

166th AIRLIFT WING



LNEAGE

166th Air Transport Group, April 7, 1962
Redesignated 166th Military Airlift Group, 1 Jan 1966
Redesignated 166th Tactical Airlift Group, 12 May 1971
Redesignated 166th Airlift Group, 15 Mar 1992
Redesignated 166th Airlift Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

New Castle, DE

ASSIGNMENTS

Military Air Transport Service
Military Airlift Command
Tactical Airlift Command
Air Mobility Command, March 16, 1992
Air Combat Command
Air Mobility Command, 1 Apr 1997

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

C-97F, 1962
C-97G
C-130A, 1971
C-130H, 1985

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

LTC Robert L. Fuller
Col William F. Hutchison, Jr. Sep 1972
Col James V. Dugar, 3 Dec 1988
Col Jon D. Jacobs, 14 Sep 1995

Col. Jonathan Groff, Oct 2007

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

15 Aug 1993-14 Aug 1995

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In March 1962, Lt Colonel Clarence E. Atkinson was named Commander of the 142nd Tactical Fighter Squadron. On April 7, 1962 the Delaware Air National Guard enlarged to "group status" as the 166th Air Transport Group and was reassigned from the Tactical Air Command to the Military Air Transport Service. The Delaware Air National Guard gave up its F-86 for the C-97.

During the period from 1964-1974 the Delaware Air National Guard flew missions to Vietnam. In September 1965, only three years after receiving the C-97, the Delaware Air National Guard received the McCallister Trophy as the Air National Guard Outstanding Transport Unit. Dr. Harold Brown, Secretary of the Air Force, announced that effective January 1, 1966, the Military Air Transport Service would be redesignated as the Military Airlift Command. In addition to the name change certain Air National Guard units were also redesignated, including Delaware. We were named the 166th Military Airlift Group.

On April 9, 1968, the Delaware Air National Guard was called to state duty to quell civil disturbance and violence in the city of Wilmington, Delaware. The unit was released from state duty after several weeks. Many individuals remained on state duty through 20 January 1969.

January 1969, Colonel Atkinson became the Adjutant General for Delaware the first Air National Guard member to do so. Lt Colonel Charles R. Skinner became the new base detachment commander and Lt Colonel Robert L. Fuller became the Group Commander.

On May 12, 1971 the Delaware ANG changed its name from the 166th Military Airlift Group to the 166th Tactical Airlift Group and replaced its C-97s with C-130A and began transition from the Military Airlift Command to the Tactical Airlift Command.

From February 6, 1978 through February 9, 1978 selected individuals from the Delaware Air National Guard were placed on state duty during a snow storm. These members assisted in

removing snow from highways, transporting patients and staff to the local hospitals, and manning telephone lines for emergencies.

In January 1991 the Headquarters 166th Tactical Airlift Group, 166th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, and the 142nd Tactical Airlift Squadron were activated involving over 275 Air Guard members. Shortly thereafter, members of the 166th Tactical Clinic were also called upon, bringing the total Air Guard involvement to over 350. All eight of the C-130 were deployed with the Air Guard to the Persian Gulf. The Air Guard merged with the 1670th Tactical Airlift Provisional, part of the largest composite Air Force Wing in the entire Persian Gulf area. The unit flew missions carrying personnel and fuel bladders critical to destroying the Iraqi Republican Guard. They were also one of the first crews that flew into Kuwait International Airport to begin rebuilding. In May, they moved a significant portion of the Shiite Muslim refugees to a camp in Saudi Arabia.

In September 1992, Colonel Dugar led a group of personnel as part of the Hurricane Andrew relief effort. Colonel Jacobs commanded a combined group from the 136th Airlift Wing (Dallas, TX) and 166th Airlift Group to Mildenhall, United Kingdom as part of exercise "Phoenix Partner."

2005 31 Aug Two C-130 assigned to the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG, airlifted 100 Delaware Army National Guard Military Police to Jackson, Mississippi. Twenty Security Forces personnel from the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG, deployed in SAD to Jackson, Mississippi. The ANG Security Force functional cell at the Air Guard Readiness Center reported it had received phone calls from seventeen Security Forces Squadrons across the country volunteering to participate in hurricane relief operations.

2 Sep Thirty-eight Civil Engineer personnel assigned to the 188th Fighter Wing, Arkansas ANG, and the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG deployed to Gulfport CRTS to help rebuild the base. Twenty-one ANG Services personnel also deployed to Gulfport to augment the four Services personnel already onsite.

5 Sep Ten personnel assigned to the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG returned to their home station at New Castle County Airport. They had been deployed to New Orleans IAP to augment a Mobile Aeromedical Evacuation Staging Facility.

11 Sep Thirty-two ANG Security Forces personnel assigned to the 151st Air Refueling Wing, Utah ANG, and the 166th Airlift Wing, Delaware ANG, returned to their home stations at Salt Lake City Airport, Utah, and New Castle County Airport, Delaware.

Delaware Congressman Trying to Save Air Guard's C-130s Rep. John Carney (D-Del.) is on a quest to prevent the Delaware Air National Guard's C-130 Hercules from being permanently grounded, which he warns would "mean the end" of the state Guard's flying mission. Carney is urgently seeking to gain passage in the few days left in this congressional session of his bill to fund the minimal avionics modernization necessary to keep the Delaware Air Guard's eight C-130s flying. Those aged Hercules in the 166th Airlift Wing at the New Castle Air National Guard Base are among the Air Force's 261 C-130s, which would be unable to fly in US or international airspace after 2020 without the required digital navigation and air traffic control

systems. Most of those H-models are in the Air Guard in 18 states. The Air Force could meet the digital systems requirement by replacing the C-130Hs with the new C-130J Super Hercules, or upgrading the systems in the old aircraft. Carney said he understands that given the current budget constraints, it is unlikely the Air Force could afford the \$664 million each for C-130Js, or even the \$131.2 million for a full digital upgrade for each C-130H. Instead, he is proposing a minimal modernization costing \$2.5 million each. 2014

Six C-130Hs from the Delaware Air National Guard's 166th Airlift Wing conducted a mass-formation training sortie from Newcastle ANG Base, the unit's largest group flight since 2003, reported WMDT News on Monday. More than 40 aircrew executed a cargo airdrop over Pennsylvania during the April 12 mission, before flying on to New Jersey for low-level navigation training. "It's not a very common occurrence that one of our [air]planes isn't dispersed somewhere," said 166th AW Commander Col. Mike Feeley. "We've been to Africa for the Ebola outbreak, we've been to South America for natural disasters, we've been pretty much all over the world," he added. The wing's C-130s conducted a joint tornado response exercise the previous day, receiving simulated victims from Army National Guard UH-60 helicopters for onward evacuation, according to a unit release. 2015

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 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. DE ANG. *166 Tactical Airlift Group, Delaware Air National Guard, 40th Anniversary, 1946-1986.*

Unit History. DE ANG. *166 Airlift Wing, Delaware Air National Guard, 50th Anniversary, 1946-1996.*