

164 WEATHER FLIGHT



MISSION

LINEAGE

164 Weather Station (Type A) constituted, 20 Jun 1948
Redesignated 164 Weather Flight, (Mobile), 1 Apr 1964
Redesignated 164 Weather Flight (Mobile/Fixed), Oct 1965
Redesignated 164 Weather Flight

STATIONS

Mansfield-Lahm Airport, OH, 20 Jun 1948
Etain Air Base, Frances, 1 Nov 1961
Mansfield-Lahm Airport, OH, 22 Jul 1962

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj David W. Wolf, 20 Jun 1948
Maj James A. McDowell, 4 Jan 1960
Maj Duane M. Benton, 16 Mar 1971
Cpt Walter B. Bauer (Acting), 1 Aug 1972
LTC Duane M. Benton, 26 May 1973
LTC Walter B. Bauer, 1 Mar 1976
Lt Col Scott Lutz

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Berlin Contingency 1 Oct 1961-22 Jul 1962

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc per bend Azure and Vert, a lightning flash bendwise point to base throughout Or edged Sable, in chief a fleur-de-lis Argent, above an anemometer Sable detailed Silver Gray, all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "164TH WEATHER FLIGHT" in Black 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 lightning flash denotes the unit's accuracy and worldwide weather capability. The fleur-de-lis symbolizes the unit's combat support heritage from the US Army Weather Service participation in World War I to present day operations. The anemometer symbol is indicative of meteorological support provided by the unit.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 164th Weather Flight, located at Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in Columbus, provides 24-hour tactical weather observing and forecasting support to an Army commander, his/her staff and all attached aviation assets. Beginning this fiscal year, the 164th was also assigned to provide exercise flying support to all four Air National Guard flying wings in Ohio.

164th Weather Flight was activated for Berlin Crisis 1 Oct 61 reporting to 2nd Weather Group, Langley AFB, Virginia. Attached to 121st Tactical Fighter Wing, Lockbourne, 1 Nov 61 and departed for Etain AB, France. Assigned to 31st Weather Squadron of Ramstein, Germany, while at Etain. Relieved at Etain 15 Jul 62; returned to Mansfield Municipal Airport 22 Jul 62. Released from Extended Active Duty Aug 62.

In 1974, the 164th traveled to Volk Field, Wisconsin for annual training in support of "Guard Strike V." Many Ohio flying units were supported by the unit during this joint exercise. In 1975, it was back to Alpena for annual training in support of the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing and the 179th Tactical Fighter Group. In 1976, the flight spent annual training at nearby Lockbourne AFB, Ohio, learning the weather support requirements of the Strategic Air Command. In 1977, the unit spent annual training on the Pacific coast at Vandenberg AFB, California, where forecasters and observers learned about missile support, including ionospheric readings and interpretations. Annual training periods in 1978 and 1979 were spent at Dover AFB, Delaware. There, flight members supported Military Airlift Command operations of the 436th Military Airlift Wing, one of the two C-5 transport wings in the country.

On October 1, 1979, the mission of the 164th was changed drastically. Air Weather Service directed the 164th to provide weather support to the 73rd Infantry Brigade (Separate), ONG, headquartered in Columbus. Support included weather forecasting to the command and intelligence operations, and weather observing to airfields, heliopads or drop-zone locations. The unit was given a three year moratorium on IG inspections in order to transition to this new mission.

Initially it was difficult for the flight to adapt this mission. First, the flight remained at Mansfield and provided weekend support to the 179th Tactical Airlift Group, and was able to support the 73rd brigade only during annual training missions. Second, the flight had to learn how to work, live, and survive in an Army field environment. Much Army tactical training had to be accomplished. Third, the unit had no Army tactical equipment with which to train.

The first annual training with the 73rd occurred in 1980 at Camp Grayling, Michigan and the 164th was able to obtain only limited equipment to support ten people. It was a small beginning but everyone worked hard. In 1981, additional equipment was procured for annual training, and all members had their own personal equipment. At annual training in 1982, the 164th was assigned additional Army communications personnel.

By 1983, all personnel were fully trained in Army tactical equipment and procedures. Annual training was at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, where during the first week, personnel received many lectures from Detachment 1, 5th Weather Squadron personnel (the active duty AWS unit at Campbell), and the second week was spent in a field exercise with the Brigade. It was a most memorable annual training period due to the heat. Daily high temperatures during the first week of 100 plus degrees (with high humidity) were followed by 95 to 100 degree temperatures during the second week. Staff Sergeants Denchik and Yackey attended annual training at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, in January and February, 1983 where they learned winter survival techniques with members of the 73rd. The average temperature during this two week period was 20 degrees below zero. In contrast to the 100° degree temperatures at Fort Campbell in the summer, this proved to be a memorable event.

Annual training for the years 1984 through 1987 have been conducted at Camp Grayling, Michigan. This consistent assignment has allowed the 164th to grow into its mission of supporting the 73rd. The 164th now has its own Modified Table of Organization and Equipment (MTOE), which authorizes the unit to have trucks, jeeps, radios, communications equipment, three Army communications personnel, and a host of other Army tactical equipment.

The weather flight completed annual training in support of the 155th Separate Armored Brigade of the Mississippi Army National Guard at Camp Shelby, Miss. During this exercise, the 164th was the first Guard weather flight to be rated as "outstanding" by the Air Combat Command inspector general while supporting the Army in the field during an Operational Readiness Inspection. Also during this fiscal year, one unit member deployed to the base weather station at Incirlik, Turkey, for two weeks on an Air Expeditionary Force rotation.

USAF Unit Histories
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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.
Unit yearbook. *O.A.N.G. Ohio Air National Guard History, 1927-1974.*
Unit yearbook. *Ohio Air National Guard Sixty Year History, 1927-1987.*