

169 SECURITY FORCES SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE

169 Weapons Systems Security Flight
169 Security Forces Squadron

STATIONS

McEntire ANGB, Eastover, SC

ASSIGNMENTS

169 Tactical Fighter Group
169 Mission Support Group

COMMANDERS

Maj Karl Bowers
Cpt John Motley Jr.
2Lt. Sam Elkins
LTC Charles Wesley
Cpt Bryan Studebaker, Aug 2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Since it separated as part of the 169th Combat Support Squadron, the 169th Weapons Systems Security Flight has grown in its role as the Security Police force for the S.C. Air National Guard.

The flight has been involved in several exercises beyond its traditional duties during field training with the 169th Tactical Fighter Group, including grueling survival training in remote regions of California.

Jan 2009 169 SFS deployed to Kyrgyzstan for six months Members of the Swamp Foxes from the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base sharpened their aerial combat skills in the skies over Alaska, during a 10-day Red Flag exercise held at Eielson Air Force Base from July 27 to Aug. 7. The high-intensity training is designed to assist junior pilots experience realistic warlike scenarios. Red Flag-Alaska offers a unique training environment, with over 67,000 square miles of airspace for aircrews to plan and execute full-force combat missions. Together the good team (blue) and the bad-guy team (red) practice skills such as suppression of enemy air defenses, destruction of enemy air defenses, and other large scale integrated engagements in both air and ground. "Red Flag evolved after the Vietnam War, when studies demonstrated most pilots were shot down during their first 10 combat missions," said Lt. Col. David "Oscar" Meyer, assistant director of operations for the 157th Fighter Squadron. Wing pilots and maintenance specialists took eight F-16s to Red Flag. The exercise included 120 Airmen from McEntire, who joined more than 700 personnel from other active duty and Air National Guard units with different aircraft platforms such as B-1s, F-22s, C-17s and A-10s. 1st Lt. Justin "Alf" Dumais, one of the Swamp Foxes newest pilots, deployed to the exercise, where the team flew two sorties a day for eight of the 10 days, with a new threat scenario each time. "Red Flag was an awesome learning experience," said Dumais. He was impressed to see all of the various Air Force capabilities fall into place during the exercise's engagements. Col. Mike "Puff" Hudson, the detachment commander for the deployed Airmen, said the reputation of the Swamp Foxes preceded them. "They were very happy to see us," said Hudson. During the first day, the unit demonstrated their force protection capabilities by destroying all of their missile site targets, setting the tone for the rest of the participants. Mission planning was a key element, as the large-scale exercise involved coordinating with package commanders and integrating intricate details on weather, rules of engagement, aircraft takeoff times and targets. Capt. Matt "Sherpa" Schroer, an active duty Air Force officer assigned to the Fighter Wing, had his first opportunity as a mission commander during the exercise. "It easily takes twelve hours to prepare for a one-hour flight mission," said Schroer. His planning effort encompassed everything from ordnance, priority targets and the integration of the platforms of each aircraft. Following Red Flag, the jets and crews returned home to smiles and pats on the back for a job well done. Some returning Airmen were surprised to have family members greet them on the flight line. "My husband usually tells me which aircraft number he's flying, so we can watch when he's coming in," said Rachel Ferrario, the spouse of Maj. Michael "Vito" Ferrario. She came with the couple's two

young sons, Matthew, 3 and Mitch, 5. While the unit was at Red Flag, the couple's 5-year-old said something very amusing while watching a special on television about firefighters. "He said he was glad his Daddy is not a firefighter, because it's such a dangerous job," said Rachel Ferrario. "Right now, it's just Daddy coming home," she said. Red Flag-Alaska was just the beginning of an active schedule for the Fighter Wing. Members will be preparing for and executing missions in Jordan and Louisiana in preparation for their first 120-day "stand-alone" Air Expeditionary Force (AEF) mission to Southwest Asia next year. 2009

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *169 Tactical Fighter Group, South Carolina Air National Guard, 40 Years of Service to the State and Nation, 1946-1986.*