

133rd MILITARY AIRLIFT GROUP

LINEAGE

367th Fighter Group Constituted, 26 May 1943

Activated, 15 Jul 1943

Inactivated, 7 Nov 1945

Redesignated 133rd Fighter Group. Allotted to ANG (MN), 24 May 1946

Extended federal recognition, 28 Aug 1947

Ordered into active service, 1 Mar 1951

Redesignated 133rd Fighter Interceptor Group

Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952

Relieved from active duty, returned to ANG (Minn), and activated, 1 Dec 1952

STATIONS

Hamilton Field, CA, 15 Jul 1943

Santa Rosa AAFld, CA, Oct 1943

Oakland Mun Aprt, CA, 10 Dec 1943-8 Mar 1944

Stony Cross, England, 5 Apr 1944

Ibsley, England, 6 Jul 1944

Beuzeville, France, 22 Jul 1944

Criqueville, France, 14 Aug 1944

Peray, France, 4 Sep 1944

Clastres, France, 8 Sep 1944

Juvincourt, France, 28 Oct 1944

St-Dizier, France, 1 Feb 1945

Conflans, France, 14 Mar 1945

Frankfurt/Eschborn, Germany, 10 Apr-Jul 1945

Seymour Johnson Field, NC, Sep-7 Nov 1945

Holman Field, MN, 1 Mar 1951

Ft Snelling, MN, 21 Jan-6 Feb 1952

Minneapolis St Paul, MN

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth AF

Air Defense Command

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

Maj Tuevo A Ahola, 17 Jul 1943
LTC John R Alison, Aug 1943
Maj Tuevo A Ahola, 22 Oct 1943
Maj Morris C Crossen, 25 Nov 1943
Col Charles M Young, 22 Jan 1944
Col Edwin Chickering, 9 Nov 1944-unkn
Col John R Dohny, 1951-Feb 1952
LTC Thomas Hennesy
Col Ray Miller
Col Ernest Berg,
LTC Otto Peterson
Col Alfred Schwab
Col Marvin Thorson, 1966
Col Robert E. Leighton, #1971

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
France, 25 Aug 1944
Germany, 19 Mar 1945

Cited in the Order of the Day, Belgian Army
6 Jun-30 Sep 1944
16 Dec 1944-25 Jan 1945

Belgian Fourragere

EMBLEM

Per bend azure and gules, throughout in bend between in chief the dominant constellation of the northern sky argent (the Big Dipper, Ursa Major, with the North Star in sinister chief) and in base a griffin sejant with left foreleg slightly raised or, wings, head and neck feathers of the first all highlighted white and outlined sable, a vol argent outlined gray.

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

The North Star denotes the geographic location of the northernmost state, Minnesota, which is the home of the Headquarters, 133d Fighter Interceptor Wing, Air National Guard. The big dipper (Ursa Major) signifies the combined units of the Wing and the Tactical Group shining in united brilliance — the dominant constellation of the Northern sky. The diagonal wing is symbolic of the inherent nature and the constituted purpose of the organization, i.e., airborne defense against enemy attacks on the continental United States. In the lower left area of the emblem is the Griffin, a mythical animal, poised for the strike in case of attack. The Griffin, a heraldic emblem for vigilance, signifies the union of strength and agility which typifies the organizational mission of Air Defense.

MOTTO

SPLENDENTES IN DEFENSIONE--Shining in Defense

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Moved to England, Mar-Apr 1944, and assigned to Ninth AF. Equipped with P-38's in Apr 1944 and converted to P-47's in Feb 1945. Entered combat in May 1944, attacking railroads, bridges, hangars, and other targets in western France, and escorting bombers that struck airfields, marshalling yards, and other facilities in the same area. From D-Day to 8 Jun 1944, provided cover for Allied forces crossing the Channel; during the remainder of Jun, bombed and strafed convoys, troops, flak towers, power stations, and other objectives behind the invasion beaches. Moved to the Continent in Jul 1944 and operated chiefly in support of ground forces until V-E Day. Struck railroads, marshalling yards, and trains to prevent enemy reinforcements from reaching the front during the Allied breakthrough at St Lo in Jul 1944. Received a DUG for a mission in France on 25 Aug: after attacking landing grounds at Clastres, Peronne, and Rosieries through an intense antiaircraft barrage, the group engaged a number of enemy planes and then, despite a low fuel supply, strafed a train and convoy after leaving the scene of battle; later the same day the 367th flew a fighter sweep of more than 800 miles, hitting landing grounds at Cognac, Bourges, and Dijon. Attacked German strong points to aid the Allied push against the Siegfried Line in the fall of 1944. On 26 Dec, during the Battle of the Bulge, escorted C-47's that dropped supplies to Allied troops encircled at Bastogne. Received another DUG for action on 19 Mar 1945: although its target was located in mountainous terrain, concealed by ground haze, and well-defended by antiaircraft artillery, the group descended to low altitude to bomb and strafe the headquarters of the German Commander-in-Chief, West, at Ziegen-burg. Struck tanks, trucks, flak positions, and other objectives in support of the assault across the Rhine late in Mar and the final Allied operations in Germany. Flew last mission on V-E Day. Returned to the US, Jul-Aug 1945.

The origin of the present day 133d Military Airlift Group can be traced back to World War II. Originally constituted as the 367th Fighter Group in May 1943, the Group had three fighter squadrons attached from 15 July 1943 to 7 November 1945 and participated in numerous campaigns in Europe. The Group was inactivated in November 1945 and allotted to the State of Minnesota. Two years later, in August 1947, the Group received Federal recognition as the 133d Fighter Group and was headquartered at Holman Field in St. Paul.

Prior to the 1950 reorganization of the Minnesota Air National Guard as a Wing, the Group operated under tactical control of the 86th Fighter Wing, Denver. Within the 133d Wing organization were formed four groups at Holman Field: 133d Fighter Group, commanded by Lt. Col. John R. Dolny; 133d Maintenance and Supply Group, commanded by Maj. Arthur Petter; 133d Air Base Group, commanded by Col. Ernest Berg, and 133d Medical Group, commanded by Maj. Mentor Christenson. Field training for the St. Paul based units prior to the Korean War was held at Camp Ripley and Volk Field.

Called to Federal active duty in March 1951 for 21 months, the St. Paul units were reorganized into the 133d Fighter Interceptor Wing and 133d Fighter Interceptor Group with operations transferred to Wold-Chamberlain Field. Upon deactivation in December 1952, Lt. Col. Dolny became Wing commander and Lt. Col. Alfred Schwab was appointed Group commander. Other commanders who followed during the 'fifties included Colonels Edmund Antonini, Ralph Jerome, and Robert Peterson. Summer field training periods during that decade included encampments at Volk Field; Casper, Wyoming; and Alpena, Michigan.

133d Fighter-Interceptor Group: Federalized ANG on 2 March 1951 as the 133d Fighter Group at Holman Field, St. Paul, MN, and assigned to 133d Fighter-Interceptor Wing; redesignated 133d Fighter-Interceptor Group on 23 March 1951; moved to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, MN (old-Chamberlain Field), on 28 June 1951; inactivated on 6 February 1952.

In January 1960 the Group became part of the Military Air Transport Service. Conversion was made to heavy transport capability following a brief operation with jet fighters for a few years. Within a year after conversion to C-97 aircraft, the Group was again called to active duty for 11 months in support of the Berlin Crisis

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources