

# 180<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING

## 2022

### ANNUAL REPORT



03

**COMMANDER'S STATEMENT**

04

**ABOUT US**

06

**HIGHLIGHTS**

08

**MISSION**

13

**ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

14

**ECONOMIC IMPACT**

18

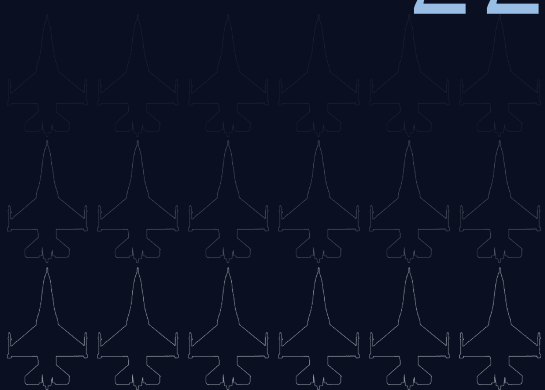
**DEPLOYMENTS**

20

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

22

**HISTORY**





# COMMANDER'S STATEMENT

---

It is a privilege to be leading the Ohio National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing, a purpose-driven and diverse organization.

As we enter the next chapter of our proud 106-year history, I am excited for what is to come, building on our strong foundations to expand our impact, increase our reach and enhance mission execution.

Our Airmen are embedded in the fabric of our communities and we take great pride in serving our communities, building strong partnerships and inspiring patriotism.

On behalf of the men and women of the 180th Fighter Wing, we thank you for your trust in us and allowing us to serve you.

*~ Col. Chad E. Holesko*



# ABOUT US

The 180FW is made up of more than 1,200 Airmen, supporting six main organizations within the wing, ensuring our continued mission success.

## FIGHTER WING HEADQUARTERS

The FW/HQ section is made up of 45 Airmen supporting the functions of Command Support Staff, Judge Advocate, Comptroller, Chaplains, Command Post, Military Equal Opportunity, Human Resource Advisor, Director of Psychological Health, Sexual Assault and Prevention, Ground and Flying Safety, Inspector General and Public Affairs.

## MISSION SUPPORT GROUP

The Mission Support Group section is made up of 350+ Airmen supporting the functions of Command Support Staff, Mission Support Group Headquarters, Force Support Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistic Readiness Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Communication Flight, Airman and Family Readiness and Base Contracting.

## OPERATIONS GROUP

The Operations Group, including the 112th Fighter Squadron and the 180th Operations Support Squadron, is made up of 80 Airmen and fighter pilots supporting the offices of Command Support Staff, Airfield Management, Aviation Resource Management, Intelligence and Air Crew Flight Equipment. The OG establishes and manages the operations of the command and control centers and customer focal point of all aviation mission requirements.

## MEDICAL GROUP

The Medical Group is made up of 56 Airmen supporting medical administrative functions including medical support, medical operations, force health management, force health protection and healthcare management. The Medical Group consists of Medical Administration, Aerospace Medicine, Medical Technicians and Nursing Services, Optometry, Public Health, Bioenvironmental Engineering, Dental Services and the 112th Fighter Squadron Medical Element.

## MAINTENANCE GROUP

The Maintenance Group is made up of 455 Airmen supporting the functions of Command Support Staff, Fabrication, Quality Assurance, Munitions, Avionics, Propulsion, Aerospace Ground Equipment, Accessories, Phase Maintenance, Weapons, Maintenance Operations, F-16 Mechanics and Sortie Production.

## AEROSPACE CONTROL ALERT

The 180FW Aerospace Control Alert mission is made up of 24 Airmen, supporting maintenance on the F-16 with Crew Chiefs, Weapons and Avionics personnel. The ACA team executes 24/7 operations, protecting the homeland in support of the NORAD Homeland Defense mission. Aerospace Control Alert continuously works with HHQ, FAA and Civil Air Patrol to maintain readiness in support of their homeland defense mission.





# OUR LOCATION



**50**  
FACILITIES



**135**  
ACRES



**429,000**  
SQUARE FEET



Located at the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport in Northwest Ohio, the 180FW is strategically positioned for future endeavors to include Total Force and joint-basing initiatives. As the U.S. transitions from more than 25 years of war into a world with an uncertain and changing future, the need for a joint, integrated military force will continue to be essential for success.

With nearly 60% of the U.S. population residing within a 600-mile radius of Toledo, including vital infrastructure, key centers of gravity and international airports, Northwest Ohio offers convenient access to a multi-modal transportation hub, including an extensive interstate highway system, one of the most active railroad centers in the country and one of the largest seaports on the Great Lakes.

The Port of Toledo is an important industri-

al, commercial and transportation center for the north-central U.S.

Situated on 135 acres, the 180FW base and infrastructure have been designed and constructed to support the current and future fighter aircraft needed for America's security and defense. The base is fully capable of supporting fighter aircraft operations and maintenance with little or no expansion.

The installation development plan has incorporated potential and future missions, while accommodating the current aircraft with minimal impact. In the event of future and joint missions, the base has the ability to accommodate additional functions within its existing footprint, but also has ample, suitable land available to expand.

# Always Ready Always There

The Ohio National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing is the state's only fighter wing, flying the F-16 Fighting Falcon. Our primary mission is to provide for America, protection of the homeland, effective combat power and defense support to civil authorities.

2022 was another successful year, focused on training and honing our skills, ensuring our combat readiness.

We continued to maintain high mission capability ratings, flying more than 2,500 sorties, totaling more than 3,900 flying hours.

In an effort to remain the most effective fighter wing in the force, the 180FW began modernizing our aircraft through the service life enhancement program, extending the life of our fleet by 12,000 flying hours per aircraft. This upgrade, along with our new, high-tech radar systems will ensure that the 180FW remains an operational force in a complex global security environment.

Deploying more than 270 Airmen and 125 tons of equipment to eight locations around the world, the 180FW conducted in-depth readiness training and provided support to ongoing missions around the globe.

In March, 117 Airmen, eight aircraft and 61 tons of cargo deployed to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska to participate in Exercise Arctic Edge. The joint exercise was designed to enhance combat readiness and capabilities in providing air defense in the arctic region.

August highlighted the wing's deployment processes and tested our ability to rapidly mobilize during a readiness exercise evaluation, resulting in 100% mission success.

Maintaining our strong community relationships throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan, our Stinger Airmen participated in more than 60 community events, both on and off-base, highlighting the 180FW to more than 6,000 area residents. Most notably was our first-ever Stinger 5k, bringing more than 1,000 community members onto

the installation and showcasing our Airmen, facilities and aircraft on a one-of-a-kind race course that took runners onto the aircraft tarmac, down taxiways and runways. The 180FW is excited to host the 2nd annual 5k in September, 2023.

In October, more than 150 Airmen deployed 10 F-16 Fighting Falcons and 64 tons of equipment to Naval Air Station Key West, Florida, to participate in extensive dissimilar aircraft training exercises. Throughout the deployment, our pilots were able to integrate with U.S. Navy aviators and operate together as they would in a combat environment. The U.S. Navy also provided adversary training, allowing 180FW pilots to hone capabilities in executing combat tactics, techniques and procedures.

Throughout the year, six of our Airmen provided support to operations around the world in Germany, Italy, Guam, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Jordan.

Changing commanders in October, our Stinger Airmen welcomed new commander, Col. Chad E. Holesko, while saying goodbye to Col. Michael J. DiDio, who served as commander from Nov. 2019 – Oct. 2022.

In November, Air National Guard Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Maurice Williams visited the 180FW to visit with Airmen, learn more about our missions and to discuss the future of the ANG.

Today's security environment is complex and evolving, but we are up to the tasks and any challenges that come our way in 2023.

