

## 170 GROUP



### MISSION

170 Group mission is providing personnel, resources and support to 55 Wing Federal missions and to the Governor of Nebraska for state domestic operations. The 170 Group is partnered with the 55 Wing and is comprised of highly experienced Guardsmen in two squadrons, the 238 Combat Training Squadron and the 170 Operations Support Squadron.

### LINEAGE

170 Air Transport Group, Heavy established and allotted to the Air National Guard 16 Dec 1963

Activated and extended federal recognition and activated, 18 Jan 1964

Redesignated 170 Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1966

Redesignated 170 Aeromedical Airlift Group, 1 Dec 1969

Redesignated 170 Tactical Airlift Group, 9 Jun 1973

Redesignated 170 Air Refueling Group, Heavy, 1 Apr 1977

Inactivated, 30 Sep 1993

Withdrawn from New Jersey and allotted to Nebraska, 1 Jul 2007

170 Group activated and extended federal recognition, 7 Jul 2007

### STATIONS

Newark Airport, Newark, NJ

McGuire AFB, NJ, 1 Jul 1965

Offutt AFB, NE, 7 Jul 2007

### ASSIGNMENTS

New Jersey Air National Guard, 18 Jan 1964

133 Air Transport Wing, Mar 1964  
171 Military Airlift Wing (later 171 Aeromedical Airlift Wing), 1 Jan 1966  
118 Tactical Airlift Wing, 9 Jun 1973  
171 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Apr 1977  
108 Air Refueling Wing, Oct 1991 – 1 Oct 1993  
Nebraska Air National Guard, 7 Jul 2007

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

### **Mission Aircraft**

C-46, 1956  
C-119, 1958  
C-121, 1962  
C-7, 1973  
KC-135, 1977

### **Support Aircraft**

VC-131 54-2814

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC James E. Miller, #1965  
LTC James E. Young, 1 Aug 1967  
Col Emmett M. Hanley, 1 Aug 1979  
Col Neil D. Kennedy  
Col Richard J. Evans III  
Col Mark H. White, 2007  
LTC James Stevenson, 9 Jul 2011

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**



## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Operation Swift Move was the code name given to the movement of the 170th Military Airlift Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, from Newark Airport to McGuire Air Force Base in June 1965. More than 622 men and women, all members of the 170th Air Transport Group, New Jersey Air National Guard, stationed at Newark Airport since 1929, have moved the entire installation, including more than 14 million dollars worth of equipment and aircraft 60 miles down the New Jersey Turnpike to McGuire exactly 400 days ago. The move out of Newark Airport was occasioned by the combination of Newark Civilian Airport expansion and the consolidation of 92 Military installations ordered by the Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara.

The local payroll of the unit, and local expenditures account for \$51,401,000 annually, and this money, formerly spent in the Newark Area, will now become a benefit to the Burlington County Communities. Lt. Col. James E. Miller, Jr. Commander of the 170th ATG, was pleased with the move to McGuire. He said, "At Newark, all aircraft maintenance had to be done out of doors in all kinds of weather. Whereas at McGuire we have two maintenance areas, that permit our people to work on our C-121 inside."

The men and women of the 170th Air Refueling Group were active participants in provisional wings from August to December 1990. Aircrews, maintainers and support personnel were assigned to the 1701st Air Refueling Wing (P) in Saudi Arabia in volunteer Temporary Duty tours ranging from two weeks to thirty days. Members of the 170th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 170th Security Police Flight volunteered for duty with the 801 Air Refueling Wing (P) at Moron AB in Spain. With the guidance of the Logistics and Planning office, 170th members were integrated into units on these rotational tours with other Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve and Active Duty units. December, 1990 witnessed the first mobilizations of 170th personnel as plans for Operation Desert Storm were coming close to implementation. The aircrews of the 150th Air Refueling Squadron and the maintainers from

the 170th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received the first calls. The unit mission requirements were changed to reflect additional Strategic Air Command Alert responsibilities throughout the United States and the continued support of the "Air Bridge".

Throughout Operation Desert Shield/Storm, many individuals, although not mobilized, made continuous and significant contributions to the successes of the 170th's participation in this "Desert Victory". Members from both base Air National Guard Finance and Consolidated Personnel functions were there to meet the flow of outgoing and incoming flights. The support from other staff agencies such as the Staff Judge Advocate, the Chaplain and especially the 170th Mission Support Flight was outstanding and just as vital to the success of the mission. Disaster Preparedness and the Combat Arms personnel increased the frequency and intensity of their training. Thanks to them, all deployed members reinforced their confidence to operate in a hostile chemical environment. Many members served voluntary tours of duty at bases throughout the United States, including several who served directly at major command levels, on tour with the Air National Guard Support Center, Strategic Air Command, and Tactical Air Command.

The participation of the 170th Air Refueling Group came to a happy and successful conclusion with the return and demobilization of the 170th Services Flight from F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming on 3 July 91. Approximately 300 guardsmen were active in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. This included 141 who were mobilized. Several men and women successfully completed multiple volunteer tours of duty and were mobilized as well.

On October 1, 1993, the 170th Air Refueling Group NJANG consolidated with the 108th Air Refueling Wing. The 108th welcomed the 150th Air Refueling Squadron's 37 years experience in airlift and air refueling operations, and its 130,454 accident-free flying hours

2007 Nebraska Air National Guard's presence at Offutt Air Force Base is about to receive an organizational boost. In a ceremony tentatively scheduled for July 6, the Air National Guard will activate the new 170<sup>th</sup> Group Headquarters and 238<sup>th</sup> Combat Training Squadron as part of the Nebraska Air National Guard. The units will join the 170th Operations Support Squadron, which has been operating at Offutt AFB as part of the 55th Wing, Air Combat Command's largest wing. The 170<sup>th</sup> OSS was the first Air Guard unit to associate with an active duty ACC wing.

According to Col. Rick Evans, commander of the 170th OSS, the activations are part of an Air Force and Air National Guard goal to align Air Guard units directly with active duty Air Force organizations and to better position Air Guard personnel in units compatible with their federal missions. Evans said the activation of two additional units at Offutt AFB speaks volumes about the relationship that has been built between the Nebraska Air Guard and the 55<sup>th</sup> Wing in just a few years.

"The 55th Wing is the Air Force's premier integrated wing," said Evans. "It employs members from all three military components of the Air Force: active duty, Guard and Reserve. In addition, Offutt Air Force Base has a large population of Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors who are part of the daily operations of the base and wing." "The

55th Wing has welcomed the Nebraska Air Guard as a mission partner and the relationship we have with them is solid and beneficial to both parties,” Evans said.

As part of the activation and reorganization of the Air Guard at Offutt, the 170th OSS will be separated into three units, said Evans. The 170<sup>th</sup> OSS will remain to organize Air Guard personnel performing such operations support activities as airfield management, flight records, scheduling, current operations and plans. The 238th CTS will be activated to organize Air Guard personnel who are responsible for providing formal flying training to active duty and Air Guard crew members flying the OC-135, RC-135 and WC-135 assigned to the 55th Wing.

The 170th Group headquarters will be activated to provide the command element for and administrative support to the two Air Guard squadrons and all Air Guard members assigned to Offutt AFB. Evans said that in order to create the new unit, the Air Force is reactivating the 170th Air Refueling Group formerly of the New Jersey Air Guard and redesignating it as the 170<sup>th</sup> Group assigned to the Nebraska Air Guard. Evans said the activations and reorganization will not result in a change of numbers of Air Guard members assigned to Offutt AFB.

“This change is a realignment of our existing personnel at Offutt Air Force Base along functional lines, not a major shift in the Concept of Operations for what we actually do,” Evans said. “Instead of being assigned to only one unit, our billets and people will now be split among three units.” “The overall mission of the units and their members remains the same: to support the 55th Wing’s global treaty verification, command and control, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.” 2007

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources

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