

116 OPERATIONS GROUP



MISSION

LINEAGE

353 Fighter Group constituted, 29 Sep 1942

Activated, 1 Oct 1942

Inactivated, 18 Oct 1945

Redesignated 116 Fighter Group and allotted to the National Guard, 24 May 1946

Organized, 8 Jul 1946

Extended federal recognition, 9 Sep 1946

Federalized and placed on active duty, 10 Oct 1950

Redesignated 116 Fighter-Bomber Group, 25 Oct 1950

Inactivated, 10 Jul 1952

Redesignated 116 Fighter-Interceptor Group and returned to the Air National Guard, 10 Jul 1952

Redesignated 116 Fighter-Bomber Group, 1 Dec 1952

Redesignated 116 Fighter-Interceptor Group, 1 Jul 1955

Redesignated 116 Fighter Group (Air Defense), 15 Apr 1956

Redesignated 116 Air Transport Group, 1 Apr 1961

Redesignated 116 Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1966

Redesignated 116 Tactical Fighter Group, 4 Apr 1973

Inactivated, 10 Dec 1974

Redesignated 116 Operations Group

Activated, 1 Jan 1993

STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Oct 1942
Richmond AAB, VA, c. 7 Oct 1942
Baltimore, MD, c. 26 Oct 1942-c. 27 May 1943
Goxhill, England, Jun 1943
Metfield, England, 3 Aug 1943
Raydon, England, Apr 1044-Oct 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 16-18 Oct 1945
Dobbins AFB, GA, 10 Oct 1950
George AFB, CA, 25 Oct 1950-Jul 1951
Misawa, Japan, 25 Jul 1951-10 Jul 1952
Dobbins AFB, GA
Marietta AAF (later Marietta Air Force Base, Dobbins Air Force Base), GA, 9 Sep 1946
George AFB, CA, 1 Nov 1950 – 10 Jul 1952
Misawa Air Base, Japan, 1 Aug 1951 – 10 Jul 1952 (operated from Taegu Air Base (K-2), South Korea, 2 Dec 1950 – 4 Jan 1952; 26 May 1952 – 10 Jul 1952)
Dobbins AFB, GA, 10 Jul 1952 – 9 Dec 1974
Dobbins ARB, GA, 1 Jan 1993
Robins AFB, GA, 1 April 1996

ASSIGNMENTS

I Fighter Command, 1 Oct 1942 – 27 May 1943 (attached to Philadelphia Fighter Wing, 26 Oct 1942 – 27 May 1943)
VIII Fighter Command, 7 Jun 1943
66 Fighter Wing, 18 Aug 1943 (attached to 3d Bombardment Division (later 3d Air Division), 15 Sep 1943 – 10 Oct 1945
Army Service Forces, Port of Embarkation, 16 – 18 Oct 1945
54 Fighter Wing, 9 Sep 1946
Tactical Air Command, 10 Oct 1950
116 Fighter-Bomber Wing, Provisional, Oct 1950
116 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 1 Nov 1950 – 10 Jul 1952
116 Fighter-Interceptor Wing (later 116 Fighter-Bomber Wing, 116 Fighter-Interceptor Wing, 116 Air Transport Wing, 116 Military Airlift Wing, 116 Tactical Fighter Wing, 10 Jul 1952 – 9 Dec 1974
116 Air Control Wing, 1 Jan 1993

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-40, 1942
P-47, 1943
P-51, 1944
F-47, 1946
F-84, 1952
F-86, 1960
C-97, 1961
C-124, 1965

F-100, 1973
F-15, 1986
B-1, 1996
E-8, 2002

COMMANDERS

LTC Joseph A Morris, 15 Oct 1942
LTC Loren G McCollom, 18 Aug 1943
Col Glenn E Duncan, 25 Nov 1943
Col Ben Rimerman, 7 Jul 1944
Col Glenn E. Duncan, 22 Apr 1945
LTC William B. Bailey, 9 Sep 1945
LTC Robert A. Elder, 24 Sep 1945-unkn
Col Charles M. Ford Jr., 10 Oct-1 Nov 1950
LTC Howard L. Galbreath, 11 Nov 1950
LTC Ralph G. Kuhn, 8 May 1951
LTC Daniel F Sharp, 31 Jan 1952
LTC Thomas C. Jordan

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Korean War
UN Summer-Fall Offensive
Second Korean Winter
Korea Summer-Fall, 1952

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Holland, 17-23 Sep 1944

EMBLEM



Per fess embattled debase azure and argent, three chevrons reversed of the second, the base chevron fimbriated, forming a frazure at its apex over the embattlement azure; in chief four darts of the second in formation chevron-wise points downward, one in fess point, two in sinister, all within a diminutive border argent. (Approved, 6 Jun 1952)

MOTTO

VINCET AMOR PATRIAE—Love of Country Shall Conquer

NICKNAME

The Slybird Group

Bill's Buzz Boys

OPERATIONS

Trained for duty overseas and at the same time served as an air defense organization. Moved to England, May-June 1943. Assigned to Eighth AF. Operated against the enemy in combat over Europe from Aug 1943 to Apr 1945, using P-47's until conversion to P-51's in Oct 1944. Regularly escorted bombers that attacked industrial establishments, marshalling yards, submarine installations, V-weapon sites, and other targets; frequently strafed and dive-bombed buildings, troops, flak batteries, barges and tug boats, locomotives and rail lines, vehicles, bridges, and airfields; also flew numerous counter-air missions.

From Aug 1943 to Feb 1944, provided escort for bombers that attacked targets in western Europe, made counter-air sweeps over France and the Low Countries, and dive-bombed targets in France. Participated in the intensive campaign against the German Air Force and aircraft industry during Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944—increased its fighter-bomber activities, Mar-May 1944. Provided cover over the beachhead and close support for the Normandy invasion in Jun 1944. Supported the breakthrough at St Lo in Jul. Received a DUG for supporting the airborne attack on Holland, when the group contributed to the operation by protecting bombers and troop carriers and by strafing and dive-bombing ground targets during the period 17-23 Sep 1944. Continued its fighter-bomber, escort, and counter-air ac-

tivities, participating in the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945) and the airborne attack across-the Rhine (Mar 1945).

First mission: 12 Aug 1943

Last mission: 25 Apr 1945

Total missions: 447

Aircraft missing in action: 137

Enemy aircraft claims: 330.5 air; 414 ground

Moved to Japan Spring of Jul 1951 and attached to Far East Air Forces for operations in the Korean War. Flew interdiction and close-support missions, strafing and dive-bombing power plants, buildings, mine entrances, gun positions, bunkers, troops, rail lines, trains, bridges, and vehicles. During the same period, also provided air defense for Japan. Relieved from active duty, returned to control of ANG (GA) without personnel and equipment.

The 116th FBG, assigned to the 116th FEW, whose personnel came from Georgia, Florida, and California National Guard units, was ordered to active duty in October 1950. In early 1951, the group transitioned from F-80s to F-84 and shortly thereafter received orders to deploy to Japan. Personnel and aircraft proceeded by ship to Japan, arriving near the end of July. After unloading, personnel found that 33 of the 75 aircraft shipped had structural damage or corrosion problems. While support personnel worked feverishly on the aircraft, the tactical elements resumed their training program. Most of the pilots had not flown for a month, and as the aircraft were repaired, the training in gunnery, rocketry, bombing, and instrument flying intensified.

In August, the group began flying air defense alert missions in northern Japan. In November, elements of the tactical group and rotating squadrons deployed to South Korea for combat. Those rotating elements flew missions from Taegu AB to cut enemy rail lines; disrupt supply routes; destroy vehicles, equipment, and troop shelters; and support UN forces in close combat. Between rotations to South Korea, those squadrons remaining in Japan continued to fly air defense missions under control of the 116th Wing headquarters through the first half of 1952. On July 10, 1952, the 116th designation returned to control of the Air National Guard, with the 474th Fighter-Bomber Wing absorbing its personnel, equipment, aircraft, and other resources.

The 116th Operations Group was formed as a result of the United States Air Force's reorganization into a tri-deputy system. Lt Col Thomas Jordan, the 116th Operations Group Commander, is responsible for all aspects of flight operations for the 116th Bomb Wing. The Group is composed of the 128th Bomb Squadron and the 116th Operational Support Squadron. Supporting the Operations Group Commander is the Standardization Evaluation support staff and staff of the Supervisor of Flying.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit yearbook. *Georgia Air National Guard. 1941-2000*. Fine Books Publishing Co. Charlotte NC. 2000.