

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD: JUNE

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30 June 1916. The Second Aero Company, New York National Guard, was mustered in Buffalo under the command of Capt. John Sutterfield.¹

29 June 1921. The 104th Squadron (redesignated the 104th Observation Squadron on 25 January 1923), Maryland National Guard, received federal recognition. It emerged from a flying club active in Baltimore during 1919 and 1920. Initially, its 34 members had no uniforms or aircraft. They trained every Saturday afternoon at Logan Field in Dundalk, Maryland. Their training initially consisted of military drill and instruction about aviation topics.²

7 June 1932. An Ohio National Guard Douglas O-38 flown by 2nd Lt. Karl E. Bushong dropped 25 tear gas bombs on a group of protestors near a mine and sprayed an adjacent hillside with machine gun fire to scare them away at the request of the Guernsey County sheriff. The protestors, mostly angry women who had been stoning working miners during a coal strike, dispersed.³

30 June 1932. 2nd Lt. Karl E. Bushong dropped tear gas bombs from his Ohio National Guard Douglas O-38 on several boatloads of West Virginia coal miners crossing the Ohio River at Powhatan to work as strike breakers in coal mines in the Buckeye state. He supported boatloads of striking Ohio coal miners who had intercepted the West Virginia miners in mid river. While the naval battle between 15 boatloads of miners armed with clubs and oars was progressing, Ohio National Guard soldiers fired machine gun tracer rounds at the far bank of the river to persuade would-be strike breakers to remain in West Virginia.⁴

6 June 1944. 2nd Lt Robert Curtis and 1st Lt Robert Stone, pilots assigned to the 109th Reconnaissance Squadron (formerly the 109th Observation Squadron, Minnesota National Guard), were killed on missions along the French coast during the Normandy invasion.⁵

6 June 1944. 1st Lt. Donald J. Smith, a prewar enlisted member of the Illinois National Guard's 108th Observation Squadron, was shot down while piloting his B-24 on a bombing raid against the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania. He parachuted safely from his burning aircraft, evaded capture by German forces, and escaped to allied lines in Italy months later with the aid of Yugoslav

partisans. After the war, he rejoined the Illinois National Guard and rose to the rank of major general in its ANG organization.⁶

27 June 1944. Personnel and several F-6As from the 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, formerly the 107th Observation Squadron, Michigan National Guard, became the first Army Air Forces tactical reconnaissance unit to operate from France.⁷

30 June 1946. The 120th Fighter Squadron, Colorado National Guard, was extended federal recognition. Slated to be equipped with P-51D's, it was the first unit to be federally recognized after World War II in what was to become a brand new reserve component in September 1947, the Air National Guard.⁸

26 June 1951. While escorting B-29s near "MiG Alley" over North Korea, 1st Lt. Arthur E. Olinger and Capt. Harry Underwood of the 182nd Fighter Bomber Squadron, Texas ANG, flying F-84s, shared credit for the Air Guard's first jet kill, a MiG-15.⁹

June 1955. *The National Guardsman* magazine reported that Air and Army National Guard aircraft had been utilized to speed supplies of the new Salk polio vaccine, syringes, needles, and other inoculation necessities to several distribution points across the nation.¹⁰

June 1962. A C-97A and crew from the New York Air Guard's 109th Air Transport Group, mobilized during the Berlin crisis, flew a cargo of communications equipment from Dover AFB, Delaware to Nha Trang, Vietnam.¹¹

30 June 1962. During Fiscal Year 1962 which ended on this date, the Massachusetts' Air Guard's 267th Communications Group began furnishing a complete shift of workers two nights each week for the Communications Center of the Air Force Space Track and Research Development Facility at Hanscom AFB.¹²

17 June 1963. Maj. Robert A. Rushworth, an Air Force test pilot and former Maine Air Guardsman, became the second winged astronaut after his X-15 attained an altitude of approximately 54 miles. Rushworth received his Air Force astronaut wings from Gen. Curtis LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, in a ceremony at the Pentagon on 25 July 1963.¹³

