

# Michigan ANG Chronology, 1926-2011

**SELFRIDGE AIR NATIONAL GUARD BASE, Mich.--** The history of the Michigan Air National Guard officially dates from May 7, 1926, when the forerunner of today's 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron received federal recognition. The following chronology, while not complete, lists major highlights and events tracked by the Air National Guard's Historian Office at ANG headquarters. This chronology primarily tracks the history of the three flying units that have historically been assigned to Michigan: the 107<sup>th</sup> and 171<sup>st</sup>, historically assigned to the Detroit area and now at Selfridge Air National Guard Base; and the 172<sup>nd</sup>, assigned to Battle Creek.

**7 May 1926.** The 107<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, Michigan National Guard, received federal recognition.

**20 December 1943.** The 107<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, formerly the 107<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, Michigan National Guard, commenced combat operations over France from the United Kingdom with its F-6A's in preparation for the Allied invasion of Europe.

**23 February 1944.** The 107<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, formerly the 107<sup>th</sup> Observation Squadron, Michigan National Guard, and other units of the 67<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance were assigned the responsibility of photographing the French coastline in preparation for the Normandy invasion, Operation Overlord.

**September 1949.** The "Michigan Acro-guards," the precision aerial demonstration team of the Air Guard's 172<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron, performed with their 4 F-51s for a crowd of over 40,000 during the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kellogg Field, the unit's home station at Battle Creek

**January 1951.** Seven pilots and ten enlisted members of the Michigan Air Guard's 172<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Squadron volunteered as individuals for overseas active duty in the Air Force prior to the unit's Korean War era mobilization on 1 February 1951.

**1 February 1951.** ANG flying squadrons mobilized on this date because of the Korean War were the: 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (FS) (Jet), Michigan; 113<sup>th</sup> FS, Indiana; 116<sup>th</sup> FS (Jet), Washington; 118<sup>th</sup> FS, Connecticut; 121<sup>st</sup> FS, District of Columbia; 123<sup>rd</sup> FS, Oregon; 126<sup>th</sup> FS (Jet), Wisconsin; 132<sup>nd</sup> FS, Maine; 133<sup>rd</sup> FS, New Hampshire; 134<sup>th</sup> FS, Vermont; 142<sup>nd</sup> FS (Jet), Delaware; 148<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Squadron, Pennsylvania; 163<sup>rd</sup> FS, Indiana; 166<sup>th</sup> FS, Ohio; 171<sup>st</sup> FS, Michigan; 172<sup>nd</sup> FS, Michigan; 188<sup>th</sup> FS, New Mexico; 176<sup>th</sup> FS, Wisconsin; and the 197<sup>th</sup> FS, Arizona. All of these units except the 107<sup>th</sup> FS (Jet), Michigan, and 171<sup>st</sup> FS, Michigan, and 197<sup>th</sup> FS, Arizona, were assigned to the Air Defense Command to strengthen its continental US fighter interceptor force.

**1 February 1951.** After being mobilized on this date because of the Korean War, the Arizona ANG's 197<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (FS) remained at Luke AFB, Arizona with its F-84B/Cs to serve in the 127<sup>th</sup> Pilot Training Wing. It later converted from F-84Bs to F-84E/Gs. The 107<sup>th</sup> FS (Jet) and the 171<sup>st</sup> FS, both of Michigan, joined the 197<sup>th</sup> in training pilots at Luke AFB as part of the 127<sup>th</sup> Wing.

**1 September 1951.** ANG units mobilized this date because of the Korean War included the: 102<sup>nd</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), Rhode Island; 103<sup>rd</sup> AC&WS, Connecticut; 156<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Illinois; 126<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Illinois; 104<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Maine; 101<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Control Squadron, Massachusetts; 151<sup>st</sup> Tactical Control Group, Massachusetts; 127<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Michigan; and the 128<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Wisconsin.

**11 September 1952.** The 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (FS), Michigan ANG; 132<sup>nd</sup> FS, Maine ANG; 133<sup>rd</sup> FS, New Hampshire ANG; and the 188<sup>th</sup> FS, New Mexico ANG were released from active duty.

**1 November 1952.** ANG flying squadrons relieved from active duty on this date were the: 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (FS), Indiana; 115<sup>th</sup> BS (Light), California; 116<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Squadron, Washington; 121<sup>st</sup> FS, District of Columbia; 134<sup>th</sup> FS, Vermont; 142<sup>nd</sup> FS, Delaware; 148<sup>th</sup> FBS, Pennsylvania; 163<sup>rd</sup> FS, Indiana; 166<sup>th</sup> FS, Ohio; 171<sup>st</sup> FS, Michigan; 172<sup>nd</sup> FS, Michigan; 175<sup>th</sup> FS, South Dakota; 176<sup>th</sup> FS, Wisconsin; and the 197<sup>th</sup> FS, Arizona.

**1 September 1953.** Air National Guard units demobilized and returned to state control included the: 101<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Control Squadron, Massachusetts; 102<sup>nd</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), Rhode Island; 103<sup>rd</sup> AC&WS, Connecticut; 104<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Maine; 126<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Illinois; 127<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Michigan; 128<sup>th</sup> AC&WS, Wisconsin; 151<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Group (AC&WG), Massachusetts; and the 156<sup>th</sup> AC&WG, Illinois.

**April 1962.** Volunteer pilots and ground support personnel from the Michigan Air Guard's 172<sup>nd</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron began training at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico for Operation Blue Straw, nuclear tests conducted at Christmas Island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The 172<sup>nd</sup> was one of five ANG unit that participated in Blue Straw that year. Flying specially equipped RB-57s, their pilots flew through clouds of nuclear dust gather samples for study.

**6 -20 July 1962.** Air traffic controllers from the 231<sup>st</sup> Mobile Communications Squadron, District of Columbia ANG, operated the control tower, ground controlled approach, and navigation aids at the Air Guard's field training site at Phelps-Collins Field, Alpena, Michigan. It was the first time

that Air Guardsmen, not active duty Air Force personnel, had assumed the full responsibility for air base traffic control away from their home station during one of their annual training periods.

**24-25 July 1967.** Over 80 percent of the Michigan Air Guard's 1,200 personnel were ordered on federal active duty because of riots in Detroit. They guarded utility installations, rode with police and firefighters, guarded prisoners, and secured a base at the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. The Michigan Air Guard's 110<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group was activated at Battle Creek by President Lyndon B. Johnson to help deal with massive rioting, looting, and arson in Detroit. The unit's Air Police contingent was flown to the city for duty, its RB-57s flew 35 sorties over damaged parts of the city producing over 9,000 photos, and other unit members took over 400 ground photos. By July 30<sup>th</sup> all unit personnel but the Air Police had been demobilized. The latter remained on duty in Detroit until released from service on July 2.

**May 1970.** After a disastrous tornado hit the Lubbock, Texas area killing 26 individuals, photos taken on an "unofficial" basis by ANG reconnaissance pilots helped assess the damage and charted the storm's path. Subsequently, the NGB set up a pilot program for nationwide civil defense tornado assessment and assigned the mission to the Michigan Air Guard's 110<sup>th</sup> Tactical Reconnaissance Group.

**30 June 1971.** The Air Guard took over Selfridge AFB, Michigan from the Air Force. The installation was renamed Selfridge Air National Guard Base.

**March 1976.** In response to a severe ice storm, volunteers from the 110<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Support Group, Michigan ANG, traveled on state active duty (SAD) orders from their base at Battle Creek to the Clarkston and Millington areas in their home state to assist in restoring electrical power to a local college, nursing home and high school.

**12-30 October 1982.** Lt. Col. Robert Boehringer of the California Air Guard's 144<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing won the "Top Gun" award in the F-106 category at the William Tell 1982 Air Force air-to-air weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Air Guard weapons loading teams from Montana's 120<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG) and Michigan's 191<sup>st</sup> FIG took home top honors in the F-106 and F-4 categories respectively. The 144<sup>th</sup> had the top F-106 maintenance team while the 191<sup>st</sup> scored that honor in the F-4 category.

**12 January 1988.** The commander of First Air Force recommended the elimination of air sovereignty alert at most sites along the U.S. border with Canada. The sites he proposed eliminating – all operated by ANG units -- were located at: Burlington International Airport (IAP), Vermont; Niagara Falls, New York; Selfridge ANG Base, Michigan; Duluth IAP, Minnesota; Hector Field, North Dakota; and Great Falls IAP, New York.

**15 September 1988.** First Air Force reported that CINCNORD had formal agreements with 12 states to order ANG air defense units to active duty. The states were: California, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Oregon, Texas, and Vermont. That authority had been delegated to CINCNOAD by the Secretary of the Air Force.

**22 September 1994.** ANG C-130 airlift units began supporting Operation Provide Comfort from Incirlik AB, Turkey. The following units participated in 1994: the 133<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Wing, Minnesota, the 191<sup>st</sup> Airlift Group, Michigan, the 135<sup>th</sup> Airlift Group, Maryland, the 167<sup>th</sup> Airlift Group, West Virginia, the 143<sup>rd</sup> Airlift Group, Rhode Island, and the 146<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, California.

**October 1998.** Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan) was the honored guest at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for one of the most advanced air combat training tools in the United States, the Alpena-Kadena Instrumented Training System (AKITS). The event was held at the Air Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center at Alpena, Michigan where the AKITS enabled fighter pilots to fly highly realistic air combat maneuvers without the need for an elaborate ground based range infrastructure or actually firing "live" weapons.

**26 May 1999.** During a Pentagon press briefing, Maj. Gen. Charles F. Wald of the JCS Joint Staff, observed that "many of those really well-trained pilots are in the Guard and Reserve ... The Guard unit that arrived in Trapani about a week and a half ago-the A-10s from Massachusetts, Michigan, and Idaho-have an average flying hours per pilot of about 2,000 hours. Many of them have combat time. So many of our real high-flying, experienced pilots are in the Guard and Reserve."

**27 February 2004.** On this date, the 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron, Michigan ANG, deployed ten F-16C aircraft on their AEF rotation to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. They were the first F-16 unit in the total Air Force to operate from Kirkuk AB, a former Iraqi Air Force installation. They employed the Theater Airborne Reconnaissance System pod that had been developed by the ANG in actual combat conditions.

**1 January - 30 April 2007.** ANG F-16C+ aircraft and personnel assigned to the 107<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron (FS), 127<sup>th</sup> Wing (WG), Michigan ANG, and two other ANG wings, deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq to participate in OIF air combat operations.

**1 September - 31 December 2007.** Air National Guard A-10A aircraft and personnel assigned to the 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Michigan ANG, and one other ANG wing deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**2 October 2008.** The Michigan ANG's 127<sup>th</sup> Wing at Selfridge ANG Base near Detroit

formally relinquished its Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission to the Ohio ANG's 180<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing at Toledo.

**6 December 2008.** Officials unveiled Battle Creek decals on a newly assigned C-21. It was a bridge aircraft designed to maintain a flying mission at that installation until the C-27 (the Joint Cargo Aircraft) was assigned to the Michigan ANG unit, the 110<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, which was losing its A-10s.

**22 March 2011.** NGB officials reported that airmen and aircraft from 11 ANG refueling wings were contributing to Operation Odyssey Dawn, the international operation enforcing a United Nations authorized no-fly zone in Libya. The ANG units involved came from Alaska, Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Utah.