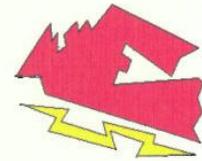


107th



20th

REUNION



69

-

89



107th

50th

REUNION



88

-

88

1989

COMMANDER

COL DOUGLAS B. ROUTT

VICE COMMANDER

COL JAMES C. BURDICK

1969

COMMANDER

COL LAVERNE J. DONNER

HISTORY OF THE  
107th FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR GROUP (TAC)

FORERUNNER of the 107th Fighter Interceptor Group (TAC) was the 339th Bomb Group (Dive) which was activated 12 August 1942 at Hunter Field, Savannah, Georgia. The unit saw action in World War II and was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in Germany. The unit was deactivated after World War II. On 24 May 1946 it was redesignated the 107th Fighter Group.

The unit comprised of 14 officers and 100 enlisted men under the command of Colonel Robert J. Kirsch (deceased) received Federal Recognition on 8 December 1948. They flew P-47 Thunderbolts with an Air Defense Mission and were stationed at the U.S. Naval Air Station, Municipal Airport, Niagara Falls, New York.

In June 1950 the unit was alerted and placed on 24 hour notice when the Korean War broke out. In March 1951, after 9 months of alert, the unit was called to active duty for 21 months. During this time persons were sent overseas serving in Korea, Germany, Guam, Alaska, Japan and the Philippines. The remainder of the unit stayed in Niagara Falls, N.Y. manning facilities designated as the Niagara Falls Air Force Base. During the units active duty period several members were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the unit broke the national gunnery record for piston driven aircraft. The unit was released from active duty in November 1952 and returned to the Air National Guard as a Fighter Interceptor unit flying the P-51 "Mustang."

IN JANUARY 1954 the unit received its first jet aircraft, the F-94 "Starfire," an all weather fighter interceptor. In October 1957 the F-86 "Sabre" jet replaced the F-94. In 1958 the unit was reassigned from

Air Defense Command to Tactical Air Command.

In August of 1960 the unit received their first F-100 "Super Sabre" jet thus making it the first supersonic flying unit in the New York Air National Guard.

The unit was again called to active duty in October 1961 for 11 months during the Berlin Crisis. January of 1964 saw the 107th reassigned to the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing. Colonel John E. Blevett was named Commander at that time.

FOR THE THIRD TIME in 17 years, the 107th was called to active duty. In January 1968 President Johnson ordered the call-up in response to the North Korean seizure of the USNS Pueblo. In June 1968 the 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron, under the command of Colonel Laverne J. Donner, deployed with approximately 400 officers and enlisted men to Tuy Hoa Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. The unit was presented the Presidential Unit Citation and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. Other elements of the 107th were sent to South Korea to bolster that country's air defense. Personnel were also sent to Japan and various bases in the United States.

In 1970 the 136th Fighter Interceptor Squadron received the USAF Outstanding Unit Award and colors from Major General Winston P. Wilson, Commander of the National Guard Bureau, for its service in Vietnam.

With the retirement of Colonel Laverne J. Donner, former commander of the



136th Tactical Fighter Squadron and later Group Commander, Colonel John E. Blevett once again assumed command of the 107th Fighter Group which in June 1971, officially received Federal recognition as a part of the Aerospace Defense Command flying the F-101B "Voodoo" aircraft. In mid 1975 the unit was singled out to receive the Air Defense Command's coveted "A" Award for maintaining a high degree of sustained operational effectiveness. In February 1976 the 107th was notified that it had been awarded the USAF Outstanding Unit Award.

In 1979, the 107th received 4 USAF Safety Awards for Nuclear, Missile, Flight and Explosives Safety for calendar year 1978 and became the first Air National Guard unit to be cited for this unique achievement. On 1 October 1979 this unit reverted to TAC(ADTAC).

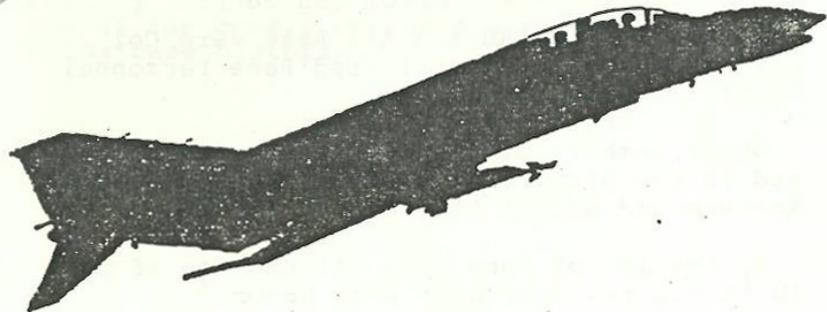
ON 4 NOVEMBER 1981, the first F-4C "Phantom" aircraft arrived at Niagara Falls, signaling the start of the conversion to the newer aircraft.