30 June 1964. The Air Defense Command's alert program continued through Fiscal Year 1964 with 24 Air Guard fighter squadrons participating. All but one of those units provided around-the-clock coverage seven days a week each with two aircraft on five-minute alert and two more on one-hour status. The

Puerto Rico Air Guard's 198th Tactical Fighter Squadron performed 14-hour alert, 7 days a week with 2 aircraft on 5-minute alert and 2 aircraft on 1-hour status.¹⁴

June 1964. The National Guard Bureau began periodically tasking the command post of the Tennessee Air Guard's 118th Military Airlift Wing in Nashville to coordinate, schedule, and monitor ANG domestic airlift missions as well as overseas training flights and Military Airlift Command channel missions to Southeast Asia. That organization became known as the ANG Air Operations Center. It was the precursor of the Air National Guard Readiness Center at Andrews AFB, Maryland.¹⁵

June 1964. To protect Great Falls, Montana against flooding, 375 Air Guardsmen from the 120th Fighter Group assisted in sandbagging, evacuating threatened areas, patrolling, providing fixed and mobile communications, fire protection, and ground transportation. The unit's C-47 mission support aircraft flew 33 missions delivering emergency supplies and personnel.¹⁶

16 June 1965. As flood waters raged through metropolitan Denver and the eastern plains region of Colorado, approximately 225 Air Guardsmen joined ARNG soldiers and civil authorities in disaster assistance operations.¹⁷

30 June 1966. 22 ANG fighter squadrons participated in the Air Defense Command's alert program during Fiscal Year 1966 providing around-the-clock coverage with 2 or 3 aircraft at each unit on 5 or 15 minute alert.¹⁸

29 June 1967. A C-124 from Mississippi's 172nd Military Airlift Group landed at DaNang Air Base, South Vietnam. It was the Air Guard's 1,000th airlift mission to that war ravaged nation.¹⁹

8 June 1968. The Colorado Air Guard's 120th Tactical Fighter Squadron, deployed to Phan Rang Air Base, flew its first combat mission in Vietnam.²⁰

24 June 1968. The Air National Guard Non Commissioned Officer Academy officially began operations as a permanent all-Guard organization at the McGhee Tyson Air National Guard Base near Knoxville, Tennessee after a successful test of a pilot course there in 1967.²¹

11 June 1969. By this date, all four Air Guard tactical fighter units mobilized in 1968 had returned from South Vietnam to the U.S. During their deployment, they flew 24,124 sorties and accumulated 38,614 combat flying hours. If the Air Force's preponderantly Air National Guard (volunteers) 355th Tactical Fighter Squadron was included, those totals rose to approximately 30,000 sorties and 50,000 combat hours. ANG combat losses in South Vietnam

were seven pilots and one intelligence officer killed in action plus 14 aircraft destroyed.²²

18 June 1969. Mobilized members of the 127th Tactical Fighter Squadron (TFS), Kansas ANG, and the 166th TFS, Ohio ANG, were released from federal active duty and returned to state service following their deployment to Korea.²³

June 1969. Under Operation Prime Hawk, seven combat ready Air Guard F-100 pilots from Missouri's 131st Tactical Fighter Group arrived in Vietnam to beef up Air Force fighter units there. During the operation's 139 day duration, the ANG volunteers flew 159 combat missions and accumulated hundreds of combat flying hours. Some of them returned home after 90 days while others remained for 139 days.²⁴

23 June 1972. In the wake of Hurricane Agnes, crews and C-130As of the New York Air National Guard's 139th Tactical Airlift Squadron flew 105 flood relief missions to communities in their home state. Crews and C-121s from the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 171st Aeromedical Airlift Wing flew food to flood ravaged communities in that state. Other Pennsylvania ANG units provided medical assistance and set up a communications networks to assist in flood recovery efforts in the Keystone State. Altogether, ANG units airlifted nearly 690,000 pounds of cargo to flood stricken communities in New York and Pennsylvania following Hurricane Agnes.²⁵

14 June 1975. After Congress rejected a 1974 Department of Defense proposal to deactivate it and several other Air Guard outfits, New York's 102nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron was redesignated the 102nd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Squadron effective this date. To accomplish its new combat rescue mission, the unit converted from F/TF-102As to Lockheed HC-130H'Ps and Sikorsky HH-3Es.²⁶

26 June 1978. The Secretary of the Air Force, John C. Stetson, approved a recommendation to establish a "Fighter Weapons Office" at the Arizona ANG's facility at Tucson. Its mission was to participate in the development of fighter tactics and weapons delivery procedures for aircraft unique to the Air Reserve Components.²⁷

30 June 1978. The ANG Professional Military Education Center at Knoxville, Tennessee was renamed the I. G. Brown Professional Military Education Center in honor of the former Director of the Air National Guard (August 1962-April 1974) who had been instrumental in founding that organization.²⁸

June 1978. Frances Myra Holt Arnold, a traditional Guardmember assigned to the Texas ANG's state headquarters, became the first woman in Air Guard

history to be promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant.²⁹

23 June 1979. The 137th Tactical Airlift Wing received four new C-130Hs at Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. That was the first time that an Air National Guard airlift unit had been equipped with a factory fresh transport aircraft.³⁰

June 1980. For the first time in the history of the U.S. military reserve components, training was conducted with Japanese air units from the latter's home soil and in their skies. That distinction belonged to personnel plus F-4C and C-130 aircraft of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Composite Group that deployed to Misawa Air Base to participate for a "Cope North" exercise.³¹

19 June 1985. The first McDonnell Douglas F-15 Eagle was formally accepted by the Air Guard in ceremonies at Alvin Callendar Field, Belle Chasse, Louisiana, home of the 159th Tactical Fighter Group. During its conversion, the Louisiana ANG unit exchanged its F-4Cs for both F-15As and F-15Bs.³²

1-7 June 1986. At Pope AFB, the C-130B equipped 145th Tactical Airlift Group, North Carolina, became the first Air National Guard unit to win the Military Airlift Command's tactical airdrop competition, "Volant Rodeo 86."³³

June 1986. Personnel and A-10s from the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Tactical Airlift Group deployed to George AFB, California to participate in exercise Air Warrior for the first time. They provided close air support for friendly or 'Blue Forces' at the Army's National Training Center (NTC) at Ft. Irwin, California. The NTC had been developed by the Army after the Vietnam War to provide highly realistic combat training like the Air Force's Red Flag exercises at Nellis AFB, Nevada.³⁴

1 June 1992. The Air National Guard Support Center at Andrews AFB, Maryland was redesignated the Air National Guard Readiness Center effective this date.³⁵

28 June 1993. A 124th Fighter Group, Idaho ANG, F-4G "Wild Weasel" was illuminated by Iraqi surface air defense radar while escorting Joint Task Force Southern Watch aircraft over the southern no-fly zone in Iraq. The F-4G pilot launched a High Speed Anti Radiation Missile at the radar site and destroyed it before returning safely to base.³⁶

June 1993. In response to the growing violence and UN casualties in Somalia, the ANG deployed a partial Mobile Aerial Staging Facility to the Mogadishu International Airport. It was manned by ANG volunteers.³⁷

4 June 1999. The Virginia ANG presented a proposal to the NGB to relocate the 192nd Fighter Wing from Richmond to Langley AFB and form a Virginia ANG associate unit at the latter location to fly the new F-22 “Raptor” as part of the Air Force’s First Fighter Wing when the latter organization received the aircraft.³⁸

