

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT 180<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING





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*“I am proud to serve with each and every one of our Stinger Airmen, and I am extremely grateful for the dedicated and continued support our Airmen receive from our families and our communities. We could not do what we do without those of you that make up Stinger Nation!”*

*~ Col. Chad E. Holesko*



# COMMANDER'S STATEMENT



*These accomplishments would not be possible without the commitment and perseverance of every single one of our Stinger Airmen. Their contributions ensure the 180FW continues to lead the way and showcases that we are most ready and lethal fighter wing in the Combat Air Forces.*

~ Col. Chad E. Holesko

2024 was a huge year for the 180th Fighter Wing. As always, our Stinger Airmen continue to set the bar high, and the accomplishments below are just a small snapshot highlighting successful mission execution.

Our Airmen are the foundation of our mission success and each year we recognize the best of the best through our local Airman of the Year award winners. In 2024, our leadership team submitted many nominations from across the base and it was extremely difficult to choose only six Airmen to represent the wing. These Airmen exemplify the values, hard work and dedication that every Stinger Airman brings to the table, setting the 180FW apart from the rest.

Our wing-level winners moved on to the state-level to compete in the categories of Airman of the Year, Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Company Grade Officer of the Year, First Sergeant of the Year and Honor Guard Member of the Year. We

are also happy to announce that our 2023 180FW Noncommissioned Officer of the Year was named NCO of the year for the Ohio National Guard, in January, 2024.

While we maintained our daily continuous training activities here at home-station, we also deployed more than 330 Airmen and 130 tons of cargo and equipment to four locations across the globe.

In April, we deployed 70 Airmen to Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, in support of Operation ENDURING SENTINEL. The 180FW was only the second Air National Guard unit to deploy to an Expeditionary Air Wing under the new Air Force-Force Generation deployment model, providing combat capabilities to the Central Command Area of Responsibility.

While deployed and assigned to the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing, our Stinger Airmen assisted the execution of two joint, coalition exercises, NATIVE FURY and DESERT SHIELD. They provided oversight for more than \$50 million in military construc-

tion projects and assisted with the modernization of the deployed network infrastructure, enhancing communications and security.

More than 145 Airmen and 10 F-16 fighter jets deployed to the Volk Field Combat Readiness Center in Wisconsin, over the summer, to participate in Exercise Northern Lightning. The annual, two-week, exercise enabled the 180FW to integrate with joint forces, focusing on full-spectrum air-to-air and air-to-ground combat, dissimilar aircraft air tactics, as well as defensive and offensive counter air maneuvers under realistic surface-to-air and air-to-air threat simulations.

In December, more than 110 Airmen deployed to undisclosed locations throughout the U.S. and its territories to conduct a four-month mission supporting Operation NOBLE EAGLE, providing critical homeland defense capabilities and air superiority in protection of the U.S.

For the second consecutive year, the 180FW led the U.S. Air Force, executing one of the largest flying hour programs across the total force. In 2024, we flew 2,876 sorties, totaling over 4,400 flying hours.

Supporting the flying mission with top-notch, proven maintenance practices, our Aircraft Maintenance Group led a team of personnel, from four units across the force, to Belgium to perform functional checks and prepare four F-16 fighter jets for return to home-station following intensive service life enhancement program upgrades.

Our maintenance team also conducted the upgrade of the F-16 Block 42 AESA Radar verification and validation of installation process, hosting five additional Air National Guard units to observe. The Actively Electronically Scanned Array radar enables legacy aircraft to integrate with fifth generation airframes, enhancing wide-range combat capabilities in information intensive battlespaces.

The maintenance team also hosted a team of engineers for an anthropometric study of the F-16 cockpit. The study focused on human body size and ergonomics for development of future upgrades to better support F-16 aircrew as airframe and technology capabilities continue to evolve.

Additionally, our Maintenance and Operations Groups partnered with the 122nd Fighter Wing, Fort Wayne, IN, to provide hands-on maintenance and air tactics training as the 122nd transitioned from the A-10 Warthog, an air-to-ground aircraft,

to the multi-role F-16 Fighting Falcon.

Ensuring that every Airman is physically, medically and mentally fit for duty and mission accomplishment, our Medical Group conducted more than 6,300 medical assessments throughout the year. Ensuring that we are fit-to-fight, performed 1,143 periodic health assessments, 626 public health and 348 occupational health consultations, 1,126 immunizations, over 2,000 blood draws and more than 1,000 x-rays.

In addition to maintaining overall Airman fitness, our medical team participated in the Ohio Guard Care program, providing more than \$330 thousand in free critical medical care for over 1,000 un- and underinsured Ohioans. This joint program provided no-cost services including, physicals, immunizations, eye exams and free eyeglasses, dental extractions and restorative care, hearing tests, nutritional counseling and women's health services.