With more than 1,200 combat-ready Airmen, we are always ready to serve. When our nation calls, we will always answer. We are Always Ready, Always There.







# OUR MISSION

To provide for America; protection of the homeland, effective combat power and defense support to civil authorities, while developing Airmen, supporting their families and serving in the community.

The 180FW has access to multiple military operating airspace and air-to-ground gunnery ranges perfectly suited for the capabilities of the F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Centrally located with access to three major airspace complexes, the 180FW regular uses the Buckeye/Brushcreek airspace in southern Ohio, the Alpena airspace complex in Northern Michigan, and the Indiana Air Range Complex in south-east Indiana.

These locations afford our fighter pilots the opportunity to train and employ in flight regimes es-

sential for exploiting the full capabilities of the F-16 including supersonic, chaff/flare, and electronic attack training with full radar ground control intercept and Link-16 datalink capability. The Alpena complex features two Joint Threat Emitters that simulate adversary surface-to-air missile sites.

This greatly enhances threat awareness training when coupled with the Sniper SE and Litening Gen4 advanced targeting pods and High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile Targeting System.

Furthermore, the temporary Stinger MOA utilized on an annual basis provides invaluable close-to-Toledo airspace for air combat basic training maneuvers and close air support tactics which increases training value by maximizing mission execution time and reducing transit costs.





With access to two aerial gunnery ranges in Michigan and Indiana, 180FW pilots are able to employ precision guided and ballistic air-to-ground munitions including rockets, gunnery, and all sizes of conventional bombs.

Access to these ranges ensures our fighter pilots remain proficient in employing the active electronically scanned array radar during the accomplishment of its air interdiction, close air support, and air defense missions.

To stay ready and razor sharp in its execution of the 24/7 aerospace control alert mission, the 180FW conducts monthly training exercises in the surrounding national airspace regions to enhance command and control and air traffic control integration with fighter escort for its alert intercept

mission.

Utilizing airspace and ranges that are geographically separated with diverse weather patterns provide significant flexibility in daily operations. This varied airspace frequently allows the wing to find favorable weather conditions on short notice when the opposite location experiences poor weather, further enhancing training opportunities while ensuring mission requirements are met.

To further enhance realistic combat training scenarios, the 180FW opened the F-16 Mission Training Center in 2021, which serves as a fully operational 4-ship F-16 simulator designed to put pilots in simulated combat anywhere in the world while remotely connected to other aircraft and entities through the distributed mission operations system.





# OTHER MISSIONS

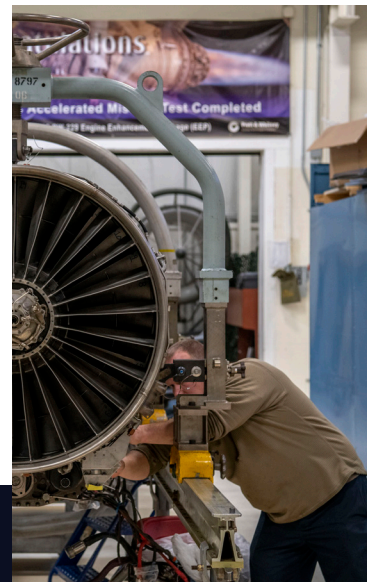
---

The 180th Fighter Wing Fire & Emergency Services Department provides sole 24-hour emergency response for the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport, and responded to 118 emergencies within their primary response district in 2022, including 30 medical calls, 25 structural responses, 3 Vehicle responses, 1 wildland, 6 Hazmat, 12 stand by, 18 service calls, 87 mutual aid and 23 aircraft related. The department also provides support to the community through mutual aid agreements, responding to 87 mutual aid emergency requests, including 30 medical emergencies, 16 rescues, 15 structural fires, and 8 wildland fires.



**FIRE & EMERGENCY  
SERVICES**











The 180FW Propulsion Element was the first to implement a Pratt and Whitney 229 and 220 engine contract field team, providing war-ready engines to Combatant Commanders by rebuilding and testing 192 engines and modules since 2010, in support of the Air Force and Air National Guard. These engines have been delivered to coalition partners and U.S. Air Force installations around the world.



**PROPULSION  
ELEMENT**



# OUR AIRCRAFT

 <b>PRIMARY FUNCTION</b> Multi-role Fighter	 <b>HEIGHT</b> 16 feet 10 inches
 <b>BUILDER</b> Lockheed Martin Corp.	 <b>WINGSPAN</b> 32 feet 10 inches
 <b>POWER PLANT</b> Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-229	 <b>SPEED</b> 1,500 mph Mach 2 at altitude
 <b>THRUST</b> 29,000 pounds	 <b>MAX TAKEOFF WEIGHT</b> 42,300 pounds
 <b>LENGTH</b> 49 feet 5.2 inches	 <b>RANGE</b> More than 2,100 nautical miles, 2,425 miles



**F-16 CM**  
FIGHTING FALCON  
BLOCK 42



**CAPABILITIES**  
AIR DEFENSE  
INTERDICTION  
CLOSE AIR SUPPORT



**ASSIGNMENTS**  
AIR COMBAT COMMAND  
NORAD  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
OHIO NATIONAL GUARD









## ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The 180FW currently maintains an operational 1.6 megawatt solar field. Currently, the system produces nearly one-third of the installation's annual electrical requirements, in turn saving taxpayers an estimated \$200,000 each year. The solar field also reduces our dependence on coal by almost 600 tons, in turn, avoiding 1,700 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. We continue to install energy-saving projects, including energy efficient heat pumps and LED lighting throughout our facilities.

In 2012, the 180FW became the first Air National Guard wing to fly routine training missions solely on bio-fuel as part of an Air Force testing plan to certify more than 40 aircraft models for bio-fuel use. Two 180FW aircraft were designated to test 100,000 gallons of bio-fuel as one of the final steps before taking the fuel main-stream and allowing the F-16 to use bio-fuel in unrestricted operations.

We have remained dedicated to the research, development and implementation of green energy programs at the base. Our sustainable energy projects have reduced our environmental footprint through a solar field, solar tracking arrays, roof mounted solar panels, bio-diesel and electric vehicles. Today, we are happy to report that it has achieved more than \$2 million in savings for the American taxpayer, minimizing our overall environmental impact.

The 180FW is committed to conducting its mission in a responsible manner to protect human health, natural resources and the environment.

This commitment goes beyond simply comply-

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

ing with the law; it encompasses the integration of sound environmental information and practices into our daily decisions and activities. Our wing strives for full compliance with voluntary industry standards including International Standards Organization 14001 Environmental Management Systems. We continue to provide training on the Air Force Enterprise Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Management Information System, enhancing management, tracking and disposal of hazardous materials and waste, and universal wastes.

The Air Program Information Management System allows electronic record keeping for electrical generator usage, jet engine test cell usage, painting operations, above-ground storage tank inspections, refrigerant management and storm water management inspections, further ensuring the wing's compliance with Air Force, state and federal laws and regulations.

Our wing is continuing an investigation of the impacts of perfluorinated compounds found in fire-extinguishing agents and will continue monitoring wells and testing soil samples to determine the presence or absence of these compounds at the installation.

The 180FW strives to be good stewards toward the environment by leaving a smaller ecological footprint, conserving natural resources and energy, and taking responsibility for our choices. Our goal is pollution prevention by working to reduce the use and production of hazardous substances and by operating more efficiently.

# ECONOMIC IMPACT



**\$65 Million**



**\$21 Million**



**\$16 Million**

During fiscal year 2022, the 180FW contributed more than \$100 million in both direct and indirect economic support to the overall economy.