18 June 1999. Two Louisiana Air Guard F-15As from the 159th Fighter Wing that had deployed to Naval Air Station Keflavik in Iceland for a NATO exercise intercepted Russian TU-95 Bear bombers that had penetrated the Icelandic Military Air Defense Identification Zone in a long range probe not seen since the Cold War’s end. Two more Louisiana ANG Eagles, launched from Keflavick, escorted the bombers out of the area.³⁹

21 June 1999. ANG A-10s from the 104th Expeditionary Operations Group based at Trapani Air Base, Sicily, flew their final airborne close air support alert sorties for Operation Allied Force.⁴⁰

24 June 1999. The ANG Crisis Action Team reported that, as of this date, 4,227 Air Guardsmen had been activated under the Presidential Selected Reserve Call-Up for Kosovo operations and 2,976 of them had been deployed away from home station for those operations. The ANG had deployed 73 KC-135s and 18 A-10s for those operations as of this date.⁴¹

3 June 2002. Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, the Adjutant General of Texas and a Vietnam combat veteran, became the Director of the Air National Guard and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general. He was the first three-star officer and the first African-American to hold that assignment.⁴²

NOTES

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- ¹ Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 15.
- ² Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 17; Maurer, *Aviation In The U.S. Army*, p. 95; *Maryland Air National Guard*, p. 31..
- ³ Robert L. Daugherty, *Weathering The Peace: The Ohio National Guard in the Interwar Years, 1919-1940*, (Dayton, OH: Wright State University Press, 1992), p. 124 and endnote 60 on p. 124.
- ⁴ Daugherty, *Weathering The Peace*, pp. 124-125.
- ⁵ Article (U), Lt Col James Lightfoot, NGB Historian, "Invasion From Above," *The On Guard*, June 1994, p 15.
- ⁶ MSgt Ernest J. Vardalas, Headquarters Illinois ANG, and TSgt Melvin M. Bytnar, 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois ANG, *Illinois Air National Guard: Fiftieth Anniversary, 1927-1977*, (Headquarters, Illinois ANG, First Edition, August 1978), p. 96.
- ⁷ Rpt (U), Major Michael D. Soule, Michigan ANG, Subj.: "The Unit History of the 107th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, Michigan Air National Guard, October 1940 To November 1945," Maxwell AFB, AL. Air Command and Staff College, Report No. 2390-78, April 1978, p. 40.
- ⁸ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, pp. 40, 110; Gross, *Prelude*, p 22.
- ⁹ Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p 79.
- ¹⁰ News Item (U), "Guard Speeds Salk Shots," *The National Guardsman*, June 1955, pp. 27-28.
- ¹¹ News Item (U), "Dover to Vietnam," *The Air Reservist*, December 1962, p 13; Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 149.
- ¹² Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1962," p. 77.
- ¹³ Biographical Sketch (U),"USAF Major Robert A. Rushworth, Maine's First U.S. Astronaut," 3 August 1963, Astronaut File, ANG Historical Archives, NGB-PAH; Biography (U), Air Force Link, Subj.: "Major General Robert A. Rushwoth," undated, <http://www.af.mil/bios/bio.asp?bioID=6993>. In a 17 November 2006 telecon with Dr. Roger L. Launius, Chief of Space History at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Dr. Charles J. Gross, Chief of ANG History in the NGB learned that NASA does not recognize Air Force-granted astronaut wings. According to the international convention which NASA adheres to, space begins at 60 miles above the earth's surface not 54 miles.
- ¹⁴ Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1964," p. 61.
- ¹⁵ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1986 – CY 1991, pp. 50-51, info used was (U).
- ¹⁶ Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1964," undated, p.17.

