

A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND ITS ANTECEDENTS SEPTEMBER 1908 - 2008

Compiled by
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2 September 1918. 1st Lt. Field E. Kindley, a former Kansas Guardsman, scored his fifth aerial kill. He ended World War I with 11 victories.¹

26 September 1920. Encouraged by Governor Joseph Alfred Arner Burnquist, three members of the Minnesota National Guard – Capt. Ray S. Miller, Lt. Col. William Garis, the Assistant Adjutant General, and Brig. Gen. Walter Rhinow, the Adjutant General – launched a flight to Washington, DC from St. Paul on a rented airplane to successfully lobby the Militia Bureau and the Army Air Service to form a National Guard aviation unit in their state.²

7-8 September 1934. Members of New Jersey's 119th Observation Squadron, flying Douglas O-38E biplanes, assisted the rescue of passengers and crew from the burning liner *S.S. Morrow Castle* off the "Garden State's" coast. They were personally directed by their Governor, A. Harry Moore, who flew on some of the rescue missions.³

16 September 1940. The National Guard's 105th, 116th, 119th, and 154th Observation Squadrons were mobilized for federal service to help strengthen the defenses of the continental United States as part of the nation's pre World War II military buildup. When called to active duty, those and all subsequently mobilized National Guard observation squadrons became part of the Army Air Corps (later Army Air Forces) instead of retaining their previous assignments as National Guard divisional or Army corps aviation units.⁴

11 September 1944. 1st Lt. Joseph J. Maish, Jr., a prewar pilot in the Maryland National Guard's 104th Observation Squadron, shot down two German ME-109s while flying a bomber escort mission over Europe in a P-51. For his accomplishment, he was awarded the Silver Star.⁵

20 September 1946. The 175th Fighter Squadron, South Dakota ANG was extended federal recognition. Lt. Col. Joseph J. Foss, a Marine ace credited with destroying 26 Japanese airplanes in the Solomon Islands area of the Pacific Ocean and a Medal of Honor recipient during World War II, was instrumental in founding the unit and served as its first commander. Foss had begun his military career in October 1939 as an enlisted member of the South Dakota National Guard.⁶

18 September 1947. Effective this date, the National Security Act of 1947 created the United States Air Force (USAF) as a separate military service and established the Air National Guard as a reserve component of the USAF.⁷

4 September 1950. After a debate within Headquarters, U.S. Air Force and the Air Force Division of the National Guard Bureau between those who advocated mobilizing a few highly trained ANG units and those who favored mobilizing as many Air Guard units as possible under existing budget restrictions, the latter policy was adopted.⁸

9 September 1950. The Kentucky ANG's 123rd Fighter Group received public notice that it would be mobilized because of the Korean War. Just prior to its call-up in October 1950, 10 of the unit's F-51s were shipped to the Far East.⁹

1 September 1951. ANG units mobilized this date because of the Korean War included the: 102nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), Rhode Island; 103rd AC&WS, Connecticut; 156th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Illinois; 126th AC&WS, Illinois; 104th AC&WS, Maine; 101st Aircraft Control Squadron, Massachusetts; 151st Tactical Control Group, Massachusetts; 127th AC&WS, Michigan; and the 128th AC&WS, Wisconsin.¹⁰

5 September 1951. While flying his 57th combat mission as a member of a regular Air Force unit, 1st Lt. Oliver Tandy's F-51 was shot down. The Oregon Air Guardsman was captured by Chinese communist troops. Tandy spent the next two years as a prisoner of war.¹¹

15 September 1952. Capt. Robinson Risner, an Oklahoma Air Guardsman flying an F-86 in a regular Air Force unit, shot down his fifth MiG 15 becoming the third ANG ace of the war. Maj. Risner ended the conflict with eight confirmed kills. He remained in the active duty Air Force after the conflict and became one of the senior American POW leaders in the "Hanoi Hilton" during the Vietnam War.¹²

15 September 1952. The 8144th Air Base Squadron was constituted at Elmendorf AFB as the first unit of the Territory of Alaska's Air Guard. It initially consisted of 16 members and shortly afterward received its first aircraft, a T-6G Texan trainer.¹³

25 September 1955. The Air Defense Command conducted a nationwide recall test nicknamed "Operation Stop Watch." About 50 percent of the 73 Air Guard's fighter squadrons which participated were combat ready within two hours of notification according to ADC.¹⁴

6 September 1961. A KC-97F from Illinois' 108th Air Refueling Squadron successfully executed the Air Guard's first mid-air refueling. The tanker refueled an F-84F from the 169th Tactical Fighter Squadron, Illinois ANG.¹⁵

September 1961. The first individuals promoted to chief master sergeant in the Air Guard assumed their new rank during this month. The Air Force had begun promoting individuals to that rank on 1 December 1959.¹⁶