More than \$37 million directly impacted the local economy through operational and construction expenses. More than \$65 million contributed to payroll expenses for our civilian and military personnel. The remaining balance was spent on new construction projects, supplies, maintenance and repair of existing facilities, support contracts and general base operations. The purpose of the Economic Impact Statement is to provide a brief summary of the wing's organization and resources.

This statement will provide an account of the contributions to the local economy for Fiscal Year 2022, Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022.

Only 1.4% of the Ohio National Guard budget comes from the State of Ohio, the rest comes from federal funding. This money is essential to the maintenance of our facilities and helps secure additional funds with a matching process from the

federal government. The Ohio National Guard is a great deal, the annual state in-come tax revenue generated from the federal salaries of our traditional members and full-time employees offsets the amount of state funding we receive, meaning the ONG pays for itself!

The Department of Defense contributes billions of dollars to state economies through the operation of military installations.

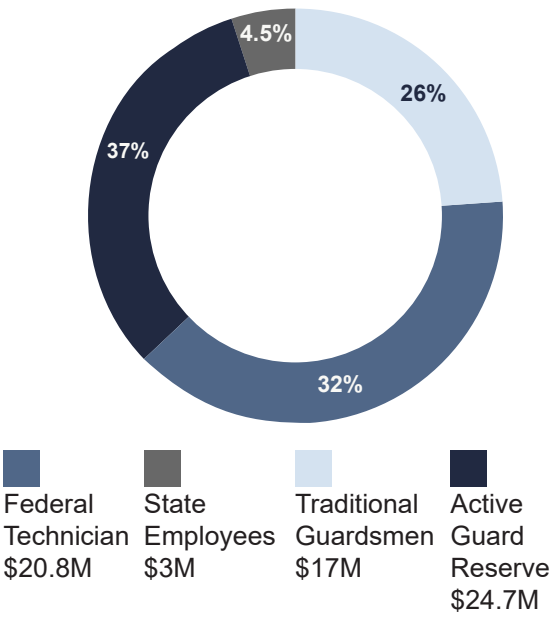
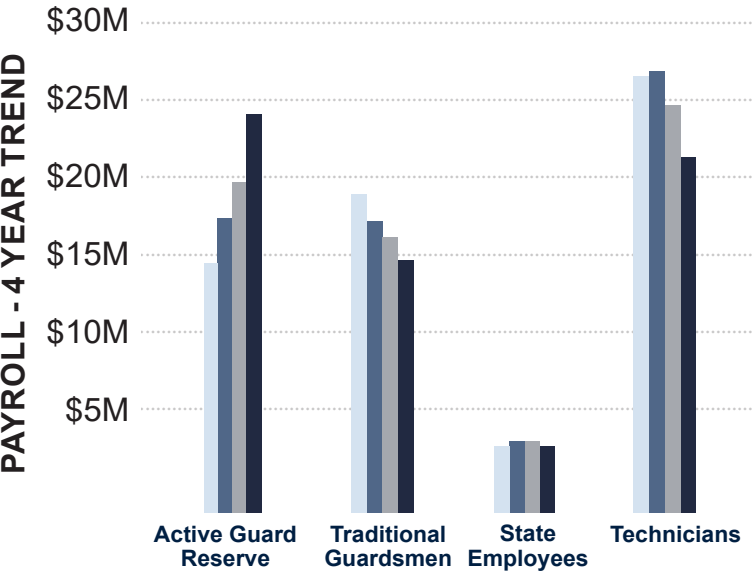
This spending helps sustain local communities by creating employment opportunities, both directly and indirectly. Military and civilian employees spend their military wages on goods and services produced locally, while pensions and other benefits provide retirees and dependents a reliable source of income.

States and communities also benefit from defense contracts with private companies for equipment, supplies, construction and various services such as health care and information technology.



