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A CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD AND ITS ANTECEDENTS: OCTOBER 1908 - 2012

Compiled by
ANG History Office (NGB/HO)

October 1911. Pioneer aviator and California Guardsman Eugene Ely died in an aircraft accident on 19 October 1911 in Macon, Georgia while flying as a civilian pilot.¹

6 October 1918. 2nd Lt. Erwin R. Bleckley, a Kansas Guardsman flying as an aircraft observer in France with the 50th Aero Squadron of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), was killed while trying to locate and resupply the famous “lost battalion” of American infantry that had been cut off by the Germans in the Argonne Forrest. Both Bleckley and his pilot, 1st Lt. Harold E. Goettler, were awarded Medals of Honor posthumously. Bleckley was the first National Guard aviator to be a recipient of the nation’s highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.²

22 October 1918. 1st Lt. Martinus Stenseth, a former Minnesota National Guardsman, was credited with 3.14 aerial victories bringing his total to 6.14. He ended World War I with 6.47 kills.³

24 October 1925. The 154th Observation Squadron, Arkansas National Guard, received federal recognition as a Corps Aviation unit.⁴

25 October 1927. The War Department announced the first contract with the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company to purchase 35 new O-11 type observation planes. They would replace the antiquated and unfit JN type aircraft that had been withdrawn from National Guard service the previous month.⁵

October 1927. The governor of Colorado, W. H. Adams, dispatched five officers and four enlisted members plus three Douglas O-2C aircraft to Pueblo to patrol the southern part of the state which was being plagued by a series of bloody coal strikes. The aircraft patrolled the troubled coal fields during the day. The strikes then spread to the northern part of the state. Starting in November, the 120th flew daily reconnaissance flights over the northern area of disturbances. By January 1928, the confrontations had ended and the unit was relieved from active duty.⁶

13 October 1939. The 152nd Observation Squadron, Rhode Island National Guard, received federal recognition.⁷

15 October 1941. The last of the National Guard's 29 pre-World War II aviation units, Mississippi's 153rd Observation Squadron, was called into federal service.⁸ Altogether, approximately 4,800 National Guard aviation personnel, including 613 pilots, were mobilized during 1940-1941 from the Guard's flying units.⁹

18 October 1942. The 121st Observation Squadron from the District of Columbia National Guard was inactivated after flying antisubmarine patrols from the United States. The former Guard unit was reorganized six months later as the 121st Liaison Squadron and then was dispatched to Algeria.¹⁰

9 October 1947. The first P-47N (Tail # 529) assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, Hawaii ANG, arrived at Bellows AFS.¹¹

1 October 1948. The Air Force Division, National Guard Bureau, was established as part of the Bureau's reorganization in response to the National Security Act of 1947. Maj. Gen. George G. Finch, a Georgia Air Guardsman, was appointed the first Chief of the Air Force Division.¹² The Air Force saw it merely a channel of communications between it and the states. The NGB rejected that narrow administrative definition of its responsibilities and successfully asserted a much broader role in planning, budgeting, policymaking, etc., for the ANG. The Air Force eventually was forced to accept that view, including NGB control of ANG budgets, because of public law concern about another political fight with National Guard interests.¹³

2 October 1949. The Army confirmed that Maj. Gen. George Finch, head of the National Guard Bureau's (NGB) air branch, had been fired by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Cramer, an Army Guardsman serving as the Bureau's head. Finch was quickly reinstated on a temporary basis by Cramer after directed to do so by the Secretary of the Army, Gordon Gray, at the request of the Secretary of the Air Force, Stuart Symington. Beyond a clash of personalities, the basic issues involved were who was actually in charge of Air Guard policies and programs within the NGB and whether they would administer that reserve component in accordance with Air Force direction. Both officers were reassigned out of the NGB after the Korean War began in June 1950.¹⁴

October 1949. The National Guard Bureau authorized the creation of an Air section in each state National Guard headquarters.¹⁵

10 October 1950. The first ANG units were mobilized during the Korean War. This was seen as a temporary expedient by the Air Force which planned to demobilize them by April 1951.¹⁶ Flying squadrons called up on that date were the: 11th Fighter Squadron (FS), Texas; 112th Bomb Squadron (Light), Ohio; 125th FS, Oklahoma; 127th FS, Kansas; 128th FBS, Georgia; 154th FS, Arkansas; 156th FS, North Carolina; 157th FS, South Carolina; 158th FS, Georgia; 159th FS, Florida; 160th FS, Alabama; 165th FS Kentucky; 167th Fighter Bomber Squadron (FBS), West Virginia; 182nd FS, Texas; and the 196th FBS, California.¹⁷ All of those units were assigned to the Tactical Air Command.¹⁸

10 October 1950- 1 December 1953. During the Korean War mobilization period, some 45,000 Air Guardsmen constituting about 80 percent of its force were called into federal service. 62 of its 92 flying units were mobilized. By and large those units were unprepared for combat due to obsolescent equipment, inadequate supplies of spare parts, personnel shortages and inadequate training programs. Mobilized units were distributed to various Air Force commands in an almost random fashion which one senior Air Guardsman characterized as the “great cutting of the pie.” But, after significant reorganizations, refitting with modern equipment, addition of personnel from the Air Force Reserve and regular Air Force, ANG units acquitted themselves well including two fighter wings that saw combat in Korea. The shortcomings of the Air Force’s reserve components during the war and the political problems associated with them convinced senior Air Force and ANG leaders that past issues between them concerning peacetime control, training, budgets and equipment modernization had to be resolved. Those problems were a part of a larger political controversy that erupted in the United States during the war about the fairness of drafting young men (and mobilizing many World War II veterans who were unpaid Reservists) into the armed services while many paid drilling Guardsmen and Reservists were not called up. The war was a critical turning point in Air Force/ANG relationships that marked the beginning of the development of the Air Guard as a valued first line combat reserve force component of the service despite some significant conflicts between the two in the future.¹⁹

11-21 October 1950. Upon mobilization because of the Korean War, the 165th Fighter Squadron (FS), Kentucky ANG, 167th FS, West Virginia ANG, and the 154th FS, North Carolina ANG, were consolidated at Goodman Field, Fort Knox, Kentucky as the 123rd Fighter Group. The unit trained F-51 replacement pilots for combat in Korea, provided firepower demonstrations, and performed tactical support missions for the Army.²⁰

13 October 1950. Major General Earl T. Ricks, an Arkansas Air Guardsman, was appointed the first Deputy Chief of the National Guard Bureau on October

13, 1950. Ricks also retained his assignment as head of the bureau's Air Force Division.²¹

1 October 1951. ANG units mobilized this date because of the Korean War included the: 120th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), Arkansas; 158th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Texas; 134th AC&WS, Texas, the 135th AC&WS, Louisiana, and 136th AC&WS, Texas.²²

12 October 1951. The Air Force ordered an advanced detachment of the Air Guard's 123rd Fighter Bomber Wing to move from Goodman Field, Kentucky by air to England.²³

22-24 October 1951. Maj. Gen. Earl T. Ricks, Chief of the Air Force Division, NGB, reported to the annual conference of the National Guard Association of the United States that pilot procurement was a major continuing problem for the ANG. The Air Force was expanding and he expected many Guard aviators on active duty to stay in the Air Force once their terms of mobilized service were over. In addition, many returning ANG pilots would be over-age-in-grade. Ricks reported that the ANG only had 12 personnel currently engaged in Air Force undergraduate pilot training.²⁴

23 October 1951. Captain John W. Shewmaker, a Kentucky ANG pilot assigned to the 111th Fighter Bomber Squadron on a temporary basis, was killed while flying a bomber escort mission over North Korea.²⁵

30 October 1951. The first group of B-26s from the ANG's 126th Bomb Wing (BW) (Light) departed Langley AFB, Virginia for their new base at Bordeaux-Merignac, France. Assigned to help strengthen NATO, the wing was composed of the Illinois' 108th Bomb Squadron (BS) (Light) and 168th BS (Light), and Missouri's 180th BS (Light).²⁶

October 1951. The Air Guard's 136th Fighter Bomber Wing moved from Japan to K-2 airfield at Teague, Korea.²⁷

October 1951. Based at RAF Shepards Grove in the United Kingdom, the Washington state Air Guard's 116th Fighter Interceptor Squadron participated in "Exercise Pinnacle," preparing to help defend the United Kingdom against enemy air attacks.²⁸

1 October 1952. The California ANG's 194th Fighter Squadron, which remained under state control during the Korean War, was redesignated the 194th Fighter Interceptor Squadron. It retained its F-51Ds and -51Hs.²⁹

1 October 1952. The Pennsylvania ANG's 147th Fighter Squadron, which remained under state control during the Korean War, was redesignated the 147th Fighter Interceptor Squadron and converted from F-47Ns to F-51Hs.³⁰

8 October 1952. The 116th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), Georgia ANG; 117th AC&WS, Georgia ANG; 118th AC&WS, North Carolina ANG; and 154th Aircraft Control and Warning Group, Georgia ANG, were released from active duty.³¹

15 October 1952. Air Guard flying squadrons released from active duty on this date: the 109th Fighter Squadron (FS), Minnesota; the 136th FS, New York; and the 192nd FS, Nevada.³²

16 October 1952. The Air Guard's 111th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing -- consisting of Pennsylvania's 103rd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (SRS) as well as two new Air Guard-manned units, 129th SRS and 130th SRS -- converted from RB-29s to RB-36s at Fairchild AFB, Washington.³³

October 1952. The Ohio Air Guard's 162nd Fighter Squadron, which remained under state control during the Korean War, was redesignated the 162nd Fighter Bomber Squadron. It continued to operate its F-51H aircraft.³⁴