September 1964. While Hurricane Dora swept along the Atlantic coast, personnel of the 165th Tactical Airlift Group (Heavy), Georgia ANG, evacuated patients from the Towne's Nursing Home in Savannah Beach at the request of civil authorities. They also provided shelter for 68 families living at Travis Field, the unit's home station. Food and supplies for the families were provided by the Red Cross.¹⁷

10 September 1966. Operation Combat Leave ended. During the operation which began in July 1966, 174 ANG transports flew 25,238 passengers, including 12,926 troops on leave from Southeast Asia, while logging some 4,000 flying hours. President Lyndon B. Johnson had ordered the Air Guard and other Military Airlift Command to undertake the mission during a strike by employees of five commercial airlines.¹⁸

17 September 1967. The 193rd Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron, Pennsylvania ANG, was extended federal recognition. During the summer of 1968, it received its first five modified EC-121S aircraft configured as flying radio and television stations to perform the "Combat Solo" mission. The unit had been "volunteered" for that mission by the NGB after the Air Force had turned to the Air Guard for help in developing an airborne psychological warfare and intelligence gathering capability.¹⁹

September 1969. After Hurricane Camille battered the Gulf Coast, hundreds of Air Guardsmen from 18 states as widely separated as California and New Hampshire provided assistance, primarily by airlifting food and critically needed supplies to stricken areas of Louisiana and Mississippi. During the relief operation, ANG transports flew 109 missions carrying 902.6 tons of cargo and 2,312 passengers including 200 sick and injured individuals.²⁰

25 September 1971. The Air Guard activated its first Red Horse unit, the 200th Civil Engineering Squadron (Heavy Repair), which was headquartered at Camp Perry in Port Clinton, Ohio. The unit also had a detached flight of equal personnel strength at Indiantown Gap Military Reservation, Pennsylvania.²¹

September 1971. The California Air Guard's 146th Tactical Airlift Wing

began testing the Modular Airborne Firefighting System that had been developed for use in C-130 Hercules transports by the Air Force Weapons Laboratory at Kirtland AFB, New Mexico and a private contractor.²²

18-30 September 1972. At the Air Force's William Tell 1972 aerial weapons competition at Tyndall AFB, Florida, teams from ANG units took top honors in two of the three categories. Air Guardsmen from North Dakota's 119th Fighter Interceptor Group garnered top honors in the F-101 category while those from Wisconsin's 115th Fighter Interceptor Group took the laurels for the F-102 competitors.²³

28 September 1979. The Maryland Air Guard's 175th Tactical Fighter Group received its first A-10A, a brand new aircraft (Tail Number 78-0636) fresh from the factory.²⁴

3-10 September 1981. After a break of 19 years, the Tactical Air Command reinstated its worldwide air-to-ground gunnery competition, "Gunsmoke," at Nellis AFB, Nevada. The Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Tactical Fighter wing, equipped with A-7s, won the "Top Overall Team" honors and one of its pilots, Lt. Col. Wayne L. Schultz, garnered "Top Gun" honors.²⁵

30 September 1984. During Fiscal Year 1984 which ended on this date, the Air National Guard's 106th Aerospace Recovery and Rescue Group (ARRG), New York, and the 129th ARRG, California, saved 204 lives.²⁶

29 September 1988. Astronaut and former Texas Air Guard fighter pilot John M. Lounge was launched into orbit as a crew member aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* (STS-26). The shuttle landed on 3 October 1988. It was Lounge's second space flight.²⁷

21 September 1989. Beginning on this date, Air Guard airlift units across the country, primarily flying C-130s but also C-141s and C-5As, airlifted medical teams and supplies, food, clothing, water and equipment to Caribbean islands that had been devastated by Hurricane Hugo. The estimated daily Air Guard sortie count was five with the bulk of those relief missions which were completed by 11 October 1989.²⁸

10 September 1993. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin issued his Fiscal Year 1995-Fiscal Year 1999 Defense Program Guidance which, among other things, resulted in ANG personnel taking over responsibility for manning First Air Force and its continental air defense mission from the Air Force in accordance with the recommendations of the Department of Defense's Bottom Up Review earlier that year.²⁹

22 September 1994. ANG C-130 airlift units began supporting Operation Provide Comfort from Incirlik AB, Turkey. The following units participated in 1994: the 133d Airlift Wing, Minnesota, the 191st Airlift Group, Michigan, the 135th Airlift Group, Maryland, the 167th Airlift Group, West Virginia, the 143d Airlift Group, Rhode Island, and the 146th Airlift Wing, California.³⁰

25 September 1997. Astronaut and former Indiana Air Guard flight surgeon David A. Wolf was launched into orbit on the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* (STS-86). A qualified cosmonaut, Dr. Wolf then served as a long duration crewmember on the Russian MIR Space Station. He returned to earth aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavor (STS-89) on 31 January 1989. It was his second space flight.³¹

September 1998. After Hurricane Georges ripped across their island destroying some 26,000 houses, members of the Puerto Rico Air Guard's 156th Airlift Wing flew tons of food, water, equipment and supplies to remote parts of the storm-stricken island. The unit was in the middle of converting from fighters to airlifters and had two of its planned eight C-130H Hercules transports on hand to deal with that natural disaster.³²

3 September 1999. Capt. Julie Hudson of the Maryland Air Guard's 175th Wing completed her final mission check ride and qualified as the ANG's first fully combat ready female A-10 fighter pilot.³³

21 September 1999. Gen. Michael Ryan, the Air Force Chief of Staff, presented five members of the Alaska Air Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron with the 1999 MacKay Trophy, the service's highest award for meritorious flying, for their daring 27 May 1998 mountaintop rescue of six people trapped in a crashed Cessna 207. The rescue with their Pavehawk helicopter took nearly seven hours due primarily to strong winds and thick swirling clouds above the 10,500-foot level of Mount Torbert 70 miles east of Anchorage where the crash victims were stranded.³⁴

September 2000. The first Air Guard F-16 fighter units deployed to Turkey for Operation Northern Watch with their new Litening II targeting pods as part of one of the Air Force's Air and Space Expeditionary Forces (AEF). ANG volunteers from Alabama's 187 Fighter Wing (FW), Colorado's 140th FW, and Indiana's 181st FW served as part of a 90-day AEF deployment to enforce the northern no-fly zone over Iraq. Each of the units was responsible for filling a 30-day block of the 90-day deployment.³⁵

11 September 2001. Major coordinated terrorist attacks were launched on the United States. Two hijacked commercial airliners on domestic flights crashed into the World Trade Center Towers in New York City this morning. Both buildings and a nearby one subsequently collapsed. Shortly after the

World Trade Center buildings were attacked, another hijacked domestic airliner crashed into the Pentagon causing tremendous destruction in a recently renovated wedge of that building. A fourth hijacked domestic airliner crashed in a rural area of southwestern Pennsylvania.³⁶

11 September 2001. ANG F-15s were scrambled from Otis ANG Base, Massachusetts and ANG F-16s were scrambled from Langley AFB, Virginia to intercept hijacked commercial airliners bound for the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon respectively but arrived too late to thwart the terrorist attacks.³⁷

11 September 2001. Shortly after the four airliners hijacked by terrorists in the U.S. crashed, the Pentagon gave NORAD the operational lead to use Air Force fighters to patrol the skies over more than 30 American cities. Navy fighters also flew just off the Atlantic coast, near New York. Within hours of the terrorist attacks, 34 ANG fighter units had generated aircraft and were ready to fly combat missions. 15 of those units had flown 179 fighter missions during the first 24 hours. In addition, 18 ANG tanker wings had generated 78 aircraft.³⁸

14 September 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld requested and President George W. Bush approved an order to call as many as 50,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen to active duty “ . . . to provide port operations, medical support, engineer support, general civil support and homeland defense.” The Air Force’s personnel requirements were 13,000 of these 50,000.³⁹

14 September 2001. Congress authorized use of the U.S. armed forces against the terrorists who had attacked the country on 11 September 2001 and those who harbored them.⁴⁰

15 September 2001. The ANG Crisis Action Team reported that, to date, 35 ANG fighter units had generated 603 sorties in connection with the terrorist attacks on the U.S. on 11 September 2001. 18 ANG tanker wings had generated 72 sorties offloading 3.2 million pounds of fuel.⁴¹

29 September 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that 5,131 members of the Air Guard and Air Force Reserve from 29 units in 24 states and the District of Columbia had been ordered to report to active duty under partial mobilization authorized by President George W. Bush.⁴²

30 September 2002. Lt. Gen. Daniel James, III, ANG Director, told reporters that, because the Air Guard was so heavily tasked by new missions that it might have to refuse some missions to maintain its strength for the future.⁴³

3 September 2005. In a preliminary account, the Air Guard reported that it had flown 785 sorties that delivered 12,854 passengers and 39,013 tons of cargo during its first three days of Hurricane Katrina relief operations. During that same period, Air Guardsmen reported that they had saved 600 human lives using helicopters and small boats.⁴⁴

4 September 2005. Air Guard pararescue specialists saved 538 human lives in one day. This was the highest single day total of saves by ANG rescue assets during the Hurricane Katrina relief operation.⁴⁵

15 September 2005. President George W. Bush endorsed the Base Realignment and Closure Commission's plan to close 22 major military bases while reconfiguring 33 others and sent it to the Congress.⁴⁶

