

175th WING



LINEAGE

175th Tactical Fighter Group 1962-1992
175th Fighter Group 1992-1995
175th Fighter Wing 1995-1996
175th Wing 1996

STATIONS

Baltimore, MD

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Col Jesse Mitchell
Col Donald Barshay
Col Bruce Tuxill
Col Ted Thilly
BG David A Beasley
Brig. Gen. Guy M. Walsh,
Col Scott L. Kelly, Jun 2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

The 175th Fighter Group Insignia, designed by A2C James Williams. was adopted as official on Oct. 30. 1966 On a field of ultramarine blue trimmed in Air Force gold rests a cocked crossbow. The checkered pattern beneath the bow represents Calvert colors in the Maryland State flag. The bow is shown in a cocked position to symbolize the unit's being poised and ready to strike whenever the country calls.

Blue and 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 crossbow symbolizes the fighter mission and the Pegasus denotes the airlift mission. The representation of the Maryland state flag reflects the consolidation of these two missions with the Wing and also indicates the unit's home location. Approved by Air Force on 23 August 1996. This insignia superseded one previously approved by the Air Force for the 175th Fighter Group following that unit's redesignation as the 175th Wing.

MOTTO

Bibrati In Prompts--Poised In Readiness

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Federal Mission is to maintain trained and equipped combat/combat support forces ready for mobilization, deployment and employment as needed to support national security objectives. State Mission is to support the Governor of the state of Maryland with units organized, equipped and trained in the protection of life and property, preservation of peace, order and public safety. These missions are accomplished through emergency relief support during natural disasters; joint reception, staging and onward integrations; search and rescue operations; support to civil defense authorities; maintenance of vital public services and counterdrug operations.

A second group headquarters was added in 1962, when the 175th Tactical Fighter Group was established that October. The 104th Tactical Fighter Squadron, which had heretofore operated as an independent squadron, became part of the new group.

In April 1968, when Unrest in the wake of this national tragedy struck many major cities across the country, but the Baltimore area was, unfortunately, hit by some of the worst of these riots. The Governor issued Executive Order 11405 on April 7 1968, and the 175th Tactical Fighter Group and the 135th Air resupply Group were called upon to assist in quelling the disorders. The various squadrons were broken into companies, platoons, and then squads and the personnel were used to protect important installations in the city and guard individuals arrested during the disturbances. In the words of Col. Jesse Mitchell, the 175th Group Commander at the time, "We were activated with no notice and suddenly found ourselves no longer the Maryland Air National Guard, but true members of the Maryland National Guard." The unit was mainly put in charge of guarding the Baltimore Civic Center, which the police used as a temporary holding area for detainees. Martin State Airport was used to bivouac Army and Special Forces troops that had been airlifted into the area to help restore order. The runway was closed to normal traffic and the

area around the runway became a tent city. Of course, this was a logistical nightmare. While on riot control duty for the state, the nation next requested the services of the 175th TFG. A news flash came over the radio stating that the 175th would be ordered to active duty with the Air Force in reaction to the Pueblo Crisis.

The 175th was called to extended federal active duty beginning May 13, 1968. The initial activation notice called for the entire unit to mobilize, but the Air Force later decided to take only the operations and maintenance troops and the group headquarters. The only units to be activated were the 175th TFG Headquarters, the 104th TFS, and the 175th CAMS. This caused a lot of problems as the unit was essentially ripped in half. All 27 F-86Hs and two T-33s arrived and were in place at Cannon Air Force Base, N.M. by June 10, 1968 and by June 20, most personnel had signed in at Cannon. Two replacement T-33s soon arrived at Martin State to fill the void there.

In 1988, the Groups reorganized to mirror the Air Force's Quad-Deputy system. The titles of the four Deputy Commanders became: Deputy Commander of Operations, Deputy Commander of Maintenance, Deputy Commander of Resources, and Deputy Commander of Support. Authority was also granted to designate one of the deputies as a Vice Commander. The 135th Combat Support Squadron was redesignated as the 135th Mission Support Squadron. The 135th Tactical Airlift Group was still a member of MAC while the 175th was still a member of TAC.