1 October 1953. The 120th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (AC&WS), Arkansas; 134th AC&WS, Texas; 135th AC&WS, Louisiana; 136th AC&WS, Texas; and the 158th Aircraft Control and warning Group, Texas were demobilized.³⁵

1 October 1954. On this date, nine additional ANG fighter squadrons joined the original eight Air Guard fighter units that had begun standing air defense runway alert on a permanent basis on 15 August 1954. Each of the squadrons provided two aircraft on five-minute alert from dawn to dusk.³⁶

October 1954. The National Guard Association of the United States formally requested that strategic airlift units be organized in the ANG. Although that request was rejected by the Air Force, it marked the beginning of a long term effort by Guard interests to diversify its force structure because municipal airports hosting ANG units either could not or would not allow conversion to jet fighters as well as concerns that changing technology, doctrine, national security requirements, and the costs of modernizing its aging fighter and lighter bomber force would place the ANG's flying unit force structure at risk. At that time most ANG units flew fighters. A handful operated B-26 Invaders.³⁷

October 1954. Equipped with F-80s, a team from the Colorado Air Guard's

140th Fighter Group won the ANG Gunnery Meet at Boise, Idaho.³⁸

October 1956. Secretary of the Air Force, Donald A. Quarles, designated Colorado's "Minute Men" as the Air National Guard's official aerial demonstration team. Supported by that federal recognition and the accompanying money, the team began performing nationally and internationally with its F-86s. The team had originally been formed in 1947 and had performed at various events around Colorado.³⁹

October 1957. The National Guard Association of the United States formally requested that the Air Force purchase surplus piston-engine aircraft for the Air National Guard and the Air Force Reserve so that they could participate in the strategic airlift mission. The Air Force rejected that request.⁴⁰

October 1957. Because the Air Force could not provide adequate training facilities to meet all of the ANG's needs, the latter opened the "Air National Guard Jet Instrument School" at Ellington AFB, Texas. The school was staffed by Air Guardsmen.⁴¹

1 October 1958. The 120th Fighter Group, Montana ANG, began standing 5-minute air defense runway alert with its F-89H jet fighters.⁴²

20-30 October 1958. Flying North American F-86D all-weather interceptors, a team from the Florida Air National Guard's 125th Fighter Interceptor Squadron won top honors at the Air Force's "William Tell" worldwide air-to-air gunnery meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Col. Robert Dawson of the 125th fired a perfect score of 39,600 points making him the highest scoring pilot in the competition.⁴³

October 1959. *The National Guardsman* magazine reported that the Indiana Air Guard's 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing had volunteered to take over from active duty Air Force units the responsibility for conducting firepower demonstrations for officer students at Army service schools. The 122nd had agreed to conduct as many as 10 of those aerial firepower demonstrations each year.⁴⁴

October 1959. Pilots from Indiana's 122nd Tactical Fighter Wing, flying their Republic F-84F Thunderstreaks, conducted an aerial firepower demonstration for officer students at the U.S. Army's Artillery and Missile School. It was the first example of an ANG unit deploying to take on this new mission for the Air Force⁴⁵

October 1960. An unidentified Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agent visited Brig. Gen. George R. Doster, commander of the 117th Tactical Reconnaissance

Wing, Alabama ANG at his headquarters in Birmingham. He won Doster's support to recruit Alabama Air Guardsmen as civilian contractors to train Cuban exiles to fly and maintain B-26s for a planned secret invasion of Cuba to overthrow Fidel Castro's communist regime. After negotiations between the Pentagon and the CIA, the 117th was offered the opportunity to assist the secret CIA operation because it had flown RB-26s until it converted to Republic RF-84Fs on 1 May 1957.⁴⁶

1 October 1961. Over 21,000 Air Guardsmen called into federal service by President Kennedy's order to deal with the Berlin crisis reported to their units. Mobilized Air Guard units included: 18 tactical fighter squadrons, 4 tactical reconnaissance squadrons, 6 air transport squadrons, and a tactical air control group.⁴⁷

7 October 1962. The Air Guard opened a small center at the Portland Municipal Airport, home of the Oregon ANG's 142nd Fighter Group, to train radar intercept officers for the nine Guard squadrons that flew the F-89J fighter interceptor.⁴⁸

October 1962. During the Cuban Missile crisis, volunteer ANG aircrews and C-97s augmented global Air Force operations flying 29 special assignment airlift missions. Although not mobilized, 14 ANG fighter units were placed on accelerated training programs and prepared for possible "no notice" deployments. In addition, 26 ANG bases hosted Air Force B-47E, F-101B, F-102A, and F-106A aircraft which had been disbursed to them during the emergency.⁴⁹

October 1962. During the Cuban missile crisis, eight nuclear-armed B-47s from the Strategic Air Command (SAC) deployed to the ramp of the Minnesota Air Guard's 148th Fighter Interceptor Group at Duluth.⁵⁰

7-14 October 1963. A team from the Pennsylvania Air Guard's 146th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, flying F-102s, won top honors at the Air Force's 1963 William Tell worldwide air-to-air weapons meets.⁵¹

October 1963. Capt. Russell L. ("Rusty") Schweickart, an F-86 pilot in the Massachusetts ANG's 102nd Tactical Fighter Group and a civilian research scientist at MIT's Experimental Astronomy Laboratory, was selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to be an astronaut. He was the first astronaut to be selected directly from the Air Reserve Forces.⁵²

18 October 1965. The 107th Tactical Fighter Group, New York ANG, participated in exercise Tropic Lightning I in Hawaii. This was the first

deployment of an Air Guard fighter unit from the continental U.S. to the Pacific region to participate in an exercise.⁵³

1 October 1967. During the approximately two-month period that ended on this date, some 26,000 Air Guardsmen and 403,000 Army Guardsmen received 32 hours of training on how to control civil disturbances.⁵⁴

October 1967. Senior officers at the National Guard Bureau decided to establish an Air National Guard NCO Academy on a permanent basis at McGee-Tyson ANG Base, Tennessee near Knoxville. Several existing buildings on the installation were repaired or altered to accommodate the Academy's staff and students.⁵⁵

October 1967. Elements of the Colorado Air Guard's 140th Tactical Fighter Wing and 12 F-100s deployed to Incirlik, Turkey to participate in NATO's exercise "Deep Furrow 67." It was the first time an ANG unit's aircraft involved in a NATO exercise refueled from KC-135 tankers.⁵⁶

31 October 1970. A team from the North Dakota Air National Guard's 119th Fighter Group took top honors in the F-101 competition during the Air Force's William Tell 1970 air-to-air fighter weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida.⁵⁷

October 1971. Members of the California Air Guard's 146th Tactical Airlift Wing (TAW) employed the new Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS), mounted in one of the unit's C-130s, against the Romero fire in the Las Padres National Forest. It was the first time that the MAFFS had been used to combat a forest fire. After the U.S. Forest Service purchased MAFFS in 1974, the 146th TAW, the Wyoming ANG's 153rd Tactical Airlift Group (TAG), and North Carolina's 145th TAG plus an Air Force Reserve unit were equipped with the system.⁵⁸

October 1971. Personnel and 12 F-100s from the Missouri Air Guard's 131st Tactical Fighter Group deployed to Cigli Air Base, Turkey to participate in NATO's "Deep Furrow 71" exercise. Airlift of non-pilot personnel was provided by seven ANG transports. This was the first known deployment of an Air Guard flying unit to the Middle East for training.⁵⁹

6 October 1972. Two ANG fighter units opened new "dispersal" alert sites under an Aerospace Defense Command program to strengthen the air defenses of the southern border of the U.S. F-102s and crews from Florida's 125th Fighter Group assumed 5 minute alert status at Naval Air Station New Orleans in Louisiana. California's 144th Fighter Group assumed 5 minute alert status with two F-102s and pilots at Tucson, Arizona.⁶⁰

19 October 1973. New Mexico's 188th Tactical Fighter Squadron became the first of 16 Air Guard units to be equipped with the LTV A-7D Corsair II. It received brand-new A-7D aircraft direct from the factory.⁶¹

October 1973. A team from the Washington state Air Guard's 141st Fighter Interceptor Group won top honors at the Aerospace Defense Command's third annual weapons loading competition held at Tyndall AFB, Florida. The ANG F-101 team clinched the Thomas K. McGhee trophy by scoring a perfect 1,000 points on its last load - the first perfect score ever achieved in the event.⁶²

October 1973. The National Guard Bureau established a Field Operating Activity Center (FOAC) for the Air National Guard at Edgewood, Maryland. It began transferring some of the functions of the ANG's Air Operations Center, located at the 118th Military Airlift Wing of the Tennessee Air Guard in Nashville to Edgewood as well as some of the NGB Air Directorate's responsibilities to the new organization. The FOAC was responsible for NGB functions relating to the management of aviation construction, readiness, maintenance, and training of ANG units.⁶³

October 1975. The first F-4C Phantoms began arriving at Hickam AFB for the Hawaii ANG. In late 1976, they replaced the Hawaii ANG's F-102s on air defense alert.⁶⁴

October 1976. Hawaii's 199th Fighter Interceptor Squadron retired the last F-102A Delta Dagger in Air Guard service.⁶⁵

October 1977. Operation Volant Oak (later Coronet Oak) was launched at Howard Air Base, Panama. ANG and Air Force Reserve C-130 units provided aircraft and volunteer crews on 15-day rotations. Their mission was to provide theater airlift support to the United States Southern Command.⁶⁶

October 1977. The Colorado Air Guard's 140th Tactical Fighter Wing was the first ANG unit to participate in operational testing of the Ground Laser Locator Designator targeting device.⁶⁷

7 October 1978. A team from the Texas Air Guard's Fighter Interceptor Group took top honors in the F-101 category at the Air Defense Command's William Tell 1978 worldwide air-to-air weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida.⁶⁸

1 October 1979. Massachusetts ANG personnel assisted civil authorities in Boston during the visit of Pope John Paul II to the city. Members of the 104th Tactical Fighter Group assisted along the Pope's motorcade route and at the

Boston Common where a mass was celebrated.⁶⁹

16 October 1980. The California Air Guard's 144th Fighter Interceptor Wing, equipped with F-106s, emerged as the overall team winner of the William Tell 1980 fighter interceptor weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida. An F-101 aircrew from the Texas ANG's 147th Fighter Interceptor Group won the "Top Gun" award.⁷⁰

1 October 1982. The I. G. Brown Professional Military Education Center was made a direct reporting detachment of the Air National Guard Support Center at Andrews AFB, Maryland.⁷¹

12-30 October 1982. Lt. Col. Robert Boehringer of the California Air Guard's 144th Fighter Interceptor Wing won the "Top Gun" award in the F-106 category at the William Tell 1982 Air Force air-to-air weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida. Air Guard weapons loading teams from Montana's 120th Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG) and Michigan's 191st FIG took home top honors in the F-106 and F-4 categories respectively. The 144th had the top F-106 maintenance team while the 191st scored that honor in the F-4 category.⁷²

2-15 October 1983. During the Air Force's Gunsmoke 1983 air-to-ground gunnery competition at Nellis AFB, Nevada, Maj. Charlie Betts of the Colorado Air Guard's 140th Tactical Fighter Wing was the "Top Gun" in the A-7 category while the team of Lt. Col. Ed Cole and Maj. Kan H.C. Varnavore of the 188th Tactical Fighter Group, Arkansas ANG, claimed that honor in the F-4 category. An Air Guard team from the Ohio's 121st Tactical Fighter Wing took the top maintenance award.⁷³

October 1983. Seventeen volunteers from the Pennsylvania ANG's 193rd Special Operations Squadron flew an EC-130 Combat Solo aircraft to participate in Operation Urgent Fury, the U.S. invasion of Grenada. In addition, two ANG KC-135s of the Arkansas Air Guard's 189th Air Refueling Group refueled an E-3A AWACS and an F-15 fighter enroute to Grenada for that military action.⁷⁴

15 October 1985. The 148th Tactical Fighter Training Squadron, Arizona ANG, was organized in Tucson as an F-16A/B replacement training unit. The 148th was assigned to the Arizona Air Guard's 162nd Tactical Fighter Group.⁷⁵

16 October 1985. On this date, the Delaware ANG received the first of eight C-130H aircraft, new from the factory.⁷⁶

1 October 1986. A new tanker unit, the 168th Air Refueling Squadron, was

extended federal recognition in the Alaska ANG at Eielson AFB. The 168th was equipped with 4 KC-135Es.⁷⁷

12-15 October 1986. During the Air Force's William Tell 1986 air-to-air weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida, a team from the North Dakota Air Guard's 119th Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG) won the F-4 category while an aircrew consisting of Capt. Larry Kemp and Maj. George Tutt of the Oregon ANG's 142nd FIG earned the "Top Gun" title in that same category. Oregon's 142nd FIG also carried off the top maintenance team award in its category while North Dakota's 119th FIG had the best weapons load team in its category.⁷⁸

1 October 1987. Minnesota ANG personnel and F-4D Phantom II aircraft from the 148th Fighter Interceptor Group (FIG), Detachment 1, began standing air defense alert at Loring AFB, Maine. They maintained that alert responsibility until 1 June 1988.⁷⁹

4-17 October 1987. Capt. Dean McDavid of the Colorado Air Guard's 140th Tactical Fighter Wing earned "Top Gun" honors in the A-7 category during the Air Force's worldwide Gunsmoke 1987 air-to-ground gunnery competition at Nellis AFB, Nevada.⁸⁰

1-15 October 1989. The South Carolina Air Guard's 169th Tactical Fighter Group, equipped with F-16s, won top overall team honors at the Air Force's worldwide Gunsmoke 1989 air-to-ground gunnery competition at Nellis AFB, Nevada.⁸¹

17 October 1989. After a massive earthquake measuring 7.1 on the Richter scale rocked the San Francisco Bay area, 16,599 California National Guardsmen, including 487 members of the Air Guard, were activated for relief operations which continued through 12 February 1990. Within an hour after the quake struck, members of the 129th Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group, based at Naval Air Station Moffett Field near San Jose, flew damage assessment missions over stricken areas in an HC-130 and an HH-3 helicopter. The 143rd Evacuation Hospital was set up at Travis AFB. Members of the 162nd Combat Communications Group rigged floodlights along the collapsed section of Interstate 80 in Oakland so rescuers could work around the clock. The 234th Combat Communications Squadron activated the unit's mobile control tower so that its hometown Watsonville Airport could operate around the clock.⁸²