PAYROLL  
CLASSIFICATION

Personnel Classification	Number of Personnel	Payroll
Active Guard Reserve	269	\$24,730,900
Traditional Guardsmen	760	\$17,000,900
State Employees	36	\$3,036,500
Technicians	188	\$20,897,100
Total	1,253	\$65,665,400





# CAPITAL ASSETS

The 180FW boasts a 10,600 foot primary runway, more than 60,000 square yards of aircraft parking and ramp space and a fully renovated aircraft maintenance hangar with more than 63,700 square feet available for aircraft parking and maintenance.

In 2020, the wing completed construction of both a \$9 million aircraft hangar and the \$3.5 million Deployment Processing and Fitness Center. The Wing also completed construction that repurposed an aged facility, creating a \$4.3 million immersive flight simulator facility.

The 29,000 square foot aircraft hangar replaces

the four temporary canvas hangars, erected in 2008, supporting the wing's NORAD Aerospace Control Alert and NORTHCOM Homeland Defense missions.

The 11,000 square foot Deployment Processing and Fitness Center will be used to support joint staging, troop reception and forward deployment movement and integration in support of overseas and domestic military operations.

Not only does the 180FW maintain more than 429,000 square feet of facilities, the wing is also situated on 135 acres of land with more than 200





acres available for future expansion.

In addition to the main, 63,700 square foot, aircraft hangar, the wing is seeking funding to construct a \$3.8 million Weapons Load Crew training hangar. The 180FW also performs vehicle and Aircraft Ground Equipment, or AGE, maintenance and is seeking funding for a \$5.6 million combined AGE maintenance facility to consolidate and upgrade our current facilities.

The base and supporting infrastructure, have been designed and constructed to support the current fighter aircraft needs for America's security

and defense. Our base master plan accommodates potential future missions (joint basing, emergency operations, etc) in addition to contemporary 180FW operations.







## 2022 DEPLOYMENTS



**JOINT BASE ELMENDORF -  
RICHARDSON, ALASKA**  
117 Airmen



**ANDERSON AIR BASE  
GUAM**  
1 Airman



**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE  
GERMANY**  
1 Airman



**NAVAL AIR STATION KEY WEST**  
150 Airmen



**AVIANO AIR BASE  
ITALY**  
1 Airman



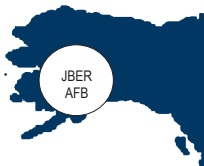
**MUWAFFAQ SALT AIR BASE  
JORDAN**  
1 Airman



**PRINCE SAULTAN AIR BASE  
SAUDI ARABIA**  
1 Airman



**ALI AL SALEM AIR BASE  
KUWAIT**  
1 Airmen







SEVEN COUNTRIES  
270+ AIRMEN





# WING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 2011

- Aerospace Control Alert Unit of the Year
- Chuck Smith Environmental, Safety & Occupational Health Award
- Air Force Reducing Energy Appreciation Award

## 2012

- Retention Manager of the Year | National Guard Bureau Region Five & Ohio National Guard

## 2013

- Mission Ready - 1st Air Force Alert Force Evaluation | Best seen-to-date & Benchmark Operations Identified
- Mission Ready - Alert Force Operational Assessment
- 99.6% Compliance Rating - Air Combat Command Combined Unit Inspection
- Excellent Rating - Logistics Compliance Assessment Program

## 2014

- Mission Ready - 1st Air Force Alert Force Evaluation | Best seen-to-date & Benchmark Operations Identified
- Mission Ready - Alert Force Operational Assessment
- Safety Office of the Year | Air National Guard
- First Sergeant of the Year | 1st Air Force
- 1st Place - Photojournalism | National Guard Media Awards

## 2015

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Effective Rating | Air Combat Command Combined Unit Inspection | 29 Superior Performers & five Superior Performance Teams Identified
- Mission Ready - 1st Air Force Alert Force Evaluation | Best seen-to-date & Benchmark Operations Identified
- 3rd Place - Digital Publication | Air Force Media Awards
- 1st Place - Digital Publication | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Layout & Design | National Guard Media Awards