In an October 1962 reorganization of the Maryland Air National Guard, the 104th Tactical Fighter Squadron and several support squadrons were subordinated to a new higher headquarters, the 175th Tactical Fighter Group. The new group structure enabled the 104th's F-86s to operate with greater independence than in the past. "In case of an atomic attack in which higher headquarters were rendered ineffective, the unit could accomplish its mission alone," declared the 175th's new commander, Lt. Col. Jesse Mitchell, Jr.

On June 15, 1996, the units of the 135th and 175th merged to form the 175th Wing. The 175th Wing, which carries on the lineage and honors of the 175th Fighter Group, is a composite organization with an Air Combat Command-gained fighter unit, an Air Mobility Command-gained airlift unit, a U.S. Air Forces in Europe-gained civil engineer flight, and, since 2006, a network warfare squadron.

2 Sep The ANG CAT filled a NORTHCOM request for an ANG Combat Weather Team. Three Combat Weather personnel from Detachment 1, Washington ANG, and two Weather Forecasters from the 121st Air Refueling Wing, Ohio ANG, and the 175th Wing, Maryland ANG, deployed in Title 10 status to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, members of the 175th Wing have repeatedly volunteered or been mobilized to take part in the Global War on Terrorism. From January to June 2003, the 104th Fighter Squadron was deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, where it flew strikes against Taliban and al Qaeda forces and earned the distinction of being the longest-deployed Air National Guard fighter squadron at Bagram. Elements of the 135th Airlift Group remained almost continuously deployed in support of the War on Terror from December 2004 until January 2007, flying airlift missions throughout the combat theater as part of the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. In

addition, the 135th maintained a continuous presence of two aircraft and personnel in Afghanistan from April to September 2008.

This year, that 175th Wing was recognized as one of Air National Guard's top units, winning the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the period of April 1, 2007, to March 31, 2009. This award was a testament to the hard work, sacrifice, professional dedication and excellence of the members of the Maryland Air National Guard. These qualities continued to be evident in 2009, with a total of 689 wing members being mobilized in support of the War on Terror and other operations during the fiscal year. The wing also had the honor of supporting the historic inauguration of President Barack Obama, deploying a 51- person contingent to Washington, D.C., for the event.

Among headquarters' other highlights for the year were: One staff judge advocate deployed to the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Detention Center as a legal advisor. Another SJA is currently serving a 6-month active duty tour at the Judge Advocate General's Labor Law Division in Rosslyn, Va. The wing command post received a positive report during the Unit Compliance Inspection conducted in January. The section contributed to wing readiness by reaccomplishing all training plans for command post controllers. 2009

The wing chaplain team deployed one enlisted member to Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, for 132 days while also maintaining opportunities for religious worship, pastoral care and counseling to members at home station. The chaplain team also hosted the annual wing Prayer Breakfast. In addition, one chaplain and chaplain's assistant deployed to Washington, D.C., as part of the Maryland contingent supporting inauguration activities. 2009

The Maryland Air National Guard broke ground on a new \$11.8 million headquarters building for the 175th Wing at Warfield ANG Base in Middle River, northeast of Baltimore. The new facility will consolidate personnel from the wing staff, mission support group, and medical group under the same "green" roof, according to the wing's Oct. 9 release. The 31,500-square-foot building will include office space, a command section, medical clinic, and training classrooms. When it is complete "we'll have what we need to be good stewards of the community and the environment," said Brig. Gen. Allyson Solomon, Maryland's assistant adjutant general-air. The ground-breaking ceremony took place on Oct. 2. Wing officials anticipate that the building will be completed by June 2014. 2012

The Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing christened its new headquarters building in a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Warfield ANG Base. The new 33,700-square-foot building "gives us operable space that we have needed for quite a few years," said 175th WG Commander Brig. Gen. Scott Kelly at the March 8 ceremony. The \$14 million facility will house the wing's command section, mission support group, and medical group, according to a March 9 unit release. Some of the wing's airmen are transferring from a 1960s-era building to the new facility, which features energy-saving materials and systems, states the release. Warfield is "huge to eastern Baltimore County" and the modernized facility demonstrates the Guard's commitment to the area, said Baltimore County Councilwoman Cathy Bevins at the ceremony. 2014



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Sources

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