5 October 1990. The 181st Tactical Airlift Squadron (TAS), Texas ANG, and the 130th TAS, West Virginia, were mobilized for duty in the Persian Gulf region.⁸³

6-16 October 1991. Flying A-10s, Air Guardsmen from Maryland's 175th Fighter Group took top overall team honors at Gunsmoke 1991, the Air Force's worldwide air-to-ground gunnery contest at Nellis AFB, Nevada.⁸⁴

30 October 1991. Pararescue specialist SSgt. Rick Smith of the New York Air Guard's 106th Rescue Wing was lost when his HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter was forced to ditch in the Atlantic because unexpectedly high winds during a monstrous storm had made it impossible to refuel his aircraft. The ANG helicopter and crew were returning from an aborted attempt to save a civilian on a sinking sailboat 250 miles off New Jersey's coast. The other members of the helicopter's crew survived and were rescued by a Coast Guard cutter. The episode was documented in Sebastian Junger's best-selling book, *The Perfect Storm*.⁸⁵

October 1991. After a 36-hour struggle to get pararescuemen to the crash site, the combined efforts of the Alaska Air Guard's 210th Rescue Squadron and rescue specialists from the Canadian Forces saved 13 of 18 Canadian military personnel whose C-130 had gone down during a blizzard in that nation's Northwest Territories.⁸⁶

16-24 October 1992. Flying an F-16, Capt. Duane Kautzman of the Montana Air Guard's 120th Fighter Group won the "Top Shooter" award at the Air Force's William Tell 1992 air-to-air weapons meet held at Tyndall AFB, Florida.⁸⁷

22 October 1992. Astronaut and Texas Air Guard fighter pilot Charles Lacy Veach served as a mission specialist on the Space Shuttle *Columbia* (STS-52) which was launched into orbit on this day. It was his second space flight. The *Columbia* landed safely on 1 November 1992.⁸⁸

2 October 1993. The last F-4G aircraft and personnel from the 124th Fighter Group, Idaho ANG, returned to their home station from Saudi Arabia, ending the unit's first volunteer rotation to help enforce the southern no-fly zone over Iraq.⁸⁹

3-4 October 1993. During the "Battle of Mogadishu" in Somalia, a deployed Air Guard Mobile Aeromedical Staging Facility provided triage and life support to more than 55 soldiers and evacuated over 65 patients.⁹⁰

16 October 1993. Astronaut David A. Wolf, a former flight surgeon in the 181st Tactical Fighter Group, Indiana ANG, was launched into orbit on the space shuttle *Columbia* (STS-58), a dedicated Spacelab life sciences research mission. The shuttle returned safely to earth on 1 November 1993.⁹¹

25 October 1993. Col. Irene Trowell-Harris, a New York ANG nurse, became the Air Guard's first African-American woman promoted to the rank of brigadier general.⁹²

October 1993. Air Guard volunteers from the New Hampshire's 157th Air Refueling Group (ARG), Maine's 101st Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Ohio's 121st ARW, and Pennsylvania's 171st ARW were joined by volunteers from the Air Force Reserve's 434th ARG and 927th ARG to establish a regional Air Reserve Components (ARC) tanker task force (TTF) that supported the overseas movement of U.S. military aircraft for Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. The TTF operated out of Bangor, Maine, Pease Air National Guard Base, New Hampshire, McGuire AFB, New Jersey, and Pittsburg International Airport, Pennsylvania.⁹³

11-22 October 1994. The 119th Fighter Group North Dakota ANG, took top team honors at the Air Force's William Tell 1994 worldwide air-to-air weapons meet at Tyndall AFB, Florida.⁹⁴

12 October 1994. Operation Uphold Democracy, the U.S. Military intervention in Haiti, ended.⁹⁵ The Air National Guard provided 22 combat communications specialists from 5 states who deployed to Haiti. In addition, 15 ANG airlift units hauled nearly 500 tons of equipment while logging over 150 missions to that island nation during Uphold Democracy.⁹⁶

17 October 1994. Col. Verna D. Fairchild of the Kentucky ANG was promoted to brigadier general and became her state's Assistant Adjutant General. She was the first woman to hold that assignment in any state.⁹⁷

1 October 1995. Federal recognition was granted to the 137th Space Warning Squadron, Colorado ANG. It was the Air Guard's first space unit.⁹⁸

1 October 1995. The last RF-4C was phased out of the ANG inventory at the 152nd Reconnaissance Group, Reno, Nevada. That marked the end of dedicated manned tactical reconnaissance aircraft in the total Air Force. On that same date, the ANG fielded the first F-16 reconnaissance pods, which enabled the Guard to continue providing 100 percent of the Air Force's manned tactical reconnaissance capabilities. The 192nd Fighter Wing at Richmond, Virginia was the lead unit for the development and use of the pod.⁹⁹