While flawlessly conducting our missions and continuing with our rigorous training requirements, the 180FW also executed an extensive community outreach program, supporting more than 160 community events including 30 base tours, 27 off-base events and 100 flybys across the Midwest region and beyond. Our Honor Guard team performed 265 funeral honors and 27 Color Guard events.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the commitment and perseverance of every single one of our Stinger Airmen. Their contributions ensure the 180FW continues to lead the way and showcases that we are most ready and lethal fighter wing in the Combat Air Forces.

The 180FW will again excel in 2025, as we continue to train and adapt to shifts in the strategic environment, refocus and reoptimize. We will continue to provide those lethal combat capabilities to combatant commanders.

I am proud to serve with each and every one of our Stinger Airmen, and I am extremely grateful for the dedicated and continued support our Airmen receive from our families and our communities. We could not do what we do without those of you that make up Stinger Nation! ✈



# ABOUT US

The 180FW is made up of more than 1,100 Airmen, supporting six main organizations within the wing, ensuring our continued mission success.



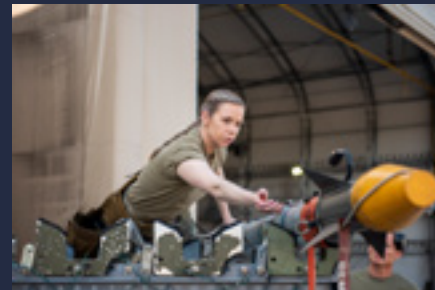
## FIGHTER WING HEADQUARTERS

The FW/HQ section is made up of 65 Airmen supporting the functions of Commanders 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 is made up of 350+ Airmen supporting the functions of Commanders Support Staff, Mission Support Group Headquarters, Force Support Squadron, Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron, Security Forces Squadron, Communications Squadron Military and Family Readiness and Base Contracting.



## MAINTENANCE GROUP

The Maintenance Group is made up of 430+ Airmen supporting the functions of Commanders Support Staff, Fabrication, Quality Assurance, Munitions, Avionics, Propulsion, Aerospace Ground Equipment, Accessories, Phase Maintenance, Weapons, Maintenance Operations, F-16 Mechanics and Sortie Production.



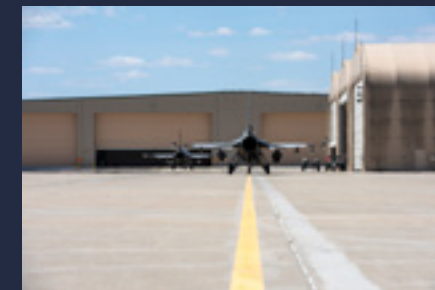
## MEDICAL GROUP

The Medical Group is made up of 63 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, Bio-environmental Engineering, Dental Services and the 112th Fighter Squadron Medical Element.



## OPERATIONS GROUP

The Operations Group, including the 112th Fighter Squadron and the 180th Operations Support Squadron, is made up of 93 Airmen and fighter pilots supporting the offices of Commanders 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.



## 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

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.

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, NW 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 industrial, 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 joint Air and Space missions, the base has the ability to accommodate additional functions within its existing footprint, but also has ample, suitable land available to expand.





# ALWAYS ON MISSION



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 airspaces 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 regularly uses the Buckeye/Brushcreek airspace in southern Ohio, the Alpena airspace complex in Northern Michigan, and the Indiana Air Range Complex in Southeast Indiana.

These locations afford our fighter pilots the oppor-

tunity to train and employ in flight regimes essential 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 data link 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 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 integra-

tion 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.



# F-16 FIGHTING FALCON



**F-16 CM**  
LOCKHEED MARTIN  
BLOCK 42  
MULTIROLE FIGHTER

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

**CAPABILITIES**  
AIR DEFENSE  
INTERDICTION  
CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

**POWER PLANT**  
PRATT & WHITNEY  
F100-PW-229

**RANGE**  
> 2,100 NAUTICAL MILES,  
2,425 MILES

**MAX TAKEOFF WEIGHT**  
42,300 POUNDS

**SPEED**  
1,500 MPH  
MACH 2 AT ALTITUDE

**THRUST**  
29,000 POUNDS

**HEIGHT**  
16 FEET  
10 INCHES

**LENGTH**  
49 FEET  
5.2 INCHES

**WINGSPAN**  
32 FEET  
10 INCHES



# FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The 180FW Fire & Emergency Services Department provides sole, 24-hour emergency response for the Eugene F. Kranz Toledo Express Airport, while also providing support to our surrounding communities through mutual aid agreements.

In 2024, the 180FW Fire & Emergency Services team responded to 194 emergencies within their primary response district, including 60 mutual aid requests, 49 medical calls, 26 structural responses, eight Vehicle responses, five hazardous material emergencies and 27 aircraft related emergencies.



# PROPULSION ELEMENT



The 180FW Propulsion Element was the first to implement a Pratt and Whitney 220 and 229 engine contract field team, providing war-ready engines to Combatant Commanders by rebuilding and testing 237 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 worldwide.





# ECONOMIC IMPACT



\$73 Million



\$58 Million



\$16 Million

During fiscal year 2024, the 180FW contributed more than \$147 million in both direct and indirect economic support to the overall economy.

More than \$58 million directly impacted the local economy through operational and construction expenses. More than \$73 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 2024, Oct. 1, 2023 through Sept. 30, 2024.

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

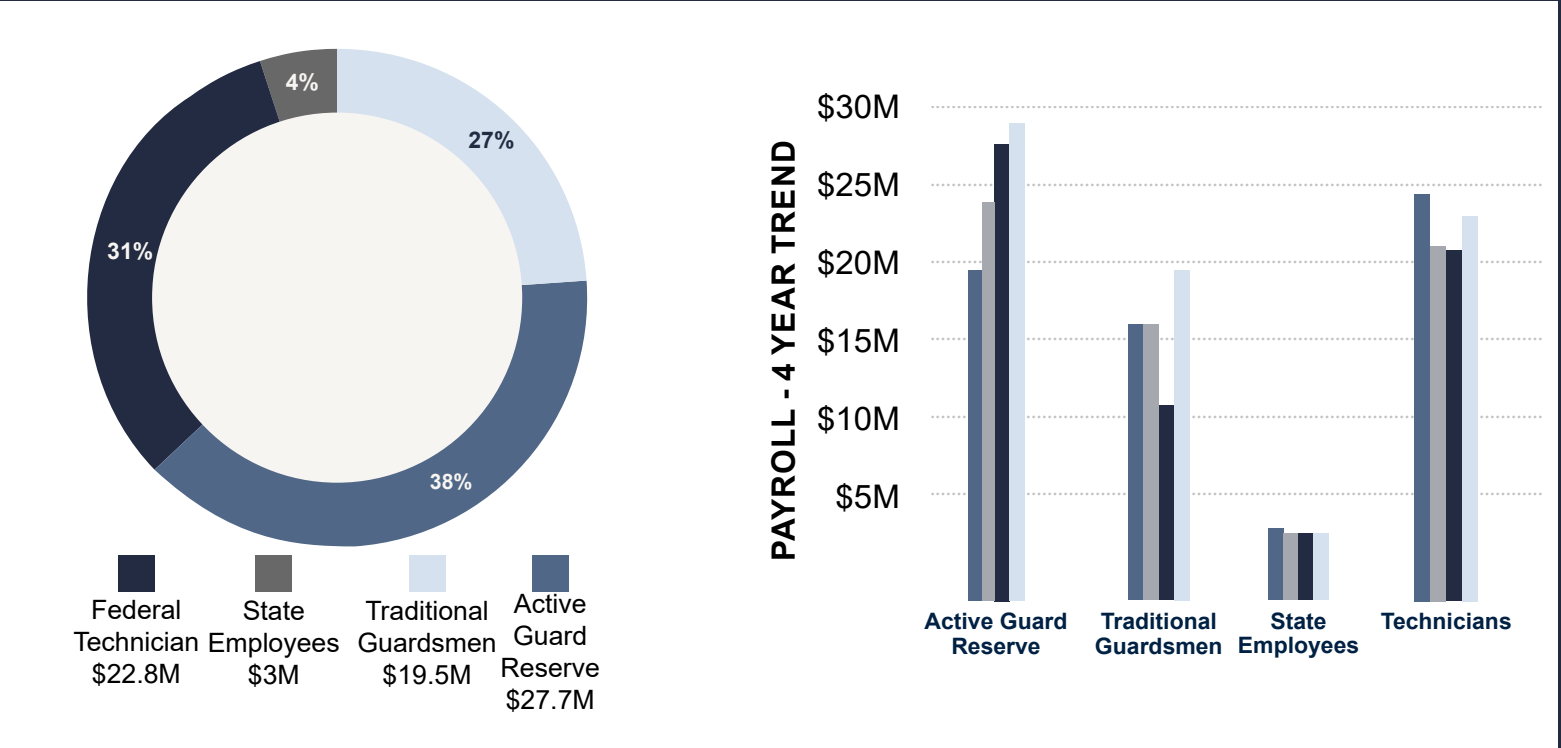
funds with a matching process from the federal government. The Ohio National Guard is a great deal, the annual state income tax revenue generated from the federal salaries of our traditional members and full-time employees offsets the amount of state funding we receive, meaning the ONG pays for itself!

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.

Personnel Classification	Number of Personnel	Payroll
Active Guard Reserve	270	\$27,744,900
Traditional Guardsmen	689	\$19,500,000
State Employees	36	\$3,024,800
Technicians	193	\$22,851,100
Total	1,188	\$73,120,800



# PAYROLL CLASSIFICATION



# ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

The 180FW 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 \$3 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 complying 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 per- and polyfluoroalkyl 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 is committed to Air Force directives 32-70, 90-17 and 32-7001 priorities which include, environmental compliance: maintaining compliance with federal, state, local, Department of Defense and Air Force regulations and policy; risk management: preserving resources and preventing pollution; continuous improvement enhancing the mission while minimizing environmental risk.

# OUR FACILITIES

✈️ **135**  
ACRES

✈️ **50**  
FACILITIES

✈️ **429,000**  
SQUARE FEET

The 180FW boasts a 10,600 foot primary runway, over 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 re-purposed an aged facility, creating a \$4.3 million immersive flight simulator facility.

The 29,000 square foot aircraft hangar replaced the four legacy, 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 is 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, on 135 acres of land, multiple aircraft arresting systems and an emergency power generation architecture, it also has access to more than 200 acres of land available for future expansion.

In addition to the main, 63,700 square foot, aircraft hangar, the wing is seeking funding to construct a \$5.4 million Weapons Load Crew training hangar.

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.





# 2024 DEPLOYMENTS

**300+ AIRMEN**  
SIX COUNTRIES

**OPERATION ENDURING SENTINEL**  
**AL DHAFRA AIR BASE, UAE**  
71 AIRMEN

**VOLK FIELD COMBAT READINESS**  
**TRAINING CENTER, WISCONSON**  
149 AIRMEN

**OPERATION ENDURING SENTINEL**  
**AL UDEID AIR BASE, QATAR**  
32 AIRMEN

**OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE**  
**CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES**  
114 AIRMEN



The 180FW is the proven choice for the warfight. Always mission focused and equipped, the 180FW is the best valued fighter wing in the Total Force. The 180FW continues to support world-wide contingencies, deploying more than 330 Airman across the globe in 2024. Over the years, the aviation package has deployed in support of Operations Just Cause, Desert Storm and Desert Shield; Operations Provide Comfort, Northern Watch and Southern Watch, Iraqi and Enduring Freedom; and most recently, to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, in 2021 to promote stability and security throughout the region and ensure national interests abroad by providing influence and deterrence through force presence. The 180FW performs daily training, conducted in realistic environments under realistic circumstances, ensuring our forces maintain the highest levels of proficiency and readiness for worldwide deployment, anytime, anywhere.



# 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

- Meritorious Unit Award | U.S. Air Force
- 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

# 2022

- 1st Place Feature Photo | National Guard Bureau Media Awards
- 3rd Place Military Photographer of the Year | National Guard Media Awards
- Director of Safety Special Achievement Award | Air National Guard
- "Valid Yes" Rating | ACC Readiness Exercise
- "Mission Ready" Rating | Alert Forces Evaluation

# 2023

- Wing Award of Excellence | Ohio National Guard
- Maintenance Award of Excellence | Ohio National Guard
- 3rd Place - Feature Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Photojournalism | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Video Documentation B-Roll | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 1st Place - News Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- Tech. Sgt. Austin Bly State Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year | Ohio National Guard

# 2024

- Director of Safety Outstanding Achievement Award | Air National Guard
- Safety Officer of the Year Award | Air National Guard
- Dental Non-commissioned Officer of the Year | Air National Guard
- Air Award of Excellence | Ohio National Guard
- 2nd Place - Feature Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Portrait Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 3rd Place - Portrait Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Sports Photo | Ohio National Guard Media Awards
- 2nd Place - Video Documentation B-Roll | Ohio National Guard Media Awards

WING  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS



# 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.

In 2021, over 130 Airmen deployed to three countries around the world including Morocco, Saudia Arabia and the United States in support of Exercise African Lion, Operation Spartan Shield, Operation Allies Welcome and Annual Training missions.

In 2022, nearly 270 Airmen deployed to seven countries across the world to support missions in Guam, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Italy, Germany, and the United States.

More than 70 Airmen deployed to Al Dhafra Air Base, UAE, in 2024 in support of Operation Enduring Sentinel, and 115 Airmen deployed to undisclosed locations in the Continental U.S. in support of Operation Noble Eagle, providing critical homeland defense capabilities.

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 1,431 events, totaling more than 3,716 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.







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