

144th FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR GROUP

LINEAGE

372nd Fighter Group constituted, 12 Oct 1943
Activated, 28 Oct 1943
Redesignated 372nd Fighter Bomber Group, Apr 1944
Redesignated 372nd Fighter Group, Jun 1944
Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945
Redesignated 144th Fighter Group
Allotted to ANG (CA), 24 May 1946
Extended federal recognition, 2 Jun 1948
Redesignated 144th Fighter Interceptor Group, Oct 1952
Redesignated 144th Fighter Bomber Group, Dec 1952
144th FIG extended federal recognition, 7 Apr 1956
Inactivated, 9 Jul 1976

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 28 Oct 1943
Portland AAB, OR, 7 Dec 1943
Esler Field, LA, 29 Mar 1944
Pollock AAFld, LA, 14 Apr 1944
Esler Field, LA, 9 Feb 1945
Alexandria AAFld, LA, 14 Sep-7 Nov 1945
Hayward, CA
Fresno, CA, 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

Fourth AF
Third AF

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

P-40
P-51
F-102

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

Maj Francis E Brenner, 28 Oct 1943
Maj Darrell G Welch, 21 Dec 1943
Maj Joseph S Wakefield, 4 Feb 1944
Maj John R Harrison, 16 Feb 1944
LTC Sam W Westbrook, 3 Mar 1944
LTC Robert W Stephens, 17 Mar 1945
LTC Jack J Oberhansly, 30 May 1945
Col George R Bickell, 6 Aug-7 Nov 1945
LTC George D. Middleton

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

American Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Azure, three clouds two and one argent, issuing from the second cloud two lightning flashes one terminating on the first cloud and the other on the third cloud golden orange; in chief three mullets of the second. (Approved, 10 Feb 1954)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Functioned as an operational training unit. Also provided air support for air-ground maneuvers and demonstrations, participating in the Louisiana Maneuvers in the summer of 1944 and in similar activities in the US until after V-J Day.

The 61st Fighter Wing, the antecedent of the 144th Fighter Interceptor Wing, was federally recognized 4 Apr 1948 under the command of Gen Lawrence C. Ames. The Wing was stationed at the National Guard Center at Alameda, CA. Federal recognition was extended to the 144th Fighter Group on 2 Jun 1948.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources