

132nd AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON

LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

During 1948, the final year at Camp Ripley, the 109th was joined by members of the newly organized 132nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron, a separate and distinct Minnesota Air National Guard unit formed during April 1948, under the command of Major James E. Andrews.

The 132nd AC&W Squadron was formed in 1948 with its main training site at the Minneapolis armory and with detached elements at Cambridge and Glencoe. The function of this unit was to give training in radar and radio intercept missions in conjunction with the F-51 operations of the 109th out of Holman Field.

Annual field training for the 132nd AC&W was accomplished at Camp Ripley during the summers of 1948 and 1949. In 1950, the 132nd was airlifted to Oscoda, Michigan, for training at an Air Force radar training site. During the final days of encampment, news of the Korean conflict indicated serious times ahead. This would be the final field training period for the 132nd, as they were called to active service 1 May 1951 for 21 months.

The 132nd AC&W Squadron never returned to the State of Minnesota as a unit; it did, contribute a number of highly qualified personnel who were absorbed into the units of the 133rd Fighter Wing at Holman Field. During the post-Korean build-up of Air National Guard fighter organizations, the 132nd alumni contributed five first sergeants, all of whom nearly twenty years later — are still dedicated guardsmen, as are the other NCO's who came from the original 132nd. These include Harold Norman, Wayne Fletcher, Tom Cook, Harry Chapman, Norm Farmer, Gerald Odmark and J. T. Hoffman. On the officers' side of the ledger, names such as James Andrews, Gordon Stutzman, Donald Heimes, Robert Niederkorn and Donald Woodbridge have been on organizational rosters recently enough to remember. Many others such as Frank Ross, Robert Abercrombie, Richard Cutting, John Frahm, Elgin Gunderson, Robert McClanahan, Eugene Spika, Harry Bernhisel, Robert Madvig, James Rynning, James Garrett, Daniel Winker, Charles Carlson, Walter Fish, Sam Vestal, Earl Grindheim, Wendelin Miedaner and Lloyd Bergman — have gone on, capitalizing on their time spent and talent developed while in the 132nd to aid their communities in a variety of important endeavors.

And so this squadron, born of a World War II idea of a separate Signal Corps unit attached to a theatre of operations Air Force, and known as a Signal Aircraft Warning Company, plus a sister Air Force Fighter Control Squadron — became a hybrid of this concept that proved itself during the Korean emergency. The patience, perseverance, and dedication of the members of the 132nd AC&W Squadron in fulfilling their obligations to the nation provided a record that is outstanding.

132nd AC&W Squadron: assigned on 1 Jun 51 at Leaf River, MN, as the 159th AC&W Group; transferred to 543rd AC&W Group on 4 Jun 51; transferred to 31st Air Division on 6 Feb 52; an ANG unit called to active duty from 21 months, it was relieved from active duty and returned to control of the State of Minnesota on 1 Feb 53.

132nd Aircraft Control & Warning Squadron , Heavy (P)

Notes: July 1945 Mission: Operate a Master Director Post (sometimes referred to as Forward Director Post) equipped with one AN/CPS-1 with SF1M height finder and controls both offensive and defensive missions.

Commander: Captain Donald A. Mauck

Allotted: 24 May 1946 to Minnesota ANG

Assigned: 1 June 1951 at

Leaf River, Minnesota as the 159th AC&WG

Relieved from active duty: 1 November, 1953 and returned to control of Minnesota

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources