

176 WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

176 Tactical Airlift Group constituted and allocated to Alaska ANG, 1969
Received federal recognition and activated, 1 Apr 1969
Redesignated 176 Composite Group, 1 Oct 1986
Redesignated 176 Group, 1 Jan 1993
Redesignated 176 Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 2011

ASSIGNMENTS

Alaska Air National Guard

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

C-17

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

LTC Harold E. Wolverton, 1969
LTC Larry E. Campbell, 1969
Col Clayton D. Moore, 1973
BG Edward A. Belyea, 1978
Col Paul W. Lindemuth, 1983
Col Kenneth M. Taylor, 1988

Col Thomas J. Gresch, 1990
Col Dan P. Nice, 1992
BG Van P. Williams, 1996
BG Gene L. Ramsay, 2002
BG Tony A. Hart, 2005
BG Charles E. Foster, Jr. 2008
Col Donald S. Wenke, 18 Sep 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 1969 the 176th Tactical Airlift Group was activated. The Group retained the 144th Tactical Airlift Squadron as its flying unit. By the end of 1970, four squadrons had been organized to perform the flight operations, maintenance, supply and support functions. Along with the tactical dispensary, a communications flight and a civil engineering unit were added. The Group was authorized another 475 positions on top of its 275 existing slots.

In April 1969, the Alaska Air Guard was officially designated as the 176th Tactical Airlift Group with the 144th Tactical Airlift Squadron as the flying unit. The base itself continued to put up more buildings and as always, dedicated people came to join the Alaska Air National Guard.

176 CG The headquarters element of the 176th Composite Group (176 CG) performs a wide variety of key roles for the Alaska Air Guard. Born of the 144th Air Transport Squadron (Medium) in 1969, the Group was first designated the 176th Tactical Airlift Group (176 TAG), in keeping with the flying mission of its subordinate flying unit, the 144th Tactical Airlift Squadron.

In 1986, the designation was changed to the 176th Composite Group (176 COMPG), when the 168th Air Refueling Squadron (168 AREFS) was activated at Eielson AFB and assigned to the 176th. In 1989, the 168 AREFS gained Group status itself, and began operating independently.

But the 176th was soon to perform the statewide search and rescue mission from Kulis ANGB, so it retained the "Composite" designation. In 1990, the 210th Air Rescue Squadron was activated and assigned to the 176 COMPG.

When the 176th's gaining command changed from MAC to PACAF in 1992, the designation also changed from COMPG to CG, in accordance with new Air Force nomenclature.

The Commander of the 176 CG is also the Base Commander for Kulis Air National Guard Base. His staff includes four Deputy Commanders, one of whom is designated Vice Commander of the Group. The Chief of Safety also serves as a member of the Commander's staff.

Group Headquarters functions are divided into four areas, or directorates, each of which is responsible to its respective Deputy Commander. Some functions serve the entire Group, while others focus on activities within specific areas. Generally, the Resources and Services Directorates serve the whole organization, and the Operations and Maintenance Directorates support the flying mission.

The Deputy Commander for Resources is responsible for the planning and execution of all logistics needs: equipment, supplies, fuel, transportation, contracting, finance, and logistics plans. The Deputy Commander for Support is likewise responsible for security, communications, personnel, administration, medical, civil engineering, and air base operability.

All flying activities are the responsibility of the Deputy Commander for Operations. Similarly, the Deputy Commander for Maintenance oversees all aircraft maintenance activities.

Group headquarters functions that serve the entire organization are Public Affairs, Logistics, the Staff Judge Advocate, Historian, Chaplain, and Safety. The Public Affairs office advises the commander on public opinion and new ways to promote and educate the public about the Guard and its activities and policies.

The Staff Judge Advocate is the Commander's legal advisor. His office also provides wills and powers of attorney to Guard members, and legal assistance when needed. The history of the Group is maintained by the History office, which compiles information and documents the unit's activities for Group records as well as National Guard Bureau files. The Chaplain's office provides spiritual guidance for the unit and worship opportunities for Guard members on drill weekends. The safety office manages the Group's ground and flight safety program. In addition to providing safety training, assigned safety specialists conduct inspections and evaluations, and conduct accident investigations.

176 CG Group headquarters functions that primarily support the flying mission include Command Post, Standardization/Evaluation, Intelligence, Tactics, Operations Plans, Training, and Life Support. The Command Post is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It provides command and control for all assigned agencies.

The Standardization/Evaluation section monitors the performance of all aircrew members assigned to the 144th Airlift Squadron and the 210th Air Rescue Squadron. Representing every crew position, Stan/Eval crewmembers are experts in their field. They ensure that all aircrew are qualified to perform their assigned mission.

The Intelligence section reviews incoming messages concerning military and political happenings around the world. After detailed research, the intelligence staff briefs the Commander and his staff on the current state of world and military affairs. They also brief aircrews on potential threats, including enemy weapons systems.

The Group Tactics Officer analyzes information provided by the Intelligence section and develops tactics necessary to avoid threats and complete assigned flying missions.

Operations Plans validates the Group's ability to perform its mission as tasked by higher headquarters OPLANS. This section also maintains unit generated plans, and provides guidance and support to the Commander and his staff during contingencies.

The Group Training office plans and coordinates training activities and ensures that unit members are trained to perform their wartime mission.

The Life Support section is charged with providing training to aircrews on equipment and techniques necessary to ensure survival in all contingencies. In addition, the section inspects and maintains a wide range of equipment and personal protective gear, keeping it in top shape and ready for use on short notice.

Although the Headquarters element of the Group is relatively small, it provides many important services. It works together as a team with many subordinate units to provide a wide range of guidance and support to the Commander and the entire Group

In 1986 176th Tactical Airlift Group mission was to build a tanker unit from the ground up, the new organization was designated as Detachment 1. In the Spring of 1986, members of the unit — what few there were — began a 17-day tour of other Air National Guard tanker units. This trip had a dual purpose, one of its participants would recount later: “One, conduct interviews and make selection for the jobs ... and two, steal people.” Evidently they were very persuasive, because the new unit was staffed by 16 officers and 65 enlisted personnel by September, when its first planes, four renovated KC-135s arrived. For its first four years of existence, the 168th was assigned to the 176th, which was redesignated the 176th Composite Group in recognition of its newly diversified components. By the end of the decade, the 168th had already reached operational maturity. It was redesignated the 168th Air Refueling Group and began operating independently of the 176th.

In late 1987 when it was announced that the 176th would assume the Air Force Search and Rescue mission in the Alaska Theater because the USAF's 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Elmendorf AFB was being inactivated.

In its 2005 BRAC Recommendations, DoD recommended to close Kulis Air Guard Station (AGS), AK, and relocate the 176th Wing and associated aircraft (eight C-130Hs, three HC-130Ns, and five HH-60s) to Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK. This recommendation would distribute C-130, HC-130 and HH-60 aircraft from Kulis AGS to Elmendorf Air Force Base, which had a higher military value. Moving these aircraft to Elmendorf Air Force Base would consolidate two installations in the same city, reduce infrastructure, create an active/ARC association, and retain the skilled, highly trained ANG personnel from Kulis AGS.

Alaska Air Guard Unit Makes Move: With a final formation flyby, 11 aircraft left Kulis ANGB in Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday for nearby Joint Base Elmendorf, signaling the official move of Kulis' 176th Wing to Elmendorf and ending operations at Kulis, per BRAC 2005. "We're looking forward to the increased partnership with the 1,400-plus men and women of the Air National Guard and their families," said Col Robert Evans, commander of Elmendorf's 673rd Air Base Wing in welcoming the Kulis airmen. These Air Guardsmen operate C-130s and HC-130s and HH-60s. BG Charles Foster, 176th Wing commander, said the move to Elmendorf "offers the wing growth as a team and a partnership that works." He noted that the benefits of the relocation "far outweigh the downsides." 2011

In 2011, Alaska Air National Guardsmen serving throughout Alaska met that mission by executing an extremely high operational tempo and deployment pace for yet another year – this while completing a complete base realignment, moving the entire 176th Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The Alaska Air National Guard also saw a great deal of change in its senior leadership in 2011, ensuring that the mission and end goals of the organization continue to be met and exceeded, and that the mission continues to move forward. Two new wing commanders were appointed, and Colonel Carlisle Lincoln was appointed as the Joint Forces Headquarters chief of staff.

Participants in the largest deployment in the history of the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron returned to Alaska in late August and early September after a 90-day tour of duty in Afghanistan. The 125 members of the 176th Wing were stationed at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Most of those returning are members of the wing's 144th Airlift Squadron. Operating C-130 tactical airlift airplanes, these men and women supported United States efforts throughout the region with intratheater airlift and airdrops of men, supplies and equipment. The mission also included a significant number of deployers from the wing's two maintenance squadrons – the 176th Maintenance Squadron and the 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – plus a handful of support personnel from other wing units. "Our Airmen performed superbly, and we are very proud of their service in Afghanistan," said Brigadier General Chuck Foster, then 176th Wing commander. "We are very happy to have them back in Alaska with their families, friends and loved ones." 2012

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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