

176 MAINTENANCE SQUADRON



MISSION

The 176 Maintenance Squadron (MXS) is the largest squadron on the base. The organization is responsible for off-equipment maintenance for the C-130, HC-130 and HH-60 aircraft. The organization supports in-place and deployed contingency operations for all weather search/rescue and airlift operations worldwide and a 24-hour search and rescue coverage (military and civilian) for all of Alaska. MXS has 17 separate work sections with 18 separate AFSCs and manages nine buildings on Kulis.

LINEAGE

176 Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron
Redesignated 176 Maintenance Squadron

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

176 Maintenance Group

COMMANDERS

LTC Keith A. Douglas

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc Azure, an Alaskan aboriginal style raven/salmon naiant embowed Sable and Gules, eyed Argent, beneath a mullet Or, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "ALASKA AIR NATIONAL GUARD" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "176TH MAINTENANCE SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 star signifies the North Star and represents the Squadron's home in the Last Frontier. The raven/salmon design is rendered in the artistic style of the native people of Southeast Alaska. Details within the raven/salmon consist of the eye of an owl and within the tail, the claws of a wolf. These elements pay homage to the Wing's flying squadrons. The raven is symbolic of honor, dignity and wisdom. The salmon overcomes seemingly insurmountable obstacles to reach its destination and is a primary source of sustenance. The Squadron embraces the qualities of the raven and, like the salmon, perseveres in all environments and conditions to provide aircraft to serve the Nation and State.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

176 CAMS The history of the 176th CAMS started in 1952 with the original squadron working out of Hangar 3 at Elmendorf Air Force Base. By 1953, the squadron had grown considerably and the roster boasted 20 people in maintenance.

In the first 5 years of their existence, the Alaska Air Guard was assigned four different aircraft to support: the T-6G in 1952, the T-33 in 1953, the F-80 in 1953 and the F-86E in 1955.

The flying mission changed from fighters to airlift in 1957, when the C-47 arrived. The "Gooney Bird" was replaced by the C123J in 1960. The unit converted to the C130E in 1976 and the C130H in 1983.

The abilities and dedication of the people in maintenance are reflected in the success of the flying mission. When the 144th Air Transport Squadron was elevated to the 176th Tactical Airlift Group in 1969, the maintenance section became the 176th CAMRON. Even through name and mission changes, the maintenance tradition of dedication never wavered. The squadron continued outstanding support for local missions ranging from various training and operational missions to state missions ~or emergency support during disasters such as floods and oil spills. The squadron has been represented in competitions such as Red Flag and Volant Rodeo and has seen international service in Panama, Europe, and Asia. The squadron and its members have

continuously been recognized for outstanding performance.

In 1977 a Management Effectiveness Inspection (MEI) was conducted to test the abilities of the Group. Maintenance was recognized for its excellent management in the Operations and Maintenance Branch, and the Avionics Section received an outstanding rating. The MEI team's summary noted that, "in spite of crowded facilities, the attitudes in the squadron personnel were positive and the morale was high". The subsequent history of the 176th CAMS continued much the same; over the years, the squadron received outstanding and excellent ratings in Operational Readiness Inspections and MEIs, and was awarded the Governor's Trophy for Outstanding Unit numerous times. When the 144th Tactical Airlift Squadron became the first Air Guard unit to receive an Outstanding rating in Standards Evaluation, the 176th CAMS was acknowledged by a Laudatory rating for their efforts

The squadron was frequently faced with challenging circumstances that complicated mission accomplishment. One of those challenges was when all the aircraft were grounded at once for the faulty throttle- control cables. The 176th CAMS was one of the first four of 93 units to get the aircraft repaired and back to flying. This same kind of determination to get the job done saw the successful installation of the Self Contained Navigation System (SCNS) and the advent of computerized maintenance documentation. Whether the challenge came from new aircraft, new systems or new technology, 176th CAMS could be counted on to put forth whatever efforts were needed to complete its mission.

Many hours of hard work and dedication have made the 176th CAMS a major contributor to the success of the Alaska Air Guard. The 176th CAMS has not only maintained its own aircraft, but it has been the parent of two other squadrons - the 168th CAMS and the 210th CAMS. The unit has impressed our city, our state, our nation and our foreign allies with its consistently high performance.

In 1977 Alaska Air National Guard kicked off one of its largest construction projects ever. More than \$3 million was invested in a new composite maintenance building, an aerospace ground equipment support building and a new petroleum operations facility on Kulis.

Approximately 125 Alaska Guardsmen from the 176th Wing's 144th Airlift Squadron, 176th Maintenance Squadron and 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron were deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, for 90 days in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Operating C-130 tactical airlift airplanes, these men and women supported U.S. efforts throughout the region with intratheater airlift and airdrops of men, supplies and equipment. Working in austere environments, these Alaska Guardsmen helped save lives by delivering the necessary resources and equipment to our Soldiers on the ground. 2011

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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