## 2016

- Mission Support Group of the Year | National Guard Association of the U.S.
- Effective Rating | Air Combat Command Sortie Production Assessment
- 3rd Place - Military Photographer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Photo Story | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Operational Documentation | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Long-Form Video Production | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Feature Article | National Guard Media Awards

## 2017

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Excellent Mission Capable Rate | Air National Guard
- Mission Ready - 1st Air Force Alert Force Evaluation | Template for all ACA units to follow
- Mission Ready - Alert Force Operational Assessment
- Outstanding Individual Occupational Safety Award | Air National Guard
- 1st Place - Journalist of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Training Video | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Digital Art | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Identity Design | National Guard Media Awards
- 3rd Place - Digital Publication | National Guard Media Awards
- 3rd Place - Training Video | Air Force Media Awards

## 2018

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Excellent Mission Capable Rate | Air National Guard
- Mission Ready - 1st Air Force Alert Force Evaluation
- Mission Ready - Alert Force Operational Assessment
- Recruiting and Retention Manager of the Year | Ohio Air National Guard
- 1st Place - Journalist of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Feature Story | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Videographer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards

## 2019

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Mission Ready - 1st Air Force Alert Force Evaluation
- Mission Ready - Alert Force Operational Assessment
- Effective Rating | Air Combat Command Combined Unit Inspection | 20 Superior Performers & three Superior Performance Teams Identified
- 1st Place - Military Writer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Feature Story | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Photographer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Videographer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Video Spot | National Guard Media Awards
- Inspector General Gen. Flynn Award & Gen. Jones Award



# 2020

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- 1st Place - Feature Photo | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photo Series | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photojournalism | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Video Documentation | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Multimedia Product | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Military Photographer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Communicator/Writer of the Year | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Military Photographer of the Year | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Multimedia Product | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photo Illustration | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photo Series | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photojournalism | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Video Story | Ohio National Guard Media Awards

# 2021

- Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
- Chief Albert Fitzpatrick Award for ANG Firefighter of the Year
- CMSgt Edward W. Wolbert Award, ANG Fire Chief's Association
- U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. John P. Flynn Inspector General Award
- Air National Guard's Maj. Gen. Junius W. Jones Inspector General Award
- Lt Gen Howard W. Leaf Inspector General Award
- Lt. Gen. Loh with the Director of Safety Special Achievement Award
- 2nd Place - Feature Photo | National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Photo Illustration | National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Feature Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Military Photographer of the Year | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - News Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photo Illustration | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - Photo Series | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Video Documentation B-Roll | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Video Story | Ohio National Guard Media Awards





# WING HISTORY

The 180th Fighter Wing was formed in October 1995, but its origins stretch back to Aug. 18, 1917 when the 112th Aero Squadron was organized as a supply unit at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. Later, in 1927, the 112th moved to the Cleveland Hopkins Airport, Ohio, where they became known as the 112th Observation Squadron, flying a wide range of aircraft throughout the late 1920s and 1930s including the PT-1, BT-1, the O-2 and the O-11.

In 1940, the unit was regrouped as the 112th Liaison Squadron. During that time, the 112th was activated in support of World War II and Lt. Col. Addison Baker, a B-24 Liberator pilot received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions during the raids on the oil fields at Ploesti, Romania. After the war, the unit was reorganized as the 112th Bombardment Squadron (Light), flying Douglas A-26 Invaders and activated at Lawson Field, Georgia, in support of the Korean Conflict in 1950. After the conflict ended, the unit returned to Ohio as an Air National Guard Fighter Bomber Squadron flying F-51 Mustangs at the Akron-Canton Airport.

Several more reorganizations and aircraft conversions took place over the next 20 years. The unit moved to Toledo as a Fighter Interceptor Squadron and converted to the F-84 E/F Thunderjet model aircraft in 1958. Then, the unit became the 112th Tactical Fighter Squadron in 1958 and was activated for the Berlin Crisis in 1961. The following year, the 112FS became part of the newly formed 180th Tactical Fighter Group. In 1970, the 180th TFG transitioned from the F-84 to the F-100 Super Sabre and then to the A-7 Corsair in 1979. In 1992,

the 180th received its first F-16 Fighting Falcon just before being renamed the 180th Fighter Wing in 1995.

