

# 113<sup>th</sup> TACTICAL FIGHTER GROUP

## MISSION

### LINEAGE

352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group constituted, 29 Sep 1942

Activated, 1 Oct 1942

Inactivated, 10 Nov 1945

Redesignated 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and Allotted to ANG (DC), 24 May 1946

Extended federal recognition, 2 Nov 1946

Ordered to active duty, 1 Feb 1951

Redesignated 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Interceptor Group, 10 Feb 1951

Inactivated, 6 Feb 1952

Relieved from active duty, returned to control of ANG (DC) and activated, 1 Nov 1952

Redesignated 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Bomber Group, Dec 1952

Redesignated 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter-Interceptor Group, 1 Jul 1955

Redesignated 113<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Group

Inactivated, 9 Dec 1974

### STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Oct 1942

Bradley Field, CT, Oct 1942

Westover Field, MA, Nov 1942

Trumbull Field, CT, 15 Jan 1943

Republic Field, NY, 9 Mar-Jun 1943

Bodney, England, 7 Jul 1943

Chievres, Belgium, 27 Jan 1945

Bodney, England, 14 Apr-3 Nov 1945

Camp Kilmer, NJ, 9-10 Nov 1945

Andrews AFB, MD, 1 Feb 1951

New Castle County Airport, DE, 16 Feb 1951-6 Feb 1952

Andrews AFB, MD

### ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth AF

Air Defense Command

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

### **Mission Aircraft**

P-47D

P-51B

P-51C

P-51D

P-51K

F-84

F-94

### **Support Aircraft**

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Edwin M Ramage, Oct 1942-30 Sep 1942

Col Joseph L. Mason, 18 May 1943-15 Nov 1944

Col James D. Mayden, 16 Nov 1944-Sep 1945

Lt Col William T. Halton, Sep 1945-Nov 1945

Col Mayden acting CO 24 Jul 1944-1 Sep 1944

LTC Albert L. Cox, Jr.

LTC Laidler B. Mackall, Aug 1947

Col Joseph Myers, 1951

LTC Melvin C. Garlow

Maj Paul C. Mitchell, Jr., #1954

Maj James M. Kennedy Nov 1964

LTC DuLaney April 1971

Col Kennedy May 1, 1972

LTC Leslie D. Kampschorr

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Brunswick, Germany, 8 May 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm  
1 Jan 1945

### **EMBLEM**

Azure, a stylized aircraft bendwise above and between two clouds issuing from dexter and sinister base all argent, the dexter cloud pierced by two lightning flashes saltirewise or; in chief two mullets gules, fimbriated of the second and in base three of the like. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem uses a stylized aircraft with clouds and two lightning flashes to the left. The blue sky, clouds and the aircraft are symbolic of the organization's equipment and theater of operations. The lightning flashes are symbolic of the strength, speed, and danger encountered in performing the mission. The stars are for the unit's designation, the 113<sup>th</sup>. The shield represents the determination to protect and accomplish the organization's mission. (Approved, 9 Mar 1954)

### **MOTTO**

CUSTODES PRO DEFEN-SIONE—Guardians for Defense

### **NICKNAME**

Blue Nosed Bastards of Bodney

### **OPERATIONS**

Served as part of the air defense force for the US while training with P-47s for duty overseas. Moved to England, Jun-Jul 1943. Assigned to Eighth AF. Operated against the enemy in air combat over Europe from Sep 1943 to May 1945, using P-47s before converting to P-51s in Apr 1944. Flew numerous escort missions to cover the operations of bombers that attacked factories, V-weapon sites, submarine pens, and other targets on the Continent. Escorted bombers that struck German aircraft factories during Big Week, 20-25 Feb 1944 Received a DUG for performance in Germany on 8 May 1944: while escorting bombers to targets in Brunswick, the group routed an attack by a numerically superior force of German interceptors and then continued the battle against the enemy planes until lack of ammunition and shortage of fuel forced the group to withdraw and return to its base. Also flew counter-air patrols, and on many occasions strafed and dive-bombed airfields, locomotives, vehicles, troops, gun positions, and various other targets. Supported the invasion of Normandy in Jun 1944 by strafing and dive-bombing enemy communications, assisted the Allies in breaking through the German line at St Lo in Jul, and participated in the airborne attack on Holland in Sep. After the Germans launched a counteroffensive in the Ardennes in Dec 1944, the group's planes and pilots were sent to Belgium and placed under the control of Ninth AF for operations in the Battle of the Bulge (Dec 1944-Jan 1945). During that battle, in Jan 1945, action by the detachment earned for the group the French Croix de Guerre with Palm: just as 12 of the detachment's planes were taking off for an area patrol, the airdrome was attacked by about 50 German fighters; in the aerial battle that followed, the 352<sup>nd</sup> shot down almost half the enemy

planes without losing any of its own. In Feb 1945 the remainder of the group joined the detachment in Belgium for operations under the control of Eighth AF. While based on the Continent, the group participated in the airborne assault across the Rhine (Mar 1945). Returned to England in Apr and continued operations until a few days before V-E Day. Returned to the US in Nov.

The 352<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Group was constituted in Sept 1942 and activated at Brandley Field, CT on October 1, 1942. Early flight training in the P-47 T was at Westover, Trumbull, LaGuardia and Mitchel fields. Most of the enlisted personnel, Det. "A" of the 1st Service Group arrived in January, 1943.

The Group embarked from New York harbor July 1, 1943, arriving in Scotland July 5th and a few days later reached their new base at Bodney, England. Training for combat became intense those next few months.

The Group flew its first combat mission on September 9, 1943, an uneventful sweep out over the North Sea to escort returning B-17s. Some 40 pilots participated in this mission. Although the 352<sup>nd</sup> had several minor encounters with the enemy in their early missions, it wasn't until November 26th that Major J. C. Meyer, C.O. of the 487<sup>th</sup> Squadron scored their first victory-an Me-109 attacking the bombers near Gronigen-the first of many victories for the 352<sup>nd</sup>.

By April of 1944 the Group had converted from the P-47 to the P-51. It was in the P-51 that the 352<sup>nd</sup> performed the bulk of its combat mission, which consisted of escorting bombers attacking factories, V-weapon sites, submarine pens, and other targets. On D-Day the 352<sup>nd</sup> strafed and dive-bombed German communication sites. In May of 44, the Group was awarded a Distinguished Unit Citation when it shot down 27 enemy aircraft on a escort mission to Brunswick Germany. On 2 Nov 44 the Group shot down another 38 German planes in a single day. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest solo day score achieved by any Group in World War II. In December of 1944, the Group was transferred to Belgium under the control of 9<sup>th</sup> Air Force for operations during the Battle of the Bulge.

In November of 1945 the 352<sup>nd</sup> returned to the United States. It was inactivated on 10 Nov of 45. During the air war over Europe the 352<sup>nd</sup> lost one hundred eighteen aircraft in combat. Twenty-seven pilots became aces against the Germans, to include Maj George E. Preddy Jr., who shot down 6 aircraft on one mission. His 26.83 aerial victories were the most recorded by any American in the P-51. Four other Group airmen became "aces in a day" when they recorded five victories on one mission. Twelve pilots scored victories against German jet fighters.

First Mission: 9 Sep 1943

Last Mission :3 May 1945

Total Missions: 420

Aircraft mission in action: 118

Enemy aircraft claims: 519.5 air; 287 ground

During 1946, the District of Columbia Air National Guard (DC ANG) published a three-page outline entitled, "Information For Applicants Concerning The Air National Guard Of The District Of Columbia." In that brochure, the War Department authorized the District of Columbia National Guard to activate the following air units: the 113th Fighter Group HQ, the 113th Air Service Group HQ, Detachment "A" 113th Air Service Group, the 121st Fighter Squadron (SE) (meaning "single engine") and an Attached Utility Flight, the 121st Weather Station (Type A), and the 113th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron. These would be manned and equipped according to War Department Tables of Organization and Equipment. Aircraft would include 25 P-47s, four A-26s, two C-47, two AT-6s, and two liaison aircraft. The report noted these units of the Air National Guard were part of the Army Air Forces, Air Defense Command which was responsible for air defense of the continental United States. Initial personnel were restricted to honorably discharged veterans of World War II. Age limits were 18 to 35, with provisions up to 40, depending upon military service. Applicants must be residents of the Washington area, including the nearby suburbs of Maryland and Virginia. Total requirements exceeded 1,000 officers and enlisted. Summer training, probably of two weeks duration, would begin in 1947. The report stated flying operations would start in July 1946, and be arranged so as to not interfere with the individual's civilian vocation. The document further noted an application was made for use of Bolling as the base for the District of Columbia National Guard air units.

On May 1, 1946, the 121st essentially was the District of Columbia Air National Guard. The 352nd Fighter Group of Eighth Air Force from World War II, had been redesignated the 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group and allotted to the DCANG, as of May 24.

The organization of Headquarters, 113th Fighter Group was also authorized effective May 27, with 27 officers and 42 enlisted.

The District of Columbia Air National Guard was inspected for federal recognition in the District Building on Indiana Avenue in Washington, DC on October 2, 1946. The unit complied with National Guard Bureau requirements and was recommended for federal recognition, provided certain changes were made with the facilities.

The 121st was a part of the 113th Fighter Group, based in Washington, DC. The other units in this group were the 104th Fighter Squadron from Baltimore, MD, and the 149th Fighter Squadron from Richmond, VA. When all three squadrons were combined, the group was considered self-sufficient. The 113 FG, along with the 112 FG from Pittsburgh, PA (146 FS, 147 FS and 148 FS), and the 111th Bombardment Group from Philadelphia, PA (103 BS and 117 BS), combined to form the 53<sup>rd</sup> Wing, Philadelphia, PA, of Eleventh Air Force. As of November 12, 1946, Eleventh Air Force was assigned to administer the training within the 113th Fighter Group.

The DC ANG was originally equipped with four aircraft, two AT-6 and two L-5s. On December 15, 1946, the 121st Fighter Squadron (SE) flew its first mission. The first two planes to take to the air were flown by 1LTs Lyman N. Fairbanks, Jr. and Allen C. Shepard. They were led by LTC

Glenn E. Duncan, who was the senior air instructor assigned to the 113th Fighter Group and a regular Army officer

In May 1950, the 113th Fighter Group was reorganized, and the Group lost the 142nd Fighter Squadron, based at New Castle. The 113th still controlled the 121st "White House" Squadron, the 104th at Baltimore, and the 149th at Richmond.

On December 19, 1950, by direction of the President and the Secretary of Defense, the 113<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group Headquarters, ordered to active federal service at Andrews, as of February 1, 1951. 113th Fighter Group was commanded by Lt. Col. Melvin C. Garlow

During the Korean War, the 113th was ordered into active federal service. By direction of the President, and under the authority conferred by the Selective Service Extension Act of 1950 the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 113th Fighter Wing, and assigned support units and members thereof, were ordered into active military service of the United States, effective February 1, 1951.

The 113th Fighter Wing, upon arrival at New Castle, assumed command of the base. This command function was new to nearly all personnel of the 113th. The Advanced Detachment of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 113th Fighter Wing was discontinued on February 1, 1951. The 113th was assigned to New Castle as a permanent change of station, to be moved at the earliest date after February 10 to replace the Fourth Fighter-Interceptor Wing, which had moved to Korea with its F-86A, the only active Air Force wing so equipped. The 142nd Fighter Squadron, Jet and the 148th Fighter Squadron (SE) were reassigned to the 113th Fighter Group as of February 1, 1951. The 113th Air Police Squadron was also activated on February 1, 1951 and moved to New Castle. From its inception until February 1, 1951 when the unit was activated, the DCANG, represented first by the 121st Fighter Squadron, then the 113th Fighter Group, and then the 113th Fighter Wing, had been assigned to Continental Air Command.

On January 3, 1952, the 113th Fighter-Interceptor Wing was notified it would be inactivated on or about February 8, 1952. The same applied for the 113th Fighter-Interceptor Group. On February 6, 1952, the 113th Fighter-Interceptor Wing, including all support groups and squadrons, was inactivated at New Castle and reverted to the Air Force. Personnel rendered surplus were absorbed within other units under Air Defense Command. The 113th returned to state status and was reactivated at Andrews. The 113th Fighter Group were inactivated on February 6, 1952.

On September 11, 1952, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, 113th Fighter-Interceptor Wing was redesignated as Headquarters, 113th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. The unit was soon activated at Andrews with 33 officers and 68 enlisted. When activation occurred on November 1, 1952 the 113th Air Base Group, the 113th Fighter-Interceptor Group, the 113th Maintenance and Supply Group, and the Medical Group were assigned to the 113th Fighter-Interceptor Wing. Headquarters, 113th Fighter-Interceptor Group was activated with 14 officers and 24 enlisted. The 121st Fighter-Interceptor Squadron returned to the control of the District of

Columbia National Guard. The unit was relieved of active duty with the Air Force, less personnel and equipment. It was reassigned to the 113th Fighter-Interceptor Group.

On April 1, 1961, it was announced that the 167th Fighter Squadron, West Virginia Air Guard, had been reassigned and was no longer part of the 113th.

Because of the Berlin Crisis in Germany, as of October 1, 1961, by direction of the President, under authority conferred by Public Law 117 of the 87th Congress, Headquarters, 113th Tactical Fighter Wing ordered to extended active duty for 12 months, unless sooner relieved by proper authority, at Andrews. The DCANG was called to federal service to augment the nation's regular forces for the third time since it was founded in 1940. The wing commander was Brig. Gen. Millikan. These units were relieved from assignment to the District of Columbia and reassigned to Twelfth Air Force. At the same time, the 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Colorado Air Guard, and the 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron, New York Air Guard, were activated and under the control of the 113th. The 121st, with its F-100Cs called to active duty, but continued to be based at Andrews.

As of October 13, 1962, the 113th Tactical Fighter Group was activated and assigned to the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing. The 121st Tactical Fighter Squadron was assigned to the 113th Tactical Fighter Group, which was federally recognized on October 15, 1962.

the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing, the 121st Tactical Fighter Squadron, the 113th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 121st Tactical Dispensary, along with elements of the 107th, 113th, 121st, and 177th Tactical Fighter Groups, were ordered to extended active duty with the 833rd Air Division, with location at Andrews, for a period of not to exceed 24 consecutive months, unless sooner relieved.

President Johnson called 14,600 Air Guardsmen into federal service, including the 113th and its subordinate units. They were ordered to active duty on barely 24 hours notice, yet more than 98 percent were on duty by the deadline. The Wing was called once again to federal active duty on January 26. The 113th, however, was never ordered to deploy. Nevertheless, personnel from the Wing were assigned to 51 military installations, and the main body went to Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, where the 113th established a Replacement Training unit, training F-100 pilots for service in Southeast Asia. Twenty members of the Wing went to Japan, 120 to South Korea, and 148 to Vietnam.

On January 27, 1968, the 113th was activated. The DCANG exercised command over groups in Niagara Falls, NY; Atlantic City, NJ; and Columbus, OH. The four units comprised several thousand people. The announcement from the White House was made on January 25, and members of the unit began registering at Andrews at noon on January 26, and reported for active duty the following day.

In March 1968, the 113th Wing Headquarters, the 113th Group, ordered transferred, along with two New Jersey squadrons, to Myrtle Beach to form a Tactical Air Command F-100

Replacement Training Wing. These were the only Air Guard F-100 units called in January that were not assigned to duty in Vietnam and Korea, although individual DCANG pilots volunteered for such duty.

As of April 22, 1968, elements of the 113<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Groups were relieved from assignment to the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing. Instead, the 354<sup>th</sup> Support Squadron, the 354<sup>th</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron, the 354<sup>th</sup> Tactical Hospital, the 354<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Group, and the 355<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron were assigned as elements of the 113th Wing. On the same day, the 113th departed Andrews. On April 23, the 113th arrived at Myrtle Beach while the 121st left Andrews and arrived on April 24. On April 24, the 121st was relieved from assignment to the 113th Tactical Fighter Group and reassigned to the 113th Wing. On April 24, the 119<sup>th</sup> and 121<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadrons were assigned as elements of the 113th.

On May 27, 1969, the 113th was transferred to its home at Andrews for deactivation

As of June 18, 1969, the 113th was relieved from extended active duty with Tactical Air Command and returned to the District of Columbia National Guard. The 121st was relieved from assignment to the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing and assigned to the 113th Tactical Fighter Group. The 121st was also relieved from active duty to Tactical Air Command and returned to the District of Columbia National Guard. At the same time, the 119<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron was relieved from assignment to the 113th. The 113th Tactical Fighter Group was assigned as an element of the 113<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing. The 113th Support Squadron and the 113th Tactical Hospital were relieved from assignment to the 113th. The 121st Tactical Dispensary was assigned to the 113th Tactical Fighter Group. The 113th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron was relieved from active duty.

On December 9, 1974, the 113th Tactical Fighter Group was one of 19 that inactivated. The 121st then came under the 113th Wing. The 113th Group was absorbed by the Wing. These changes were part of an Air Guard-wide reorganization of Tactical Air Command gained fighter and air refueling units. The move eliminated group headquarters whenever they were co-located with a "parent" wing headquarters. In most cases, there was no loss in strength.

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Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.  
The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.