16 September 2005. The National Guard Bureau reported that Air Guard Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) personnel had treated over 11,000 patients since they deployed to the Gulf Coast region to participate in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. In some remote areas, they provided the only operational medical facilities available to civilians.⁴⁷

26 September 2005. President George W. Bush sought to federalize hurricane-relief efforts, removing state governors from the decision-making process as a result of lessons learned from the federal government's widely criticized response to Hurricane Katrina. He suggested that the Defense Department should be placed in charge of responding to natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and outbreaks of disease.⁴⁸

8 September 2006. The Puerto Rico Air Guard's 156th Airlift Wing deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. It was the first time the island's ANG had deployed to a war zone as a unit in its 59-year history. While the 156th was committed to a 120-day deployment, its individual members were slated to rotate out every 30 days.⁴⁹

19 September 2007. Captain Brian "Snap" Curland of the Maryland Air National Guard's 175th Wing made history in Iraq when he dropped the first Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) in combat from a newly upgraded A-10C. The strike was the first reported combat use of the upgraded Warthog's precision engagement capabilities.⁵⁰

NOTES

- ¹ Gross, *American Military Tradition*, pp. 34-35; Haulman and Stanick, *Air Force Aerial Victory Credits*, p. 17.
- ² Francillon, *Air Guard*, p. 17.
- ³ Gross, *American Military Tradition*, p. 42.
- ⁴ Francillon, *Air Guard*, pp. 27-31.
- ⁵ Haulman and Stanick, *Air Force Aerial Victory Credits*, p. 295; Col. Ball, *The Maryland Air National Guard*, p. 46.
- ⁶ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 166; Joe Foss with Donna Wild Foss, *A Proud American: The Autobiography of Joe Foss*, (New York: Pocket Books, 1992), pp. 192—196, 205, 210, 264; Maj. Daniel M. Hacking, South Dakota ANG, *South Dakota Air National Guard, 1946 to 1986*, (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Company, undated), p. 18.
- ⁷ Article (U), "The Air Force in Facts and Figures," *Air Force Magazine*, May 1999, pp. 41, 103.
- ⁸ Hist (U), CONAC, July - December 1950, p. 239.
- ⁹ Lt. Col. Donald L. Armstrong and Col. James S. Long, Editors, *Kentucky Air National Guard, 1947-1977: Mustangs To Phantoms*, (Kentucky ANG, 1977), p. 48.
- ¹⁰ Paper, "ANG Units Into Active Military Service," Air National Guard Unit Data Cards, Air National Guard Historical Archives.
- ¹¹ TSgt Hellis, *Guardians of the Pacific Northwest*, p 24.
- ¹² Haulman and Stancik, *Air Force Aerial Victory Credits*, p 763; John McCain with Mark Salter, *Faith Of My Fathers*, (New York, NY: Random House, 1999), pp 318-319.
- ¹³ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, pp. 99-100; News Item (U), "Prodigal Sun," *National Guard*, July 1987, p. 47.
- ¹⁴ Study (S/RD/NOFORN), "The Air National Guard In Air Defense," pp 36, 41-42, info used was (U); Maryland ANG, *Maryland Air National Guard*, p. 69.
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- ¹⁶ TSgt. Paul W. Cook, III, *Through Airmen's Eyes: An Introduction to the Enlisted History and Heritage of the Air National Guard*, (Arlington, VA: NGB-PAH, undated), p. 34.
- ¹⁷ *165th Tactical Airlift Group, Georgia Air National Guard, Savannah, Georgia, 1946-1984*, p 22.
- ¹⁸ News Item (U), "Air Transport Units Take Over USAF Routes," *The National Guardsman*, October 1966, p. 26; Article (U), A1C Timothy R. Hutchens, "Operation Combat Leave," *The National Guardsman*, September 1966, pp. 28-29.
- ¹⁹ Francillon, *United States Air National Guard*, p. 162; Gross, *Adapting The Force*, p. 30; Lt. Col. Christopher T. Cleaver, Public Affairs Officer, PA ANG,

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²¹ Rpt (U), NGB, Subj.: "Annual Report of the Chief, National Guard Bureau, Fiscal Year 1972," undated, pp. 61,87.

²² Draft Chapter II (U), "Volunteers," Post Cold War History of the ANG, p. 65.

²³ News Item (U), "Air Guard Teams Win At 'William Tell 72' ", *The National Guardsman*, November 1972, p. 44; Clark, *William Tell*, pp. 39-43.

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²⁵ Rpt (U), NGB, "Annual Review, Chief, National Guard Bureau Fiscal Year, 1981," p.53; Donna L. Clark, *Gunsmoke: United States Air Force Worldwide Composite Force Competition*, (Langley AFB, VA.: Air Combat Command Office of History, December 1995), pp. 3-7; Article (U), "The 140th TFW Rides High in the Saddle," *National Guard*, December 1981, pp. 10-12.

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