



Fact Sheet

Wisconsin Air National Guard

Combat Readiness Training Center
100 Independence Drive, Volk Field ANGB
Camp Douglas, Wisconsin 54618-5001

Current as of 15 May 2007

FIRST LIEUTENANT JEROME A. VOLK Volk Field Namesake

Lieutenant Jerome A. Volk was born March 17, 1925 in Harvey, North Dakota to Alois and Esther Volk. The family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Jerome subsequently graduated from Rufus King High School in 1943.

Commission and World War II

Lieutenant Volk entered the Enlisted Reserve Corps, U.S. Army, on June 15, 1943 and began the Air Cadet Training program seven days later. He successfully completed the program graduating and receiving his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the Army Air Corps on December 22, 1943. During World War II he flew P-51's and qualified for the American Campaign Medal. He was released from active duty on November 12, 1945 and transferred into the Reserve Officer Corps.

Air National Guard Service

Lieutenant Volk joined the Wisconsin Air National Guard on January 12, 1949, and was assigned to the 126th Fighter Squadron, in Milwaukee. He was promoted to First Lieutenant on August 24, 1949. During this period he also attended Marquette University in Milwaukee for three and a half years. (He was awarded his degree posthumously in June of 1956 by the University in recognition of his service and sacrifice.)

Korean Conflict

On February 28, 1951, Lieutenant Volk was called to active duty with his squadron to serve with the U.S. Air Force. He was assigned to duty in the 35th Fighter Squadron, Korea, where he was killed on November 7, 1951, while flying a mission in an F-80 "Shooting Star" jet fighter.

Lieutenant Volk's family included his wife Jeanne P., his parents, and a brother Donald A., all of whom lived in Milwaukee at that time. Lieutenant Volk was returned to the United States and is buried in Milwaukee.

Facility Dedication

On June 23, 1956, during the annual Governor's Day observances at Camp Williams, the National Guard rededicated the part of the facility that was used by the Air National Guard as Volk Field. In 1957, by Chapter 114, The Wisconsin Legislature provided, **"...that portion of Camp Williams under lease to the Federal Government for the use of the Air National Guard shall, as long as so held, be known as Volk Field in memory of First Lieutenant Jerome A. Volk, the first Wisconsin Air National Guard pilot killed in combat in the Korean Conflict."***

On Veterans Day, 1989 a Memorial Plaque in honor of Lieutenant Volk was unveiled and dedicated in front of Base Headquarters by the then Adjutant General, Major General Raymond A. Matera.

* *Wisconsin Blue Book, 1962, p 214*