

## **127<sup>th</sup> Wing History, Lineage & Commanders**

The 127<sup>th</sup> Wing traces its roots back to the formation of one of the nation's oldest military flying organizations – the 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, which was first organized as the 107<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron on 27 August 1917 and served during World War I. It wouldn't be until after World War II and the Air Force – and therefore the Air National Guard – was created as a separate military service that the 127<sup>th</sup> Wing would be created in its modern form.

The 127<sup>th</sup> Wing did have a predecessor unit that existed during World War II, the 360<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. That unit was disbanded prior to the conclusion of the war, but its history was later folded in to that of the 127<sup>th</sup> Wing.

The modern 127<sup>th</sup> Wing was created as the 127<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group in May 1946, with what was then the 107<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Light), flying F-51H Mustangs, assigned as its flying unit. The 127<sup>th</sup> began operations at what was then known as Detroit-Wayne Major Airport and is now known as Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The 127<sup>th</sup> was assigned to Detroit Metro until July 1, 1971, when the unit moved to Selfridge Air Force Base, which was then renamed Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

In 1948, what was then known as the 171<sup>st</sup> Fighter Squadron (Single Engine), flying older version P-51 Mustangs, was also assigned to the 127<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group. The 171<sup>st</sup> had been born as the 374<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron in 1942 and was inactivated when World War II ended, only to be re-constituted as the 171<sup>st</sup> in 1946 and allotted to the Michigan Air National Guard.

In 1951, the entire 127<sup>th</sup>, including both the 107<sup>th</sup> and 171<sup>st</sup> squadrons, was mobilized for the Korean War and spent about a year and a half operating at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona as a flight training unit.

In 1962, the 171<sup>st</sup>, then flying the RF-84F Thunderflash as a tactical reconnaissance squadron, was separated from the 127<sup>th</sup> and the 191<sup>st</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group was created at Detroit Metro Airport. The 107<sup>th</sup>, then flying RF-84 Thunderstreaks – a slight variation of the Thunderflash – remained with the 127<sup>th</sup>.

The 127<sup>th</sup> Group was upgraded to Wing status in 1972.

Through various name, mission and aircraft changes, the 127<sup>th</sup> Wing and the 191<sup>st</sup> Group continued as completely separate units, though assigned to the same base, until 1996, when the two units were re-consolidated. At the time, the 107<sup>th</sup> was flying A-7D Corsair IIs as a fighter squadron and the 171<sup>st</sup> was flying the C-130 Hercules as an airlift squadron. At the time of the

consolidation, the former 191<sup>st</sup> Airlift Group became the 127<sup>th</sup> Airlift Group, a component command of the new 127<sup>th</sup> Wing.

The 127<sup>th</sup> Wing motto is “We Stand Ready.”

### **127<sup>th</sup> Wing Lineage**

Constituted as the **360<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group**, 30 December 1942

Activated 15 January 1943

Disbanded 31 March 1944

Personnel and equipment assigned to **440<sup>th</sup> Army Air Forces Base Unit**

Re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group**. Allotted to Michigan Air National Guard 24 May 1946

Extended federal recognition 29 September 1946

Ordered in to active service 1 Feb 1951 and re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Pilot Training Group**

Relieved from active duty and returned to Michigan ANG 1 November 1952

Re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Bomber Group** 1 November 1952

Re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group** 1 November 1953

Re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group** 12 April 1958

Status changed from Group to Wing and re-designated as the **127<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing** 1 July 1972

Re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing** 15 March 1992

Re-designated **127<sup>th</sup> Wing** 1 April 1996

### **Commanders, 127<sup>th</sup> Wing**

Lt. Col. Donald W. Armstrong, January 1950-February 1951

Col. Henry J. Amen, February 1951-September 1952

Col. Magnus B. Marks, September 1952-October 1958

Col. Erick W. Kyro, October 1958-July 1966

Col. Robert McMath, July 1966-February 1969

Col. Howard C. Strand, February 1969-January 1974

Col. Richard A. Rann, January 1974-June 1975

Brig. Gen. Rudolph D. Bartholomew, June 1975-September 1981

Brig. Gen. Harold W. Rudolph, September 1981-January 1988

Brig. Gen. David T. Arendts, January 1988-April 1993

Brig. Gen. Alan W. Ness, April 1993-October 1996

Brig. Gen. Thomas G. Cutler, October 1996-October 2002

Brig. Gen. Kencil J. Heaton, November-December 2002

Brig. Gen. Robert H. Johnston, December 2002-August 2004

Brig. Gen. Richard G. Elliott, August 2004-January 2006

Brig. Gen. Michael L. Peplinski, January 2006-June 2011

Col. Michael T. Thomas, June 2011-January 2014

Col. Philip R. Sheridan, January-November 2014  
Brig. Gen. John D. Slocum, November 2014-

### **127<sup>th</sup> Wing Command Chief Master Sergeants**

Chief Master Sgt. James Hewitt (as Senior Enlisted Advisor), 1996-1998  
Chief Master Sgt. William Livesay, 1998-2000  
Chief Master Sgt. Michael Dalton, 2000-2003  
Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Krajewski, 2003-2008  
Chief Master Sgt. Keith Edwards, 2008-2011  
Chief Master Sgt. Robert Dobson, 2011-2015  
Chief Master Sgt. Tony Whitehead, 2015-

### **191<sup>st</sup> Group Lineage**

Established as **191<sup>st</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group** and activated 1 October 1962  
Re-designated **191<sup>st</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group** 1 January 1973  
Re-designated **191<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Group** 1 June 1978  
Re-designated **191<sup>st</sup> Fighter Group** 16 March 1992  
Re-designated **191<sup>st</sup> Airlift Group** 15 July 1994  
Consolidated with **127<sup>th</sup> Wing** 1 April 1996  
191<sup>st</sup> Airlift Group deactivated, all component units transferred to newly-established **127<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group** 30 September 2007

### **Commanders, 191<sup>st</sup> Group**

Col. Leon. D. Worden 1962-date unknown  
Col. Donald K. Reid, date unknown-date unknown  
Col. Thomas J. Purtill date unknown-1973  
Col. Loyd E. Harsh Jr. 1973-1981  
Col. David T. Arendts 1981-1986  
Col. Gregory J. Maciolek 1986-1991  
Col. Allan W. Ness 1991-1993  
Col. Robert S. Prowse 1993-1995  
Col. Thomas G. Cutler 1995-1996

### **127<sup>th</sup> Wing Stations**

Detroit Wayne Major Airport 1946-1951  
Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. 1951-1952

Detroit Metropolitan Airport 1952-1971  
Selfridge Air National Guard Base 1971-