

170 WEATHER FLIGHT

MISSION

LINEAGE

170 Weather Flight

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Many thoughts went through the minds of those 60 men (14 officers and 46 airmen) assembled at the Illinois State Armory on the night of 30 September 1948. The moment had arrived for the personnel inspection prior to the granting of federal recognition. Many silent questions were posed. Is our strength adequate and are we qualified? Does our military appearance meet the standards? What if we fail this inspection? The answers to these questions are now history as federal recognition was extended to the following units: Detachment C, 231st Service Group, Commanded by Captain Lester J Litwiller, with a strength of three officers and 27 airmen; 170th

Utility Flight, commanded by 1st Lt George Kelly, with two officers and four airmen; 170th Weather Station, commanded by 2nd Lt Donald M Gorey, with one officer and two airmen; and the 170th Fighter Squadron (SE), commanded by Captain Ralph Eads, with a strength of eight officers and 13 airmen. From this early drama and subsequent operations out of Committee Room "A" of the State Armory, a great deal of history has evolved.

On 31 October 1950 Detachment C, 231st Air Service Group and the 170th Utility Flight were deactivated. This left the 170th Weather Station and the 170th Ftr Bomber Squadron as the only units remaining at Capital Airport. Personnel of deactivated units were transferred to the remaining units.

On 1 March 1951 the Weather Station and the Fighter Squadron were ordered to active duty with the United States Air Force for 21 months due to the Korean situation. A total of 450 men were housed at the State Fairgrounds, in the 4-H Building. First Lieutenant Gorey commanded the 170th Weather Station and Captain Nils Kluksdal replaced Captain Park as the 170th Fighter Squadron commander.

Both units moved to Bergstrom AFB, Texas on 15 March 1951. The Weather Station was assigned to Materiel Training Command; its personnel were sent to various other weather stations, and the unit was deactivated. The Fighter Squadron remained at Bergstrom and was assigned to the Strategic Air Command Shortly after the squadron arrived, Major William P Nacy replaced Captain Kluksdal as its commander.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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