Korea and 140th Fighter-Bomber Wing personnel spent an active duty tour at Clovis AFB, NM

In October 1951, the Tactical Air Command's 140th Fighter-Bomber Wing moved to Clovis Air Force Base, and on 15 November 1951 the field was activated. The 140th Wing, an Air National Guard unit composed of elements from Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming, had been called to federal service for a 21-month tour of active duty. The 140th Fighter-Bomber Wing operated Clovis Air Force Base until December 31, 1952 when the Wing was inactivated and returned to Air National Guard status.

December 1951 140th FW transferred to Clovis AFB, NM Brig. Gen. Moffitt becomes the first, and only, ANG general to command a tactical unit and base during the Korean War.

The call-up was in response to the USS Pueblo's capture by North Koreans earlier in the month. The president activated 14,600 Air Guardsmen and Navy Reservists to back up U.S. demands for the return of the Pueblo and its 83 men.

Wing operating location OL/GR operates the airburst air-to-ground gunnery range and is stationed at Peterson Air Force Base, with a duty location at Fort Carson, Colo. The airburst range's primary mission is to supply realistic training situations and opportunities for the wing and any other unit that requires the use of an air-to-ground gunnery range. Primary user of the range is the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron.

While in Vietnam the unit earned the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with the "V" device for valor. Flying F-100C, the 120th flew more than 6,000 combat missions in support of the ground forces of the United States and the Republic of Vietnam.

The Colorado Air Guard also made a name for itself as the home of the Air National Guard's first, and only, precision aerial flying team — The Minute Men. Headed by Col. Walt Williams, the nationally acclaimed team performed across the United States and Canada, the then U.S. territories of Hawaii and Alaska, and in Central America. In the fall of 1956 the National Guard Bureau designated the Minute Men as the official team to represent the Air National Guard of the United States. For the next four years, the team flew more than 100 air shows before millions of spectators.

The 140th TFW has also performed its mission in concentrated training deployments at bases around the country and the world. As part of a NATO exercise called "Deep Furrow" the wing deployed to Incirlik, Turkey, for 15 days in 1967. Six months later, the unit departed for Vietnam; there would be no more overseas exercises for the next 10 years.

The 140th's second overseas exercise was in September 1977, when the unit deployed to Gilze-Rijen Air Base, Netherlands, to participate in exercise "Coronet Ante." The success of the deployment resulted in the wing being awarded another Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in January 1980.

Since the deployment to the Netherlands, the 140th TFW has taken its A-7D to other foreign lands. In September and October 1979, the unit deployed to Merzifon Air Base, Turkey, as part of exercise "Coronet Rider." The exercise was also the first time any Air National Guard unit deployed under "base base" conditions in which only a runway and water supply were provided. The wing returned to Turkey in 1984, taking part in NATO exercise "Coronet Bronco" at Eskisehir AB. Additionally, as part of the "Coronet Cove" program, the 140th deploys to the Republic of Panama on a rotational basis to support the defense of the Panama Canal as provided under the Panama Canal Treaties of 1977. The first such deployment took place in December 1978. Subsequent trips have taken place about once every 12 months.

**2005 5 Sep** A total of 120 Civil Engineer personnel from the 140<sup>th</sup> Wing, Colorado ANG and the 119<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, North Dakota ANG deployed to Gulfport CRTC to help rebuild the base.

An Associated Press report on Wednesday made much of the deployment of Army Patriot missile batteries to Jordan and the dispatch of US F-16s there, as tensions between Jordan and war-torn Syria reportedly escalate. However, Air Force and Defense Department officials told the Daily Report on June 5 that the deployment of the F-16s is part of the long-planned annual Exercise Eager Lion, a US Central Command-sponsored event held with the Jordanian armed forces and other allies in the region. Denver's ABC New 7 channel reported that six F-16s and more than 60 personnel from the Colorado Air National Guard's 140<sup>th</sup> Wing departed Buckley Air Force Base on Tuesday for the exercise. According to an Air Forces Central Command statement, Eager Lion, which runs through June 20, is a valuable training opportunity for US airmen that promotes closer military-to military ties, helps establish clear lines of communication with allies, and identifies "regional and global challenges that require collective responses." 2013

Theater Security Package Deploys to South Korea The Colorado Air National Guard's 140<sup>th</sup> Wing deployed a detachment of F-16s, pilots, maintenance, and support personnel as part of a theater security package to South Korea on Feb. 4. The airmen will support joint exercises between US forces based on the Korean Peninsula and the Republic of Korea Armed Forces. As part of the US Pacific Command TSP, the Air Guardsmen will gain valuable training alongside other USAF units and fortify relationships with US partners in the region, said Col. Floyd Dunstan, commander of the 140<sup>th</sup> Wing at Buckley AFB, Colo. The deployment comes as US and South Korea prepare for large annual joint military drills Exercise Foal Eagle and Key Resolve, typically held between late February and April. The deployment will help US forces "serve as a deterrent against potential threats to regional security" while enhancing joint, deployed F-16C operations. Though most of the 140<sup>th</sup> Wing will deploy for the TSP a "significant number" will remain in Colorado to support NORAD's Aerospace Control Alert mission. 2015





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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

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.