In April 1982, the 107th FIG officially converted to the F-4C and was operationally mission ready. The 107th FIG presently is assigned dual roles of Aerospace Defense and Tactical Air Command missions with the United States Air Force.

On 1 July 1985, the 107th FIG assumed alert responsibilities at Charleston AFB, South Carolina. The Detachment 1 maintains a 24-hour alert status.

In a change of command ceremony on 6 June 1987, Colonel Douglas B. Routt assumed duties as the 107th Fighter Interceptor Group Commander from Colonel James C. Cook. Colonel James C. Burdick assumed the duties of Vice Commander. Additionally, the unit

transitioned from a tri-deputy to a quad-deputy organizational commander under the Group Commander.



The 107th was called to active duty during, January 1968 in response to the Pueblo Crisis.

In June the 136th FIS assigned to the 107th, deployed to Tay Hoa Air Base in the Republic of Vietnam with 400 personnel. The 136th arrived on 15 June following the longest deployment made by a Air National Guard Unit. Twenty F-100 Fighters flew non-stop to Hickam, Hawaii to Guam and on to Tay Hoa. That covered a distance of 11,134 miles.

Those of the 107th that did not deploy to Vietnam found themselves in Korea. 350 men went to Kwang Ju Air Base. It was nearly a bare base operation, often at time referred to as "TENT CITY". There was no pressurized water and field messing burners with paper plates were used. 55 gallon drums were used as toilets and improvised showers often contained more mud than water.

30 men went to Osan Air Base. These Men were quite fortunate, this base had real buildings and running water.

13 men went to Suwon Air Base. Smst. Warda was 1st Sgt. of Base Civil Engineering.

10 men went to Kunsan Air Base were Col Thibidau was the Consolidated Base Personnel Chief.

Other members of the 107th were in Japan, and in the States, at Cannon, Langley, Davis Monthum and Wright Patterson.

By the 1st of June 1969 all the men of the 107th had returned home with honor.

### 136th THUNDERBIRD PATCH

How many of you know or remember how the 136th got thier Thunderbird ("ELECTRIC CHICKEN") patch?

In 1949 it was decided that a unit patch was needed. A flyer was sent out for possible desgins. Several designs were recived and a selection was made. It was sent into Command for officail approval. The design was disaproved because it dipcated the units location which was prohibited by heraldry rules.

A package arrived in the mail one day, containing three different designs. With a few minor changes the 136th FIS Thunderbird with Cloud and Thunderbolt was born.

Who was this benefactor that sent the package from sunny California? None other than Mr. Walt Disney.

Any one with more imformation about this interesting fact of the 107th's history please let one of the committee members know or pass it on the Base Historian.

107th NEW TAIL DESIGN

Have you seen the 107th's new tail?

No it's not inspired by Z Z Top the Rock Group, rather it's symbolic of Niagara Falls.

The interwind futuristic Falls are reminiscent of the precipitous drop, that the mighty Niagara River takes as it journeys toward Lake Ontario.

The deep green color represents the river itself which turns an azure green, because of the tremendous volume of water that flows over the Falls.

The blue depicts the beautiful Great Lakes that make their final connection between, Lakes Erie and Ontario.

Together and viewed as a whole, the emblem shows the power and the beauty of our local area, in a surrealistic presentation.

("BESIDES ALL OF THIS WE ALSO WROTE NIAGARA FALLS ON THE TOP OF THE TAIL IN CASE SOME PEOPLE CAN'T FIGURE IT ALL OUT".)

American Flag that flew over the 31st Wing Headquarters, Tay Hoa is the same American Flag that is flying over us today.

Did you know that three out of the five Motor Pools that were in Korea were run by 107th personnel.

A special thanks to your committee.

Dave Higby	Chairman
Ed Hurley	Member
Jim Bubb	Member
Frank McKee	Member
Phil Geng	Member
Al Clark	Member
Joe Genovese	Member
Carol Phillips	Member

With another special thanks from the committee to all the others who gave their time and help to help pull this off.

THANKS

