

132 AIR BASE GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

132 Air Base Group activated
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1958

STATIONS

Lincoln, NE

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Donald E. Coy
Col J M Campbell

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

A major reorganization took place on November 1st, 1950. All Fighter Groups were reorganized as Fighter Wings under the "Wing Base" concept which automatically deactivated Nebraska's Air Service Group and the Utility Flight. The support units were reorganized into

five squadrons (Headquarters, Communications, Food Service, Air Police and Installations) which comprised an Air Base Group. All of the 132nd Air Base Group squadrons were federally recognized in November 1950. This Air Base Group was a part of the 132nd Fighter Wing located in Des Moines, Iowa and was the first Air Base Group in the Nation to be located at a separate location from its Wing Headquarters. Lt. Col. John M. Campbell was the Commander of the 132nd Air Base Group and Major Fred H. Bailey, Jr. became the Commander of the 173rd Fighter Squadron.

The entire 132nd Fighter Wing (all of the Iowa and Nebraska Air National Guard units) was called into active service on April 1st, 1951 to serve during the Korean Conflict. The units remained in Federal status for twenty-one months and then were released to resume their National Guard role. The units of the Nebraska Air National Guard (also the Iowa Air Guard units) were released from active duty on December 31st, 1952 and returned to National Guard status on January 1st, 1953.

The first major task confronting the unit commanders was to rebuild their organizations into full-strength and combat-ready units. Col. John M. Campbell was appointed Chief of Staff for Air in Nebraska. Major Fred H. Bailey, Jr., was released from Active Duty and returned to his previous duties as the Tactical Squadron Commander and also Base Detachment Commander. Major Donald E. Coy returned to Lincoln as the Air Base Group Commander. The 8173rd Utility Flight, commanded by Capt. Elmer E. Herron, was deactivated with the return of the Air Guard Units. This Utility Flight organization had remained in Nebraska throughout the period. The rest of the Air Guard was on Active Duty. They separated and maintained one C-47 Administrative type aircraft which was at the disposal of the Governor and the Adjutant General.

The F-80 began to arrive in the fall of 1953. Two fatal accidents as a result of material failure occurred during this period and all of the jet aircraft were returned to the Lockheed factory for complete modernization and modification.

Aircraft were returned to the Tactical Squadron in sufficient time to permit adequate pilot and mechanic training in preparation for Field Training in Casper, Wyoming, August 1954. The Tactical Squadron was re-designated as the 173rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron and was given the primary mission with the Air Defense Command. The training conducted during the 1954 Field Training period in Casper, Wyoming was in accordance with Air Defense standards and requirements.

As the plans were firmed up for the Air Defense augmentation of the Air Guard units, the added responsibility required an even greater pilot proficiency for aerial gunnery. The tactical flying during the 1955 Field Training period was devoted entirely to practicing aerial gunnery and the pilots in the Fighter Squadron flew more than 1000 tactical jet hours in a two week period. More than 67,000 rounds of 50 caliber ammunition were expended. The average aerial gunnery mission was slightly more than one hour in duration so the Squadron's twenty-five pilots were kept quite busy.

Authorization was received in the summer of 1955 to construct new facilities for the Air Guard units. The Lincoln Air Force Base was reactivated and became a permanent Strategic Air Command Base which necessitated all National Guard units to move into new facilities as soon as possible. The new Air Guard site was obtained just south of the Commercial Air Terminal adjoining the Lincoln Air Force Base and construction began in the fall of 1955. Construction was completed in September 1956 on the Hangar, warehouse, paint storage building and the motor vehicle shop. Construction on a second warehouse began in November, 1956. Construction on a Flight Simulator Building began in March 1957 which will complete the two million dollar Air Guard installation.

On July 1st 1956, the Nebraska Air National Guard assumed an active role in the aerial defense on the United States. Pilots patrol the skies daily and are on constant alert in search of unidentified aircraft. Pilots and their aircraft, when not flying on a mission, are on a "five minute alert" which means they have The 173rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron began to receive new all-weather fighter aircraft in March 1957. The pilots and mechanics attended an extensive training program and were capable of flying and maintaining the new aircraft during the 1957 Field Training Period

The Nebraska Air National Guard Units combine with the Iowa Air Guard units to form the 132nd Fighter Interceptor Wing. The 132nd Air Base Group and one of the Fighter Squadrons (173rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron) within the 132nd Fighter Interceptor Group are located in Lincoln, Nebraska. The 173rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron is augmented with three elements from the Maintenance and Supply Group and one element from the Medical Group. The remainder of the Wing making up the Iowa Air National Guard. The Wing Headquarters is located in Des Moines, Iowa.

The 132nd Air Base Group has the responsibility of supporting the Fighter Squadron and keeping the Air Base in operation. Its Food Service Squadron prepares and serves the meals for all personnel. The Communications Squadron operates and maintains the ground communications systems. The Air Police Squadron provides security for the military installation and all of the equipment. The Installations Squadron builds, repairs and maintains all real property, operates crash rescue equipment and performs many other functions. The Headquarters Squadron provides administrative assistance and liaison between the various Squadrons and the Air Base Group Commander. The Headquarters Squadron also provides overall personnel services such as operation of the theater, mail service, Service Club, Officer's and Airmen's Club, Base Operations, Photography Laboratory and others. These activities and many more are essential in the operation of an Air Base and every reasonable effort is expended in keeping the personnel mentally and physically capable of performing their assigned duties.

The 173rd Fighter Interceptor Squadron is the tactical flying unit in the Nebraska Air National Guard. There are approximately 35 tactical pilots and three hundred airmen in the Fighter Squadron. The Squadron has twenty-five tactical aircraft assigned plus the associated support equipment such as the refueling trucks, starting units, maintenance stands, etc. The personnel

authorization and assigned equipment is standard in all Fighter Squadrons in the Air Force and in the Air National Guard.

The primary mission of the Fighter Squadron is aerial defense of the United States. The Squadron is assigned to the Air Defense Command and would be under their control in the event of a National Emergency.

The Squadron is responsible for the maintenance of its assigned aircraft and the proficiency for the assigned personnel. Group and flying training programs are administered by the Squadron. The level of training and combat effectiveness is closely supervised by the Squadron Commander and the Air Force Advisor.

The Senior Air Force Advisor is an officer attached to the Nebraska Air National Guard from Headquarters, Tenth Air Force. The SAFA and his three airmen technical advisors monitor the Air National Guard program and provide assistance whenever possible. Being representatives from the regular Air Force they obtain information through Air Force channels and make distribution to the assigned Air Guard units. They also submit reports of training, assigned strengths and combat effectiveness to their Air Force Headquarters. Every Air Guard unit has an Air Force Advisor organization.

Another organization that assists the Air Guard Commanders in the formation of local policies and directives is the Headquarters, Air National Guard. The Adjutant General, Chief of Staff for Air and their staff monitor the overall operation of the units and coordinate their activities with local and state requirement. The Air Staff consists of a well qualified officer in each field i.e. Operations, Administration, Supply and these officers supervise all activities in his specialty in the state.