

161st INTELLIGENCE SQUADRON



LINEAGE

161st Tactical Fighter Training Squadron constituted and allotted to Kansas ANG, 1 Jul 1987

Extended federal recognition, 12 Sep 1987

Redesignated 161st Fighter Squadron, 16 Mar 1992

Inactivated, 1 Aug 1994

Redesignated 161st Intelligence Squadron and activated, 1 Apr 2008

STATIONS

McCConnell AFB, KS

ASSIGNMENTS

184th Tactical Fighter Group (later 184th Fighter Group)

184th Regional Support

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

F-16A

F-16B

F-16C

F-16D

Support Aircraft

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

LTC Alphonso Meza Jr, 21 May 1993

LTC Ralph L Moser, 1 Apr 1992

LTC Ronald L Wilcox, 7 Aug 1989
LTC Larry Kavouras, 20 May 1987
LTC John J. Hernandez, 1 Oct 2002

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

Jayhawks

OPERATIONS

The 161st Intelligence Squadron (161 IS) is a unit of the 184th Intelligence Wing of the Kansas Air National Guard stationed at McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kansas. The 161st is a non-flying squadron operating the Distributed Common Ground System.

Support warfighters by exploiting airborne reconnaissance sensors to effect fused, all-source, and actionable intelligence. Get the downlink - Build the picture - Make the call. The 161st Intelligence Squadron's job is to collect and analyze near real time video feeds from the Predator and or near real time radar images from the U-2 and Global Hawk to provide intelligence to war-fighters around the world from a stateside location.

In January 1987, the 184th was tasked to activate a squadron of F-16A/B and conduct conversion and upgrade training in the F-16. On 8 July 1987, the 161st Tactical Fighter Training Squadron was established as the third flying squadron at the 184th TFG. Formal activation ceremonies for the 161st occurred on 12 September 1987, with the unit flying 10 F-16s and conducting its first student training class.

Initial squadron 161 TFTS is receiving 18 F-16s to replace the F-4D's. The 177 TFTS the 127 TFS will receive F-16s in the future. Wichita is the primary F-4D combat crew training unit for the Air National Guard and Air Force reserve. When The base completes its conversion to F-16 it will be a major F-16 training site for reserve force aircrews.

In March 2002 the 184th Bomb Wing commits to developing the 161st Intelligence Squadron mission. July of that same year the Squadron is initially formed followed by hiring a full-time

cadre. Formal establishment of the provisional 161st occurs 16 September 2002.

The 161st required, by far, the most demanding training and proficiency commitments of all the post B-1 new mission areas, to include the transition to the KC-135. In 2002, 161st Intelligence and Communications Logistics (CLG) candidates began the Tech School process, the shortest of these courses requiring some four months of training at either Goodfellow or Keesler AFB. This was followed by 2-4 months of Predator and U-2 Initial Qualification training at Langley and Beale AFB. On the whole, all new Intel and CLG specialists spent at least 8 months on the road becoming mission-ready. From Squadron initiation to fielding two mission ready Predator crews in two years is a feat unequalled in the ANG Intelligence community.

In March, 2003, personnel recurrently detached to DGS-1/497th ICs Langley AFB VA, performed hundreds of Predator and U-2 exploitation missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. 161st Intel and CLG specialists collectively spent hundreds of days detached or deployed to attain these operational achievements.

In May, 2004, SMSgt Newell Applegate became the first Kansas Guardsman to deploy to the Intel Support Element of the Combined Air Operations Center, AL Udied AB, Qatar, coordinating and covering Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance missions for both Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Also in May, 2004, TSgt John Hollar and TSgt Tony White deployed to DGS-4, Ramstein AB Germany, where they formed the backbone of the Predator crews tasked with initiating USAFE's Predator support to CENTCOM and OIF/OEF.

In June, 2004, SMSGTs Mike Beason and Rob Sauer detached to the 152 IS, Reno NV, for 30 days, to conduct RQ-4 Global Hawk exploitation in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and establish baseline experience with Global Hawk missions.

8/18/2006 Kansas became home to "America's newest intelligence center," the largest intelligence processing center in the Air National Guard, on Aug. 16. The state-of-the-art Distributed Ground System intelligence facility at McConnell Air Force Base will be the permanent home to the Kansas ANG's 161st Intelligence Squadron. The 161st IS, a part of the 184th Air Refueling Wing, has been performing the DCS mission at other locations worldwide since 2003. With the addition of this full-spectrum, high-tech intelligence center, those same Guardsmen will now be able to serve locally while still supporting the fight on terror globally. "This is more good news for Kansas, and we should all be proud of the Kansas Air Guard's ability to step up and meet the challenge to serve yet once again," said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. "No other unit in the nation has proven itself more adaptive to change and more capable of quickly developing high-level capabilities important to America's defense," said Kansas Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Tod Bunting. "This ribbon-cutting is a testament to the hard work, skill and tenacity of the members of the 184th." "This intelligence center and the Kansas Guardsmen that will work in it are absolutely critical to America's ability to win the war on terror," said Col. Randy Roebuck, 184th ARW commander. The DGS mission provides intelligence processing, exploitation and dissemination designed to supply actionable

intelligence in near-real-time. "In a dangerous and chaotic world, it's comforting to know we have the best people with the best equipment in the best facility, working day and night to protect America and our troops," Colonel Roebuck said. The new facility is the first of its kind to be specifically designed for the most modern DGS intelligence equipment available.



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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.