

123rd WEATHER FLIGHT



LINEAGE

STATIONS

Portland, OR

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Maj. Kenneth Glthens , #1960

LTC George C. Bluhm, #1991

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

On a disc per pale Sable and Vert, an anemometer per pall throughout Azure highlighted Argent, in dexter base a lightning flash bendwise sinister, in sinister base a sword bendwise point to fess point and in chief a fleur-de-lis Or, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "123 WEATHER FLIGHT" 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 background colors signify the unit's support of the U.S. Army. The anemometer and lightning flash symbolize the weather mission, the sword indicates the combat mission and the fleur-de-lis stands for the high standards maintained by the unit.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 123rd Weather Flight is an embedded capability staffed at the Brigade HQ. The 123rd provides timely and accurate weather and meteorological data, furnishing commanders at all echelons with critical information needed to execute operations safely and effectively.

The 123 Weather Station (type A) was constituted and allotted to Oregon on May 24, 1946. The unit was activated in support of the crisis to Korea on February 1, 1957. It returned to state control as the 123 Weather Flight (Forecasting Station) on February 9, 1957. The flight's original authorized manning of 16 was increased to 20 in the mid-seventies. In 1980 the manning was decreased to its present strength of 13 authorized positions. The weather flight was originally tasked to provide weather support to the 142nd Fighter Interceptor Group. This support included issuing weather forecasts for Portland IAP, providing weather briefings to the pilots of 123 Fighter Interceptor Squadron and the staff of the fighter group. A meteorological watch was conducted by the unit's observers. In the fall of 1979, the weather flight's mission changed from an Air Force support mission to an Army support mission. With this mission change, the weather flight would mobilize with the Army.

The 116th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Idaho ARNG, was the first unit the weather flight supported. In October 1985 the weather flight assumed its current mission, providing weather support to the 41st Infantry Brigade, Oregon ARNG.

The weather flight made some wholesale changes in training. Not only did personnel have to be technically qualified in their AFSCs, they had to learn how to survive in a tactical environment. Unit members became both "airmen" and "soldiers." Personnel are trained to interpret topographic maps as well as weather charts, how to operate combat weapons along with high-tech weather instruments. Weather flight members are qualified to brief commanders of mechanized, artillery and helicopter units with accurate weather information. They must also defend themselves under hostile fire. They sleep under the stars, eat MREs and live in the field.

In the past, Air Weather Service provided active duty advisors to the ANG weather flights. The MAC technical advisors acted as fulltime points-of-contact for the weather flights and as liaisons between the ANG and the Air Weather Service. In 1985, the advisor program ended and the National Guard Bureau authorized a full time position within the weather flight.

Sources