

176th WING



LINEAGE

176th Tactical Airlift Group 1 Apr 1969

Redesignated 176th Composite Group, 1 Oct 1986

Redesignated 176th Group, 1 Jan 1993

Redesignated 176th Wing, 1 Oct 1995

STATIONS

Kulis ANGB, Anchorage, AK

Elmendorf AFB, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

C-17

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

LTC Harold E. Wolverton, 1969

LTC Larry E. Campbell, 1969

Col Clayton D. Moore, 1973

BG Edward A. Belyea, 1978

Col Paul W. Lindemuth, 1983

Col Kenneth M. Taylor, 1988

Col Thomas J. Gresch, 1990

Col Dan P. Nice, 1992

BG Van P. Williams, 1996

BG Gene L. Ramsay, 2002

BG Tony A. Hart, 2005

BG Charles E. Foster, Jr. 2008

Col. Donald S. Wenke, 18 Sep 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

In 1969 the 176th Tactical Airlift Group was activated. The Group retained the 144th Tactical Airlift Squadron as its flying unit. By the end of 1970, four squadrons had been organized to perform the flight operations, maintenance, supply and support functions. Along with the tactical dispensary, a communications flight and a civil engineering unit were added. The Group was authorized another 475 positions on top of its 275 existing slots.

In 1986 176th Tactical Airlift Group mission was to build a tanker unit from the ground up, the new organization was designated as Detachment 1. In the Spring of 1986, members of the unit — what few there were — began a 17-day tour of other Air National Guard tanker units. This trip had a dual purpose, one of its participants would recount later: “One, conduct interviews and make selection for the jobs ... and two, steal people.” Evidently they were very persuasive, because the new unit was staffed by 16 officers and 65 enlisted personnel by September, when its first planes, four renovated KC-135s arrived. For its first four years of existence, the 168th was assigned to the 176th, which was redesignated the 176th Composite Group in recognition of its newly diversified components. By the end of the decade, the 168th had already reached operational maturity. It was redesignated the 168th Air Refueling Group and began operating independently of the 176th.

In late 1987 when it was announced that the 176th would assume the Air Force Search and Rescue mission in the Alaska Theater because the USAF’s 71st Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron at Elmendorf AFB was being inactivated.

In its 2005 BRAC Recommendations, DoD recommended to close Kulis Air Guard Station (AGS), AK, and relocate the 176th Wing and associated aircraft (eight C-130Hs, three HC-130Ns, and five HH-60s) to Elmendorf Air Force Base, AK. This recommendation would distribute C-130, HC-130 and HH-60 aircraft from Kulis AGS to Elmendorf Air Force Base, which had a higher military value. Moving these aircraft to Elmendorf Air Force Base would consolidate two installations in the same city, reduce infrastructure, create an active/ARC association, and retain the skilled, highly trained ANG personnel from Kulis AGS.

Alaska Air Guard Unit Makes Move: With a final formation flyby, 11 aircraft left Kulis ANGB in Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday for nearby Joint Base Elmendorf, signaling the official move of Kulis' 176th Wing to Elmendorf and ending operations at Kulis, per BRAC 2005. "We're looking forward to the increased partnership with the 1,400-plus men and women of the Air National Guard and their families," said Col Robert Evans, commander of Elmendorf's 673rd Air Base Wing in welcoming the Kulis airmen. These Air Guardsmen operate C-130s and HC-130s and HH-60s. BG Charles Foster, 176th Wing commander, said the move to Elmendorf "offers the wing growth as a team and a partnership that works." He noted that the benefits of the relocation "far outweigh the downsides." 2011

In 2011, Alaska Air National Guardsmen serving throughout Alaska met that mission by executing an extremely high operational tempo and deployment pace for yet another year – this while completing a complete base realignment, moving the entire 176th Wing from Kulis Air National Guard Base to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. The Alaska Air National Guard also saw a great deal of change in its senior leadership in 2011, ensuring that the mission and end goals of the organization continue to be met and exceeded, and that the mission continues to move forward. Two new wing commanders were appointed, and Colonel Carlisle Lincoln was appointed as the Joint Forces Headquarters chief of staff.

Participants in the largest deployment in the history of the Alaska Air National Guard's 144th Airlift Squadron returned to Alaska in late August and early September after a 90-day tour of duty in Afghanistan. The 125 members of the 176th Wing were stationed at Bagram Air Base, north of Kabul, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Most of those returning are members of the wing's 144th Airlift Squadron. Operating C-130 tactical airlift airplanes, these men and women supported United States efforts throughout the region with intratheater airlift and airdrops of men, supplies and equipment. The mission also included a significant number of deployers from the wing's two maintenance squadrons – the 176th Maintenance Squadron and the 176th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron – plus a handful of support personnel from other wing units. "Our Airmen performed superbly, and we are very proud of their service in Afghanistan," said Brigadier General Chuck Foster, then 176th Wing commander. "We are very happy to have them back in Alaska with their families, friends and loved ones." 2012

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources

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Unit History. AK ANG. *Alaska Air National Guard, The 40th Anniversary, 40 Years and Still Going Strong, 1952-1992*.