

145th AIRLIFT WING



LINEAGE

145th Fighter Group (Air Defense), was constituted and allocated to the State of North Carolina
28 May 1957

Redesignated 145th Aeromedical Transport Group, 1 Feb 1961

Redesignated 145th Air Transport Group (Heavy), 25 Jan 1964

Redesignated 145th Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1966

Redesignated 145th Tactical Airlift Group, 15 May 1971

Redesignated 145th Airlift Group, 16 Mar 1992

Redesignated 145th Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

126th Fighter Interceptor Wing

Air Defense Command

Military Air Transport Service

Military Airlift Command

Tactical Air Command

Air Mobility Command

Air Combat Command, 16 Oct 1993

Air Mobility Command, 16 Apr 1997

WEAPON SYSTEMS

COMMANDERS

Col Robert W. Brooks, Jr., 1 Jul 1957

Col Thomas C. McNeil, Jr., 11 Jul 1970
Col Harold C. Earnhardt, 23 Oct 1978
Col William T. Bundy, Jr., 15 Apr 1982
Col William D. Lackey, 26 Feb 1988
Col Charles D. Burnfield, 1 Dec 1990
Col Fisk Cutwater, 28 Mar 1992
Col Samuel A. Coleman, 1 Sep 1995
Col Samuel A. Coleman, 1 Oct 1995
Col William K. Richardson, 12 Jan 1998

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 145th Fighter Group was constituted and allocated to the State of North Carolina by National Guard Bureau letter, NG-AFOTP, Subject: Allotment, Activation, Inactivation, and Redesignation of Certain North Carolina Air National Guard Units, dated 28 May 1957, under the provisions of title 32, United States Code and by Order of the Secretary of the Air Force.

The 145th Fighter Group (Air Defense) was assigned to the 126th Fighter Interceptor Wing, Illinois Air National Guard, Chicago, IL for mobilization.

Note: As a result of the 145th Fighter Group's assignment to the 126th Wing, Colonel William J. Payne, Commander, NCANG, stated in a letter to Major General Capus Waynick, Adjutant General of North Carolina, "I reluctantly recommend that we choose discretion as the better part of valor and accept this assignment to the Yankees as gracefully as possible with the hope that they'll stay in Chicago and bother us as little as possible".

The 145th Fighter Group (Air Defense), NCANG, was redesignated as the 145th Aeromedical Transport Group, NCANG, effective 1 February 1961, without change in authorized strength, station or date of federal recognition. As a result of redesignation, the 145th Aeromedical Transport Group, NCANG, was assigned to 1st Aeromedical Group, USAF, and Western Transport Air Force, (MATS), Travis AFB, CA, for training and mobilization purposes.

Headquarters, 145th Aeromedical Transport Group, NCANG, Douglas Municipal Airport, Charlotte, NC 28208, was redesignated Headquarters, 145th Air Transport Group (Heavy), NCANG, and reorganized effective 25 January 1964, without change of station or date of federal recognition. Authorized strength for HQ 145 ATG was 21 officers and 29 airmen.

Headquarters, 145th Tactical Airlift Group, NCANG, Charlotte, NC was redesignated as Headquarters, 145th Airlift Group, NCANG, effective 16 March 1992, without change of station, date of Federal Recognition or personnel authorization.

In October 1960, it was announced that the 145th Fighter Group's mission would change from air defense to aeromedical transport. By this time, the NCANG had grown to over 800 assigned personnel. The first C-119C arrived in January of 1961. Effective 1 February 1961, the unit's designation changed from Fighter Interceptor to Aeromedical Transport with its gaining command from Air Defense Command to Military Air Transport Service.

The new mission also created a need for a sizable contingent of flight nurses and aeromedical technicians. The unit immediately launched extensive recruiting and training programs. As a result, more than 30 flight nurses and 60 aeromedical technicians were recruited and trained. The new aeromedical evacuation and transport mission created a need for both nurse's quarters and an aeromedical training facility. Over \$200,000 was spent by the NCANG to remodel and construct these required facilities.

The 145th Military Airlift Group attained C-2 Operationally Ready status in August 1967 with all crews checked out in their assigned positions. In preparation for the soon to arrive C-124s, the NCANG began a project in 1967 to modernize its facilities including a million dollar C-124 nose dock and maintenance facility to replace the old World War II hangar. Construction of the nose dock, new taxi ramp and additional parking were completed in 1968.

Early in 1971, the 145th Military Airlift Group was advised that they would be changing missions from MAC to TAC and would be equipped with C-130B. The unit immediately started making plans for the conversion and a slow decrease in the number of overseas missions. The last C-124 trip to Vietnam was flown in February 1971 and the last overseas trip to Taiwan in April 1971, ending the Group's overseas mission under the Military Airlift Command. The first C-130B arrived on 11 May 1971 to start another new era for the NCANG. On 1 March 1971, the first aircrews had started their C-130 training at Little Rock AFB, Arkansas and a total of 11 crews, pilots and flight engineers had completed Combat Crew Training at Little Rock AFB as of 1 July 1971. The remaining pilots and flight engineers were scheduled for C-130 school starting in July 1971 at home station, conducted by Mobile Training Teams of the Air Training Command.

The 1980's for the North Carolina Air National Guard began with the exciting news that the 145th Tactical Airlift Group had been awarded the prestigious United States Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The award when presented on 12 January, was accompanied by a citation which read, "The 145th Tactical Airlift Group, North Carolina Air National Guard, Military Airlift Command, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 1 August 1977 to 31 July 1979. During this period, the Group excelled in maintaining an

outstanding combat readiness posture and exceptional management of personnel and material resources in support of the tactical mission thus providing a significant contribution to the Total Force Concept. During the same period, the unit provided superior support as a Geographically Separated Unit and to other military and governmental agencies thereby contributing to the fulfillment of the national objectives."

145th Receives Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The 1980's for the North Carolina Air National Guard began with the exciting news that the 145th Tactical Airlift Group had been awarded the prestigious United States Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The award when presented on 12 January, was accompanied by a citation which read, "The 145th Tactical Airlift Group, North Carolina Air National Guard, Military Airlift Command, distinguished itself by exceptionally meritorious service from 1 August 1977 to 31 July 1979. During this period, the Group excelled in maintaining an outstanding combat readiness posture and exceptional management of personnel and material resources in support of the tactical mission thus providing a significant contribution to the Total Force Concept. During the same period, the unit provided superior support as a Geographically Separated Unit and to other military and governmental agencies thereby contributing to the fulfillment of the national objectives."

The 145th Airlift Group, NCANG, Charlotte, NC, was redesignated as the 145th Airlift Wing effective 0001 hours, 1 October 1995, without change in station, strength or gaining command Air Combat Command.

Eastern Airline Crash – 1974 Many NCANG personnel assisted local and federal agencies in removing and identifying the bodies of the victims of this airline disaster.

New Composite Airlift Hangar It is the largest all-purpose hangar in the Air National Guard. It was completed in 1993. The structure cost was 8.5 million and as 15% under budget.

Hurricane Andrew Relief Our unit participated in the relief operation during 1992. They accumulated 237 airlift hours on 19 missions. Deployed personnel included civil engineers, services, and security police.

2005 31 Aug Twelve transportation specialists assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, deployed to Louisiana. Twenty personnel assigned to the 143d Airlift Wing, Rhode Island ANG, deployed to Louisiana to support hurricane relief efforts.

1 Sep One C-130 assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, airlifted equipment to NAS New Orleans.

3 Sep The 153d Airlift Wing, Wyoming ANG, and the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, established the 153d Air Expeditionary Group at Pensacola NAS, Florida, to provide airborne firefighting capability for JTF-Katrina. To accomplish this mission, each unit deployed in Title 10 status and with its C-130 equipped with the Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) to combat grass fires.

6 Sep Two C-130 assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, deployed to NAS Pensacola, Florida to provide JTF-Katrina with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting (MAFFS)

capability to fight fires in the New Orleans area.

8 Sep Eight Aeromedical Evacuation members assigned to the 118th Airlift Wing, Tennessee ANG, and the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, returned to their respective home stations at Nashville Airport, Tennessee and Charlotte-Douglas Airport, North Carolina. The Aeromedical Evacuation personnel had deployed to New Orleans IAP to support an Aeromedical Evacuation Liaison Team.

11 Sep The 169th Fighter Wing, McEntire Air National Guard Base, South Carolina ANG; the 145th Airlift Wing, Charlotte-Douglas IAP, North Carolina ANG, and the 165th Airlift Wing, Savannah IAP, Georgia ANG decided not to implement hurricane evacuation plans due to Hurricane Ophelia.

18 Sep The 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, deployed thirtyseven personnel from the 156th Airlift Squadron to NAS Pensacola, Florida to participate in Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System operations supporting JTF-Katrina.

20 Sep A C-130 assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, evacuated twenty-five patients from the Florida Keys in advance of the arrival of Tropical Storm Rita.

23 Sep A C-130H assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, flew an Aeromedical Evacuation mission in support of the Florida Emergency Management Agency. The mission required the crew to pick up ambulatory patients from temporary shelter and return them home to Key West.

26 Sep Two C-130 MAFFS aircraft assigned to the 145th Airlift Wing, North Carolina ANG, were relieved from MAFFS operations by JTF-Katrina. Both aircraft and unit personnel returned to home station at Charlotte-Douglas IAP.

Four Air Guardsmen Died in C-130 Firefighting Crash: Four members of the North Carolina Air National Guard's 145th Airlift Wing in Charlotte died when their Modular Airborne Firefighting System-equipped C-130 crashed on July 1 while fighting a woodland fire in southwestern South Dakota. Two other crewmembers, whom officials are not naming, were injured in the crash and hospitalized, according to the North Carolina National Guard's July 3 release. The deceased are: Lt. Col. Paul K. Mikeal, 42, of Mooresville, N.C.; Maj. Joseph M. McCormick, 36, of Belmont, N.C.; Maj. Ryan S. David, 35, of Boone, N.C.; and SMSgt. Robert S. Cannon, 50, of Charlotte. "Words can't express how much we feel the loss of these airmen," said Brig. Gen. Tony McMillan, 145th AW commander. "Our prayers are with their families, as well as our injured brothers as they recover." Mikeal was an evaluator pilot with the 156th Airlift Squadron. McCormick was an instructor pilot with the squadron. David was a navigator with the squadron. Cannon was a flight engineer serving with the 145th Operations Support Flight. The cause of the crash is unknown and is under investigation. 2012



Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 5 Oct 2010

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 History. NC ANG. *A Commemorative History of the North Carolina Air National Guard, Proud Heritage..... Unlimited Future, 1948-1998.*