

116th FIGHTER BOMBER GROUP



LINEAGE

353rd Fighter Group constituted, 29 Sep 1942
Activated, 1 Oct 1942
Inactivated, 18 Oct 1945
Redesignated 116th Fighter Group
Allotted to ANG (GA), 24 May 1946
Extended federal recognition, 9 Sep 1946
Redesignated 116th Fighter Bomber Group, Nov 1950
Redesignated 116th Fighter Interceptor Group, 10 Jul 1952
Redesignated 116th Fighter Bomber Group, Dec 1952

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

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47D
P-51D
P-51K,
F-80
F-84

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, c. 31 Jan 1952

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 debased azure and argent, three chevronels reversed of the second, the base chevronel 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)

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

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-Jun 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 air-fields; 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 activities, participating in the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945) and the airborne attack across-the Rhine (Mar 1945).

First Mission: 12 Aug. 43 Last Mission: 25 Apr 45 Total Missions: 447

A/c MISA: 137. E/a 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.



Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources