

# **258<sup>th</sup> AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SQUADRON**

## **LINEAGE**

258th Air Traffic Control Squadron, 17 May 1997

## **STATIONS**

State College PA

Johnstown, PA, Sep 1998; *Sep 1, 1997*

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

## **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

Centered within a keystone, representing the "Keystone state" of Pennsylvania, is a Nittany Lion, the mascot of Penn State University--the State College campus on which the unit resided for 15 years. The bat in flight signifies the ability of radar, to "see" through darkness and inclement weather.

## **MOTTO**

Victory over darkness

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron is a geographically separated unit of the 171st ARW, and is located at the John P. Murtha Cambria County Airport in Johnstown Pennsylvania. Although the 258th only has 80 members, its mission is integral to the successful and safe operations of USAF, DOD, and allied aircraft at CONUS and OCONUS airfields.

A new name and a new home both became reality in 1997. First, on May 16 the unit was redesignated the 258th Air Traffic Control Squadron to reflect the Air Force policy of assigning number series to specific unit types. Then, on September 1 the unit moved to Johnstown-Cambria County Airport where they were to assume an additional mission of full-time air traffic control, which also meant the unit would grow from a 68-member flight to a 79-member squadron.

"At one time, we were scheduled to transfer to Massachusetts," stated Thomas. "Inadequate training areas near State College and a reduction of air traffic State Guard officials were able to stave off the move and they searched for a new site for the unit. After a series of studies, Johnstown provided the best overall operational environment for the flight. "This was a victory for the Pennsylvania National Guard," said Maj. Gen. James W. MacVay, state adjutant general. "We have once again been able to keep force structure intact and in Pennsylvania."

"After moving into the main Johnstown tower, we will still use the mobile tower for tactical training," continued Thomas. "The mobile tower can be used in emergencies and we can deploy with it and set it up anywhere planes are landing or taking off, even at a dirt field."

258th Air Traffic Control Squadron

State College, Pennsylvania ANG

Redesignated: 258th ATCS 17 May 1997 (see 114th)

Relocated: Johnstown, Pennsylvania, 1 September, 1997

Deployments: Rapid Guardian, Night Stalker (Drug interdiction in Columbia), Joint Endeavor, Sentry Vigilance, Fuertes Caminos and Global Yankee

Equipment: MPN-14K

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Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources