

924 RESERVE TRAINING WING

MISSION

LINEAGE

924 Reserve Training Wing

STATIONS

General Mitchell International Airport – Air Reserve Station, WI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 924th Reserve Training Wing was activated at Billy Mitchell Field in February 1952. It was redesignated as the 438th Fighter Bomber Wing on July 1, 1952. The Air Reserve changed the unit's mission again in 1953 when it became the 2473rd Air Force Reserve Training Center (AFRTC). During this time period, the Reservists flew the T-6 Texan, F-51 Mustang and the F-80 Shooting Star

aircraft.

The 2473rd AFRTC began acquiring land in the southwest corner of the airport in 1954 and began construction of training facilities in 1955 with \$2.8 million that the Air Force Reserve had provided. The first buildings were completed in 1956. One of the first buildings to be completed was the 69,428 sq. ft. aircraft maintenance hangar. The heating plant, base supply and petroleum oils and lubricants areas were also completed in 1956.

The 2473rd was deactivated in 1957, and at the same time the existing 440th was transferred from Minneapolis to the newly constructed Air Force Reserve installation. The Air Force assigned an airlift mission to the unit again. After the move to Milwaukee, the 440th Troop Carrier Group became the 440th Airlift Wing, and the Fairchild C-119 Flying Boxcar aircraft was assigned to the wing.

General Mitchell International Airport – Air Reserve Station

The Milwaukee County Park Commission purchased the current home of the 440th Airlift Wing in 1926, a 160-acre site known as Hamilton Field. The U.S. Army changed the name in 1942 to General Billy Mitchell Field. Milwaukee County officials changed the name again in 1986, to General Mitchell International Airport.

With the activation of the 924th Reserve Training Wing at Gen. Mitchell Field, the Flying Badger newsletter was born. This was the actual headline in the first issue of the Badger in February 1952. The physical size of that first issue was just a bit smaller than the current Badger, but it was printed on regular paper, as opposed to the glossy finish of today's newsletter. And of course, the copy was input by typewriter, so several individual letters appeared above and below the type line due to the slight misalignment of the typewriter keys.

Many units, including the base itself, was renamed during the 1980s. On June 19, 1986, the airfield was renamed from Gen. Billy Mitchell Field to Gen. Mitchell International Air Reserve Station. And in October 1987, the 440th Airlift Control Element changed to the 440th Airlift Control Flight.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.