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- ¹⁷ *Colorado Pride*, p 126.
- ¹⁸ Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report Chief, National Guard Bureau Fiscal Year 1966," undated, p. 55.
- ¹⁹ News Item (U), "Air Guard Flies 1000th Mission To Viet Nam," *The National Guardsman*, August 1967, p. 20.
- ²⁰ *Colorado Pride*, p 132.
- ²¹ Rpt (U), NGB, "Annual Report, Chief, National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1968," p. 43; Hist (U), ANG, CY 1995 – CY 1997, p. 187; News Item (U), "Air Guard Academies Evolve Into Permanent Institution," *The National Guardsman*, April 1968, p. 31.
- ²² Gross, *Prelude*, pp. 159-160.
- ²³ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 214.
- ²⁴ Article (U), "'a Palace' or two," *The National Guardsman*, October 1970, p. 33.
- ²⁵ Memo (U), Lt. Col. D. A. McLaughlin, USAF, Actg Deputy Chief, Air Compt., Div., To NGB/CF, , Subj.: "U.S. Air Force History (Your ltr, 16 Dec 74)," 23 December 1974, w/Atch Paper (U), "ANG Significant Events For The Period 1 Jan 1972 To 31 Dec 1974," **Doc 2006-25, ANG Chronology**; Rpt (U), NGB, "Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1972, Chief, National Guard Bureau," p. 53; Article (U), "The War Against Water," *The National Guardsman*, August/September 1972, pp. 2-9, 48.
- ²⁶ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 146; News Item (U), "Green Giant joins ANG," *The National Guardsman*, October 1975, p 43,
- ²⁷ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1992-CY 1994, pp. 8-11, info used was (U); Chart (U), "USAF Leaders Through the Years," *Air Force Magazine*, May 2006, p. 44.
- ²⁸ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1978, p.156, info used was (U); Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 197; Article (U), "Guard honors 'I.G.' Brown," *The National Guardsman*, September/October 1978, pp. 2-3..
- ²⁹ Article (U), MSgt Bob Haskel, NGB, "Too Busy To Notice," *The On Guard*, January 1999, p 8.
- ³⁰ Article (U), "Here Come the [C-130] 'H' Models," *National Guard*, August 1979, pp. 18-20; Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1979, p. 67, info used was (U).
- ³¹ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1980, pp. 80-81, info used was (U).
- ³² Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1985, pp. 23-25, info used was (U).
- ³³ Hist (U), MAC, 1986-1987, pp. 400-403; Article (U), "Best Overall: 145th Tactical Airlift Group Wins Volant Rodeo," *National Guard*, October 1986, p. 16; Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 150.
- ³⁴ Col. Ball, *The Maryland Air National Guard*, p. 140.
- ³⁵ Hist (U), ANG, CY 1992-CY 1994, p. xi.
- ³⁶ Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1995-CY 1997, p. viii, info used was (U).
- ³⁷ Rpt (U), NGB, "Annual Review, Chief NGB, FY 1993," undated, p 78.
- ³⁸ Paper (U), Col. Ed Grogan, HQTS/SV, VA ANG, and Col. Bill Schwartz, HQTS/PA, VA ANG, "VaANG Total Force Proposal: VaANG Relocate To

Langley AFB & Form An Associate Unit At Langley AFB,” proposal prepared for Lt. Col. Terrance Brotherton, NGB/XPX, 4 June 1999, **DOC 99-112, ANG Chronology**.

³⁹ News Item (U), Louisiana Guard Public Affairs, “Guard Fighters Intercept Russian Bear Bombers,” *National Guard*, August 1999, p. 29; Chart (U), “Air National Guard,” *Air Force Magazine*, May 2006, p. 116.

⁴⁰ Rpt (U), Col Dan Swift, NGB, "Air War Over Serbia," p 11, SD Chron-19, Hist (FOUO), ANG, CY 1998 - CY 2000.

⁴¹ Chart (U), ANG CAT, Subj.: "Kosovo PSRC Activity," 24 June 1999, **DOC 99-35, ANG Chronology**.

⁴² Hist (S/NOFORN), ANG, CY 2001-CY 2004, pp. xix-xx, info used was (U).