

154 TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP

MISSION

LINEAGE

561 SAW Bn

Redesignated 154 Aircraft Control and Warning Group, 24 May 1946

Allotted to National Guard, 24 May 1946

Federalized, 5 January 1951

Redesignated 154 Aircraft Control and Warning Group, July 1951

Redesignated 154 Tactical Control Group

Inactivated, 7 Oct 1952

STATIONS

Savannah, GA

Nouasseur, Morocco

COMMANDERS

Col James C. Grizzard, 1946-1951

Col Marion L. Clounts, 1951-1952

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 154th Aircraft Control and Warning Group was organized in 1946 at Marietta Army Air Base under the Command of Col James C. Grizzard. The 154th was equipped with radar tracking units to determine the approach of potential enemy aircraft. Subordinate units assigned to the 154th Group Headquarters were: 116th Aircraft Control Squadron at Marietta AAB, 117th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Hunter Field, Savannah, GA, 118th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at Charlotte, NC, 129th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron at St. Simons Island, Brunswick, GA, 104th Communications Squadron at Marietta AAB, 604 Signal Light Construction Company at Marietta AAB and the 104th Radar Calibration Flight at Marietta AAB.

The 154th Aircraft Control and Warning Group held field training in Orlando, Florida in 1949. Subordinate units participated in numerous exercises designed to train and evaluate the many specialists in these units. Field training in 1950 was spent with 54th Wing Headquarters and other elements of the Georgia Air National Guard at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The 154th Aircraft Control and Warning Group was a separate stand alone unit and not a part of the 54th Fighter Wing. The 154th AC&W Group Headquarters, commanded by Col J. C. Grizzard, with four subordinate squadrons and two Signal and Communications Squadrons, was inducted into the U.S. Air Force on 8 January 1951. After induction the 154th was stationed at Sewart Air Force Base, Tennessee.

Severe shortages in officers and airmen strength were a major problem and were worsening in mid 1951. Less than 50 percent of the 212 authorized officers and slightly more than 50 percent of the 1806 authorized airmen were assigned to the Group in Jan of that year. Most of the airmen assigned were technical school graduates or skilled in their career fields. The most critical were officer and airmen in the radio, radar and communication fields and airmen in the food service field.

The Group participated in EXERCISIE TEAMWORK in March 1951. The purpose of the exercise was to provide training in the field to enable squadron commanders to ascertain operational deficiencies. The exercise pointed out not only the shortcomings of the men, but the lack of equipment and spare parts, as well. The 117th AC&W Squadron operated the only heavy radar available to the Group. In spite of difficulties encountered, EXERCISIE TEAMWORK was considered a success.

As a tenant unit on Sewart, the 154th Tactical Control Group participated jointly with the 314th Troop Carrier Wing in such projects as ground safety, flying safety, medical service, religious activity, food service, security, special services, information and education, and other special projects.

The Group was alerted for overseas movement on several occasions during 1951

The 154th AC&W Group formed a part of the Georgia National Guard when ordered to active duty for twenty-one months in early 1951 before finally deploying to North Africa on Christmas Eve in 1951. The 118th Squadron deployed to French Morocco in December, 1951, to locate and survey potential radar sites. Group headquarters and the three remaining squadrons arrived in June, 1952, only to learn that they would not be utilized for some time. Responsibility for air defense, French Air Force or USAF, had not been agreed to yet. The site at Mechra Bel Ksiri near Sidi Slimane Air Base worked just fine, but had no tie-in to an operating air defense control center.

The entire 154th AC&W Group was released from active duty and returned, less equipment, to Georgia. At the same time, the 549th AC&W Group with four squadrons came into being to replace the 154th Group. Within a few months newly arriving personnel would be providing radar coverage of French Morocco.

154th Aircraft Control & Warning Group

Activated: 14 December 1950, as part of Georgia ANG, George Air Force Base, Marietta, Georgia

Redesignated: 24 May 1946 from 561st SAW Bn

Redesignated: 154th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, July 1951, at Stewart Air Force Base, Tennessee.

Mission: Engage in Tactical Operations or defensive operations as directed.

Mobilized: 8 January, 1951 – 8 October, 1952

Embarked: 7 June 1952

Arrived: 16 June 1952, Casablanca

Deployed: Nouasseur, French Morocco; Relocated 28 August 1952, Rabat Sale Airfield, French Morocco

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

Sources

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