

HQ MASSCHUSETTS AIR NATIONAL GUARD



LINEAGE

STATIONS

Wellesley, MA

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj. Gen. Michael D. Akey

Brig. Gen. L. Scott Rice, 2010

Brigadier General Gary W. Keefe is the Commander, Air National Guard (Acting), Massachusetts National Guard, Massachusetts Joint Force Headquarters, Milford, Massachusetts.

In 1999, during Operation ALLIED FORCE, General Keefe served as the Expeditionary Logistics Group Commander for the presidentially activated 104th Expeditionary Operations Group, Birgi Air Base, Trapani, Italy. He commanded 420 United States Air Forces Europe personnel comprised from the Air National Guard's 104th, 110th and 124th Fighter Wing, as well as personnel from the United States Air Force, and Air Force Reserve.

In 2003 during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, General Keefe served as Commander, 387th Expeditionary Logistics Group in South West Asia. He commanded in excess of 800 United States Central Command personnel and was responsible for all aircraft maintenance and logistics activities associated with A/OA-10 aircraft activities throughout the Air Campaign.

November 1998 – May 2002, Commander, 104th Logistics Group, 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes ANGB, Westfield, Massachusetts

May 2002 – September 2005, Commander, 104th Maintenance Group, 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes ANGB, Westfield, Massachusetts

September 2005 – January 2007, Commander, 104th Mission Support Group, 104th Fighter Wing, Barnes ANGB, Westfield, Massachusetts

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Per fess Azure and Gris, a fess Or, between in chief two stylized aircraft ascending to dexter chief one and one Argent, and in base upon a mound Vert, a minuteman with musket to dexter Sable, environed by thirteen mullets of the fourth, all within a diminished border of the third. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed “HQ MASS ANG” in Blue letters.

EMBLEM 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 aircraft represent the core heritage of the Air Force and the Air National Guard mission and the eventual conquering of flight, their direction pointing upwards denotes the future. The upper background signifies strength, loyalty and confidence and the vision of the air as a platform of defense and is representative of the heritage color of the Air Force and Air National Guard. The Massachusetts minuteman’s portrayal within this emblem, along with his rifle, depicts readiness, protection and the willingness to guard his freedoms and those of his countrymen. The thirteen stars represent the formation of the original colonies of the United States of which Massachusetts was part, being the sixth state to join the Union. The lower background represents security and the proud dignity and authority of the Headquarters in the leadership role for the Massachusetts Air National Guard. The minuteman stands atop a hill, which signifies the attainment of liberty. The hill’s green color represents the Army’s roots of the Air National Guard and is associated with stability, health, endurance and represents solid ground. All of these elements combined represent a proud legacy and service as part of the armed forces to the Commonwealth and the country.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Organized in Boston in November 1921, the 101st Observation Squadron was first called to FAD 19 years later, flew combat operations in Europe for two months just before World War II ended, and was allotted back to the Massachusetts Guard in 1946. Neither the 104th FS nor the 131st FS, which had been organized in eastern Massachusetts in 1947, was called to active duty during the Korean War, but both served in France during the Berlin Crisis.

At the end of FY92, 2,889 officers and enlisted personnel manne 33 MA ANG units, including the 101st FS flying F-15A/Bs from Otis ANGB and the 131st FS flying A-10s from the Barnes Municip; Airport and preparing to convert to F-16C/Ds.

As 2011 unfolded, we have reached a few significant milestones. None more recent then becoming IOC or initial operations capable in our new weapon system, the F-15. During the first week of February I have conducted a few interviews on what IOC really means to a unit, and thought an article like this could help paint a clear picture for our readers. The military is known for delineating between things. An example is rank-there is no question that a Captain outranks an Airman. There are also clear lines drawn regarding money and how it can be spent, and at what time it can be spent. There is also very clear guidance on reporting a unit's status and what status correlates with when looking at its ability (specifically in regards to money, people and the types of missions it can perform.) Here is the background: following the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Committee's recommendation, assets, equipment and missions were redistributed and many units transformed. As a result, the 104th Fighter Wing assumed the F-15 mission that was formally flown at the Cape, and the 102nd was transformed from a Fighter Wing to an Intelligence Wing. The events that followed were carefully executed to allow for missions to continue and transform to happen without losing significant capabilities within the area. Some of the important milestones were: The A-10's began to leave Barnes in February of 2007; the first F-15s began to arrive at Barnes in September of the same year; Otis flew its last alert mission in Jan 2008; new facilities were being erected at a cost of \$40 million at Barnes; the 104th Fighter Wing deployed to Key West Fla. and Las Vegas Nev. to train for its new mission. All these events happened amidst a flurry of retraining, deployments, design and construction projects, and inventory and equipment movement...all with one goal in mind, completing the conversion safely and becoming IOC. Once IOC was reached, the 104th Fighter Wing could then begin accepting new missions; and that's what's next. First and foremost, the wing is now able to be deployed, as a wing, in support of contingency operations overseas. Just as it did in 2003, the wing can take its people and airplanes 'over the pond' to support the nation's needs. Second, it can accept the Air Sovereignty Alert mission, which it is scheduled to do on February 15th. The ASA is the unit's 'home-game' in as much as deploying is the 'away-game'. Despite some initial rumors, the ASA mission is just that, a single mission... yes there is a fair amount of infrastructure in place to make it easy to perform that mission here, it is just one component our operational mission. With the conversion completed, we are also ready to be evaluated. While we were in conversion status the Air Force was very careful not to test our abilities because of the clear learning curve. As we continue down the road of becoming the 'most respected F-15 unit in the Combat Air Force' per Col Brook's vision, we will need to be tested. First will be the Air Force evaluation of the ASA mission, following that we will engage in 3 more Operational Readiness Exercises, preparing for the

inspection in Jun '11. Hard work now, just as it did when we were converting, will lead us to successful outcomes, and one step closer to the commander's vision. 2010

The Massachusetts National Guard activated more than 1,000 Army and Air National Guardsmen in late March -early April 2010, to assist civilian agencies with filling and distributing 33,000 sand bags, performing presence patrols in isolated areas, assisting with emergency evacuations and manning traffic control points during a powerful rainstorm that began March 28 and swept over the region, leading to flooding throughout New England. The Guardsmen were called to State Active Duty in support of Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's declaration of a state of emergency in the Bay State. Guardsmen worked around the clock through the rainstorm, supporting various aspects of the mission, dubbed "Operation Rising Water," providing assistance throughout the hardest hit areas. In total, 54 missions were completed in 23 communities. The conditions were messy and the hours were long, however, they were no match for the determined Massachusetts National Guard Provides Storm Relief Assistance to Communities Massachusetts National Guardsmen. A point that was reinforced by the Massachusetts National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Carter, a few days into Operation Rising Water. "The state of emergency is still in effect for Massachusetts and our mission remains the same. Our troops are driving forward with ongoing operations and will continue to do so until our assistance is no longer required," said General Carter. The missions the National Guard supported were requested by local civilian authorities and coordinated through the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). MEMA, in turn, sent the requests for military assistance to the National Guard who dispatched units to the requesting communities to render assistance. The Massachusetts National Guard remains trained, equipped and ready to assist local and state emergency responders throughout the Commonwealth to protect the safety of the Massachusetts people now and in the future.2010

Air Force Order of Battle
Created: 19 Dec 2010
Updated:

Sources