

143 AIRLIFT WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

143 Troop Carrier Group federal recognition, 10 Jan 1962
Redesignated 143 Air Commando Squadron/Group, 1 Jul 1963
Redesignated 143 Special Operations Group, 19 Aug 1968
Redesignated 143 Tactical Airlift Group, 4 Oct 1975
Redesignated 143 Airlift Group, 15 Mar 1992
Redesignated 143 Airlift Wing

STATIONS

T. F. Green Airport, RI
Quonset ANGB, North Kingstown, RI, 15 Apr 1980

ASSIGNMENTS

Rhode Island Air National Guard

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

C-130

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

Col Lawrence P. Gallogly
Col Adam G. Wiggins

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 143 Airlift Wing provides worldwide combat airlift and combat support forces to the nation, and to provide resources to protect life, property and public safety for Rhode Island and the local community. 143d Airlift Wing leadership is recognized as amongst the most aggressive, demanding and the best in the C-130 community. To remain viable for the present and relevant in the future the Wing has aggressively pursued three avenues: base infrastructure

and modernization, C-130J-30 advancement and becoming the C-130 “airbridge” for the Air Force.

An uncompromising program of base infrastructure modernization and construction began in 2001 with the acquisition of adjacent land bringing Quonset to 100 acres. A six-year, \$65 million base modernization and construction program included the installation of new fiber-optic, communication and electrical power infrastructure to support future base wide construction; the completion of a new Life Support Building; the complete reconstruction of the Motor Pool roof; construction of a new Aircraft Maintenance and Hangar facility to accommodate the ongoing conversion to the C-130J; the total renovation and addition to the Operations Building.

Always pressed for room at TF Green Airport the "new" C-130s, twice the size of anything the unit had previously flown, created quite the concern for the 143rd TAG Commanders, Flight Crews and especially the Crew Chiefs and maintenance folks of the 143rd Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. Relief would arrive in 1977 when the United States Navy, who had abandoned the facilities at the Quonset Naval Air Station, finally returned the land and facilities to the State. For the first time since 1915, when Guard pilots flew the Curtis Flying Boats from the old National Guard Training Camp at Quonset, the Rhode Island Air National Guard flying unit was to have a home to call its own, (coincidentally the site currently occupied by the 143rd Airlift Group is in approximately the same location as the facilities used in 1915). In 1980 after three years of negotiations and construction the 143rd TAG moved into its new home at Quonset Air National Guard Base. The new facilities provided the room desperately needed to grow and expand the C-130 program.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.