

149 FIGHTER WING



MISSION

In its federal mission, the unit has stayed ready to mobilize as an able fighting force to operate alongside active U.S. military forces. In its state mission, the unit has remained prepared to assist communities with medical support, emergency communications, and search-and-rescue operations.

LINEAGE

149 Fighter Interceptor Group designated and allotted to Texas Air National Guard, 1961
Extended federal recognition, 1 Aug 1961
Redesignated 149 Tactical Fighter Group, 1 Jul 1968
Redesignated 149 Fighter Group, 16 Mar 1992
Redesignated 149 Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX, 1 Aug 1961
Kelly Field Annex, Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland, TX

ASSIGNMENTS

Texas Air National Guard, 1 August 1961

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-102, 1960
F-84, 1968
F-100, 1970
F-4, 1979

F-16, 1986

COMMANDERS

Col Gary R. Walston

Col John Kane

Col William R. Parr, Jr, 1989

Col Henry C. Morrow,

Col John F. Nicoles

Col John Kane 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

USAF Outstanding Unit Awards

EMBLEM





The distinctive insignia of the "Alamo Group" reflects the unit's proud history. The blue field with the white clouds symbolizes the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. The red embattled base bearing a replica of the Alamo is a reference to the group's location and proud Texas military heritage. The dagger with the star, symbol of Texas, is a reminder that the group was the first Air National Guard unit to fly the F-102 "Delta Dagger" aircraft. The honors of the 396th Fighter Squadron are commemorated in the fleur-de-lis denoting World War II Distinguished Unit Citation for action in France, the Taeguk with the caltrap denoting service in the Korean War, and the rope in the colors of the Belgian Fourragere denoting the unit's World War II foreign citations.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 1960 the first of several major reorganizations occurred. New squadrons and a headquarters staff were added, and the 182d became part of the 149th Fighter Interceptor Group. The group was later redesignated as the 149th Tactical Fighter Group and then simply as the 149th Fighter Group

149 Tactical Fighter Group officially accepted its first F-16 in a recent ceremony at Kelly AFB in San Antonio. The unit is the first to fly the Fighting Falcon in the state where it is manufactured. The initial aircraft was taxied to the ceremony area by Col. Clifton Clark, Commander of the 50th Tactical Fighter Wing at Hahn Air Base, West Germany. The F-16s assigned to the Texas ANG were based at Hahn before the 50th TFW began its conversion to F-16C/Ds. In accordance with tradition, Col. Gary R. Walston, Commander of the 149th TFG, accepted the aircraft's transfer papers from Col. Clark. "The receipt of this high-technology, high-performance, front-line fighter is a clear demonstration of the broad support we receive from the Air Force and the heavy reliance our country places on the Air National Guard." Maj. Gen. Robert W. McDonald, Commander of the Texas Air National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Oly Logan, the USAF Tactical Air Command's Air National Guard advisor, participated in the ceremony.

During Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 95 members of the 149th were called to active duty. In the Air Force reorganization that followed the Gulf War, the group was redesignated the 149th Fighter Wing and became part of the new Air Combat Command. In 1999 the wing transferred to Air Education and Training Command and changed its primary mission to training F-16 pilots from the active Air Force and Air Force Reserve along with ANG pilots. This mission change required a change in aircraft. The fighter squadron, which had replaced its F-16A models for C models earlier in the decade, added two-seater F-16Ds to its inventory. On April 1, 2001, the wing became a tenant of Lackland AFB.

On 1 April 1999 AETC gained command of the 149th Fighter Wing at Kelly AFB, Texas, and the 178th Fighter Wing at Springfield ANGB, Ohio, from Air Combat Command. These units became F-16 FTUs to reduce the overburdened 56th Fighter Wing workload.

A half dozen Texas Air National Guard F-16Cs flew to Chile for international exercise Salitre alongside air forces from four South American countries at Cerro Moreno AB, Chile. "This exercise provides an opportunity to strengthen our military-to-military relationships with regional partners," said exercise co-director Col. Mike Torrealday in a release. The Texas ANG is paired with the Chilean air force under the Guard's State Partnership Program and 149th Fighter Wing F-16s participated in a mini-exchange as part of the country's largest air show earlier this year. International aircraft flying in the exercise include Argentine A-4 Skyhawks, Brazilian F-5E Tiger IIs and C-130s, Chilean F-16s, and Uruguayan A-37 Dragonflies, according to the exercise homepage. Approximately 80 pilots, maintainers, and support personnel from the 149th Fighter Wing at JBSA-Lackland, Texas, supported by a Ohio ANG KC-135 deployed for the exercise Oct. 4-18 2014

USAF Unit Histories

Created: 7 Sep 2010

Updated: 21 Jan 2021

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.