1 October 1997. Effective this date, First Air Force officially completed the transition to manning by the ANG, replacing active duty Air Force personnel.¹⁰⁰

13 October 1997. C-130Hs carrying personnel from Wyoming's 153rd Airlift Wing departed Cheyenne to fight stubborn wildfires in Indonesia. Two of the

153d's aircraft mounted the Modular Airborne Firefighting System. The 153d flew 215 sorties and logged 316.5 flying hours during its deployment to Indonesia.¹⁰¹

1 October 1998. ANG vehicle maintenance personnel began repairing vehicles on a site in Qatar in the Persian Gulf region at the request of the United States Central Air Forces.¹⁰²

27 October 1998. Hurricane Mitch, one of the deadliest Atlantic storms in the 20th century, devastated Central America leaving an estimated 9,000 people dead in Honduras and almost one million homeless. In response to the enormous needs created by the storm, Air Guard crews and C-130s from Arkansas, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Mississippi, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Rhode Island delivered relief supplies to Honduras during "Operation Amigo" which lasted several months.¹⁰³

October 1998. The National Guard Bureau formed 10 new joint Army Guard and Air Guard regional Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID) teams in 10 states to help civilian authorities detect and assess chemical, biological and nuclear hazards from terror weapons.¹⁰⁴

1 October 1999. The ANG and the Air Force Reserve were integrated with the active duty Air Force in the service's new Expeditionary Aerospace Force (EAF).¹⁰⁵ The Air Force began implementing its EAF concept as the first of its 10 Aerospace Expeditionary Forces (AEFs) began deploying overseas. This was known as AEF Cycle 1. The ANG had agreed to supply 10 percent of the planes and personnel for each AEF.¹⁰⁶

1 October 1999. The first ANG pilot began flying with the Air Force 325th Fighter Wing at Tyndall AFB, Florida as part of a new program in which the Guard would provide flight instructors to help train new active duty Air Force F-15 pilots. The ANG associate unit was designated Detachment 1 of the Southeast Air Defense Sector.¹⁰⁷

15 October 1999. To participate in a training exercise known as "Operation Foal Eagle 99," 34 members of the Idaho Air Guard's security forces deployed to South Korea for two weeks.¹⁰⁸

16 October 1999. A crew from the New York Air Guard's 109th Airlift Wing flew a ski-equipped LC-130 on a six-and-a-half-hour roundtrip of 1,680 miles in bitter cold weather from New Zealand to the Antarctic coast and back to evacuate Dr. Jeri Nielsen, the only physician at the National Science Foundation (NSF) research mission, because she had found a lump in her

breast. It may have been the earliest flight following winter in the 70-year history of the NSF program. The flight took place two weeks earlier than the scheduled resumption of flights which had ceased for the winter on 15 February 1999.¹⁰⁹

23 October 1999. The 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois ANG, raised the American flag over its new home at Scott AFB, Illinois. It had moved from O'Hare International Airport/Air Reserve Station to Scott in accordance with a recommendation of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission.¹¹⁰

1 October 2000. The California ANG established the 148th Space Operations Squadron (SOPS) to help run the Air Force's MILSTAR Operations Center at Vandenberg AFB. The 148th SOPS was formerly the 148th Combat Communications Squadron.¹¹¹

1 October 2000. Buckley Air National Guard Base in Colorado became Buckley AFB. Responsibility for the installation shifted from the 140th Fighter Wing, Colorado ANG, to Air Force Space Command's 821st Space Group.¹¹²

30 October 2000. Public Law (PL) 106-385, signed by President Bill Clinton on this date, elevated the positions of the heads of all of the U.S. armed force's reserve components to 3-star rank.¹¹³

2 October 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced that President George W. Bush had nominated Maj. Gen. Daniel James III, the Adjutant General of Texas, to be the next Director of the Air National Guard. Upon confirmation by the Senate, he would serve in the rank of lieutenant general.¹¹⁴

8 October 2001. Four EC-130E Commando Solo aircraft from the Pennsylvania ANG's 193rd Special Operations Wing began broadcasting music and information to the Afghan people as part of Operation Enduring Freedom¹¹⁵

15 October 2001. Air Guard officers from the Air Directorate, NGB briefed their Expeditionary Medical Support (EMEDS) concept to Lt. Gen. Paul K. Carlton, Jr., the Air Force Surgeon General.¹¹⁶

17 October 2001. Elements of the 186th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), Mississippi ANG, and the 117th ARW, Alabama, formed a composite unit at Incirlick AB, Turkey to support Operation Enduring Freedom. The two air refueling wings switched lead unit status every 90 days.¹¹⁷

31 October 2001. Effective this date, the Air Force's 611th Air Control Squadron at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska was redesignated the 611th Air Control Squadron (ANG). The new Alaska ANG unit retained its established mission of monitoring the state's airspace for unidentified and potentially hostile aircraft.¹¹⁸