Over the years, members of the 180FW and the 112FS have answered the call to duty, supporting several contingencies including Operation Just Cause in 1989, Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1991. In 1994, 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 unit members volunteered to enforce no-fly-zones over Iraq in support of Operation Provide Comfort, Operation Northern Watch and Operation Southern Watch.

Following the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, unit members volunteered to support both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2005 and Operation Iraqi Freedom again in 2007 and 2008. In 2013, the wing deployed for the first time to Djibouti, Africa, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In 2016, the wing deployed more than 250 Airmen, along with our F-16 fighter jets, to Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, to promote stability and security throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region and safeguard our national interests abroad by providing influence and deterrence through force presence.

In 2018, nearly 300 Airmen and 12 F-16s deployed to Amari Air Base, Estonia as part of a Theater Security Package, in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve. The Airmen of the 180FW helped build readiness, increase interoperability and enhance the bonds between ally and partner militaries with multinational training events, allowing for a faster response in the event of any aggression





by a regional adversary against NATO sovereign territory.

In 2019, the 180FW deployed more than 360 Airmen and 180 tons of equipment to nine locations throughout the world to include: Afghanistan, Antarctica, Qatar, Serbia, South Korea, Alaska, Florida, Georgia and Utah.

In 2020, we deployed more than 400 Stinger Airmen to six countries around the world, including a 300 person, 12 aircraft combat package to support an Aerospace Expeditionary deployment to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan. The deployments were in support of Operation Resolute Support, enhancing our nation's national security objectives.

Activated in October 2008, the Air Sovereignty Alert mission became the latest mission at the 180FW. Today, the mission is known as Aerospace Control Alert, after the mission underwent an official name change in July 2011, to more accurately depict the mission. Directly supporting Operation Noble Eagle, the 180FW aids in the protection of the continental U.S. and Canada under the direction of the North American Air Defense Command, or NORAD. Since the activation of the mission at the 180FW, ACA has responded to more than 1,129 events, totaling more than 3,271 flying hours in support of ONE.

The ACA team continues to excel at the nation's number one priority, our 24/7 mission, year after year, earning the highest possible "Mission Ready" NORAD Command inspection ratings for both Alert Forces Evaluations and Alert Forces Operational Assessments in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2021. The 180FW ACA was the first unit to ever win the 1st Air Force ACA Unit of the Year title, two consecutive years in a row, in 2010 and 2011.

Our ACA team has produced several 1st Air Force level individual award winners over the years, to include Pilot of the Year in 2011, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2009, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2009 and 2011,

Maintainer of the Year for 2010 and Command Post Controller of the Year in 2010, 2011 and 2012. Additionally, a 180FW Airman was selected as the 1st Air Force First Sergeant of the Year for 2014. In 2015, a 180FW Airman was selected as the 2015 Security Forces Aerospace Control Alert Airman of the Year. In 2017, the team earned the Air National Guard Outstanding Individual Occupational Safety Award.

The team's continued excellence has earned them the full confidence of the continental U.S. North American Aerospace Defense Command Region Commander when he stated "the 180FW is the benchmark for these operations." In the future, the 180FW and the 112FS will continue to be major contributors to the nation's air superiority.

Proving that the 180FW remains the first choice for the fight, our Stingers remain dedicated to enhancing their skills by conducting realistic training in realistic environments, guaranteeing the wing is always ready when called.





**Follow us**

**f 180th Fighter Wing**

**@180thFW**

**180fw**

**[www.180fw.ang.af.mil](http://www.180fw.ang.af.mil)**

**2660 S. Eber Rd., Swanto, OH 43558**

**1-800-495-4250**