

148th FIGHTER WING



LINEAGE

148th Fighter Group, Jul 1960
148th Fighter Interceptor Group
148th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, Jan 1976
148th Fighter Interceptor Group, Oct 1983
148th Fighter Group, 17 Mar 1992 (16 Mar 1992)
148th Fighter Wing, 11 Oct 1995 (1 Oct 1995)

STATIONS

Duluth, MN

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

T-33A
F-89J
F-102, 1967
F-101 1971
RF-4D, 1976
F-4D, 1986
F-16A
F-16C, 2003

Support Aircraft

C-47
C-54, 1969
C-26B

ASSIGNED TAIL/BASE CODES

COMMANDERS

Col Ralph Jerome
Col Wayne C. Gatlin, #1971
Col William H. Carr Aug. 9, 1978
LTC John H. Spencer, 7 Jun 1981
LTC John D. Broman 7 Dec 1985
Col Raymond T. Klosowski, 26 Aug 1989
Col Kenneth Stromquist, 10 Feb 1997
Col Tim Cossalter, 8 Feb 1998
Col. Frank H. Stokes

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, 1979, 1988 and 1999

EMBLEM

Per bend or and azure, throughout in bend between in chief a Phoenix bird, wings disclosed, eye voided of the field, beak open to dexter emitting a flame gules, of the second and charged pilewise by in dexter a bomb argent encircled by two orbits of the third and in sinister two double-ended lightning flashes of the last debriused by a cloud of the fourth and in base seven mullets having eight points, in the constellation Ursa Minor with Polaris at the Zenith in dexter flank, of the last, a winged arrowhead ascending of the like fimbriated gray, all within a diminished bordure of the fourth. The emblem is symbolic of the group and its mission. Polaris at the Zenith in the Ursa Minor constellation refers to Minnesota, "The North Star State", where the unit was activated in 1960. The winged arrowhead represents the airborne might capability of the group. The Phoenix bird bearing the bomb with nuclear symbol and the lightning flashes with the cloud in pile, a heraldic device denoting the wedge, depicts the units mission "Deter the Aggressor but Prevail in War". The emblem bears the Air Force colors, golden yellow and ultramarine blue. designed by Lt. Col. Wayne Gatlin.

MOTTO

A PROUD TRADITION—Approved 13 Apr 1982, coined by MSG Jim Morzenti.

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The current mission of the 148th Fighter Wing, flying the F-16C is two fold -- a federal mission and a state mission. The unit's federal mission is a general purpose one that involves air-to-ground combat and delivering guided and unguided bombs. In times of peace, the state mission is to respond to state and local emergencies at the request of the governor.

The 148th Fighter Group was federally recognized on 1 July 1960. The group consists of five squadrons under the headquarters and the current strength of the entire command is 79 officers and 683 airmen. Prior to 1 July 1960, the unit functioned as the 179th Fighter Interceptor Squadron with augmented elements for base support. At the time of reorganization to the fighter group, the 179th consisted of 550 officers and airmen.

Colonel Ralph M. Jerome, assumed command of the 148th Fighter Group on 1 July 1960. On 1 December 1966, Colonel Wayne C. Gatlin assumed command of the Fighter Group, following General Jerome's appointment as Deputy Chief of Staff - Air, Minn ANG.

The primary mission of the 148th Fighter Group was to reach a level of effectiveness as an all weather fighter interceptor group that will enable it to mobilize and operate as a combat capable organization and effectively support itself and efficiently perform all missions as directed by higher headquarters. The Group Headquarters is responsible for the overall command and supervision of the group. Its primary functions under the commander are the Offices of the Deputy Commander - Operations and the Deputy Commander - Materiel. The 10 officers and 15 airmen assigned to Group Headquarters are attached to the 148th Combat Support Squadron for administrative purposes.

On October 1, 1999, the 148 FW officially entered a mission conversion from the Air Superiority mission to the General Purpose (GP) mission. For the next two years, the unit trained in all the essentials of air-to-ground tactics and in the delivery of precision guided and unguided bombs. The GP mission included air superiority and air defense functions as well and officially encompassed "any mission the aircraft can accomplish, anywhere in the world." The 179th FS saw a first when they dropped live bombs during training exercises in March 2000.

The Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing is actively courting the Air Force to install an active associate unit at its Duluth International Airport, according to a June 13 report by the Duluth News Tribune. The Air Force's first community basing active associate unit, which put active duty airmen in Burlington, Vt., working with the Vermont ANG's 158th FW, was a hit with lawmakers who want to preserve their Guard and Reserve units and with USAF which capitalizes on the experience of the airmen in the two reserve components. Money became an issue after the Vermont test, but USAF now has reconfirmed the Burlington model and plans new community basing-type active associate units. 148th FW and Duluth officials are concerned about the gap facing the Air Guard unit before it gets the new F-35. They got a chance to "pitch the idea of a long-term mission for the 148th" and discuss the active associate possibility with Lt. Gen. Craig McKinley, ANG Director, who is in Duluth last week. Chamber of Commerce President David Ross told the News Tribune that he expects some decisions to be made over the next few months that will plot future missions.

Amari AB, Estonia-Ten countries and some 4,700 personnel, including 475 US airmen, are participating in this year's Saber Strike exercise in the Baltic countries of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania. This year's exercise, which runs through June 20, includes eight F-16s from the Minnesota Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth. The fighters, which came directly from exercise Thracian Star in Bulgaria, are flying 10 to 12 sorties a day; they're simultaneously

supporting joint terminal attack controllers on the ground for Saber Strike and providing maritime support to US Navy ships operating in the Baltic Sea for NATO's BALTOPS 2014, this year's largest multinational maritime exercise in the area. "It is very busy supporting two different operations on two locations, but our maintenance people are doing a wonderful job being able to support the pilots, and the operational support people are doing a wonderful job planning," 148th FW Commander Lt. Col. Nate Aysta told Air Force Magazine during a June 13 interview here, the F-16s' staging location, located southwest of Estonia's capital Tallinn. This marks the first time F-16s have participated in Saber Strike; typically A-10s have provided the ground-troop support. It's also the first time Duluth's F-16 Block 50 airplanes have operated in the European theater since the wing acquired them from Spangdahlem AB, Germany, in 2010. 2014

Air Force Order of Battle

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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.

Unit History. MN ANG. *148 Fighter Interceptor Group, Minnesota Air National Guard, Duluth, 1948-1968.*

Unit History. MN ANG. *148 Fighter Interceptor Group, Minnesota Air National Guard, Duluth, MN, 25th Anniversary, 1948-1973.*

Unit History. MN ANG. *148 Fighter Wing, The First Fifty Years.*