17-18 October 2002. Astronaut and former Indiana Air Guard Flight Surgeon David A. Wolf went into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* (STS-112) to participate in an International Space Station assembly mission. It was his third space flight.¹¹⁹

October 2002. The 201st Airlift Squadron, District of Columbia ANG, began flying members of Congress and other government officials around the world on the unit's two newly-acquired C-40 transports, a military version of the Boeing 737 airliner.¹²⁰

October 2003. Six Air National Guard C-130s and two Air Force Reserve Command C-130s equipped with Modular Airborne Fire Fighting Systems (MAFFS) flew 48 missions dropping 129,600 gallons of fire retardant on fires in the blazing Simi Valley countryside of Southern California after those conflagrations grew too large for ground-based firefighters and civilian aircraft to handle. Altogether, 10 separate wild fires in Southern California consumed more than 745,000 acres and destroyed over 3,400 homes during that month.¹²¹

13 October 2005. Through this date, 14,072 Air Guardsmen had participated in Hurricane Katrina operations.¹²²

12 October 2006. In ceremonies at Langley AFB, Virginia, the 119th Fighter Wing, North Dakota ANG, deactivated its air sovereignty alert (ASA) detachment at that installation and the 158th Fighter Wing, Vermont ANG, assumed that responsibility. The 119th was undergoing a transition from F-16s to the Predator Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) and C-21 Learjet missions.¹²³

October 2007. The Kansas ANG's 184th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) became an intelligence wing specializing in computer systems security and satellite surveillance monitoring. The unit flew its final KC-135 mission in September 2007 ending 60 years of operating manned aircraft.¹²⁴

2 October 2008. The Senate confirmed Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, ANG Director, as the next Chief of the National Guard Bureau.¹²⁵

2 October 2008. The Michigan ANG's 127th Wing at Selfridge ANG Base

near Detroit formally relinquished its Air Sovereignty Alert (ASA) mission to the Ohio ANG's 180th Fighter Wing at Toledo.¹²⁶

October 2009. The 174th Fighter Wing, New York Air National Guard, located at Hancock field in Syracuse, opened the Air Force's only MQ-9 Reaper schoolhouse.¹²⁷

1 October 2010. The ANG reported that its FY 2010 flight mishap rate was 0.00. The Air Force class-A flight mishap rate for that same year was 0.77.¹²⁸

13 October 2010. The ANG reported that 11,769 Air Guardsmen (3,782 mobilized and 7,987 volunteers) were on federal active duty as of this date.¹²⁹

1 October 2011. 3,434 Air Guard members were actively engaged in homeland defense and support to civil authorities including Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) and assisting with disasters in the Midwest and Northeast. Those numbers included 578 Air Guard members supporting counterdrug programs and 121 assisting the U.S. Border Patrol on the Southwest border.¹³⁰

7 October 2011. After nine years as a blended ANG/USAF unit, the 116th Air Control Wing was split into two organizations, the 116th Air Control Wing, Georgia ANG and the regular Air Force's 461st Air Control Wing. The latter organization became an active associate unit of the 116th. The units fly and maintain J-STARS ground surveillance aircraft.¹³¹

10 October 2011. Members of the 103rd Maintenance Squadron, Connecticut ANG, completed overhaul of the 100th TF-34 turbofan jet engine, the power plant for the A-10 Thunderbolt II aircraft, since a Centralized Repair Facility was created at their Bradley ANG Base. It was estimated that \$130 million worth of USAF and ANG equipment had been overhauled there since the repair facility opened in May 2007.¹³²

13 October 2011. The 121st Fighter Squadron, 113th Wing, DC ANG, 119th Fighter Squadron, 177th Fighter Wing, New Jersey ANG, and the 124th Fighter squadron, 132d Fighter Wing, Iowa ANG, deployed over 175 personnel and 12 F-16 fighters to Bagram AB, Afghanistan. This was the first ANG F-16 AEF package deployed to Afghanistan.¹³³

18 October 2011. The 174th Fighter Wing, New York ANG, began flying MQ-9 Reapers from restricted airspace around Fort Drum New York's Wheeler-Sack Army Airfield.¹³⁴

31 October 2011. The ANG reported that 9,497 Air Guardsmen (2,651

mobilized and 6,846 volunteers) were serving on federal active duty as of this date.¹³⁵

October 2011. *Air Force Magazine* reported that the U.S. Air Force had selected the New York ANG's 174th Fighter Wing at Hancock Field outside Syracuse to conduct ANG MQ-9 Reaper training for pilots and sensor operators.¹³⁶

30 October 2012. The National Guard Bureau announced that about 12,000 National Guardsmen were on duty in 11 states on this date when Hurricane Sandy came through states along the eastern seaboard and the District of Columbia.¹³⁷

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¹³⁷ News Item (U), “Guardsmen in Several States Respond to Hurricane Sandy,” *National Guard*, November 2012, p. 19.