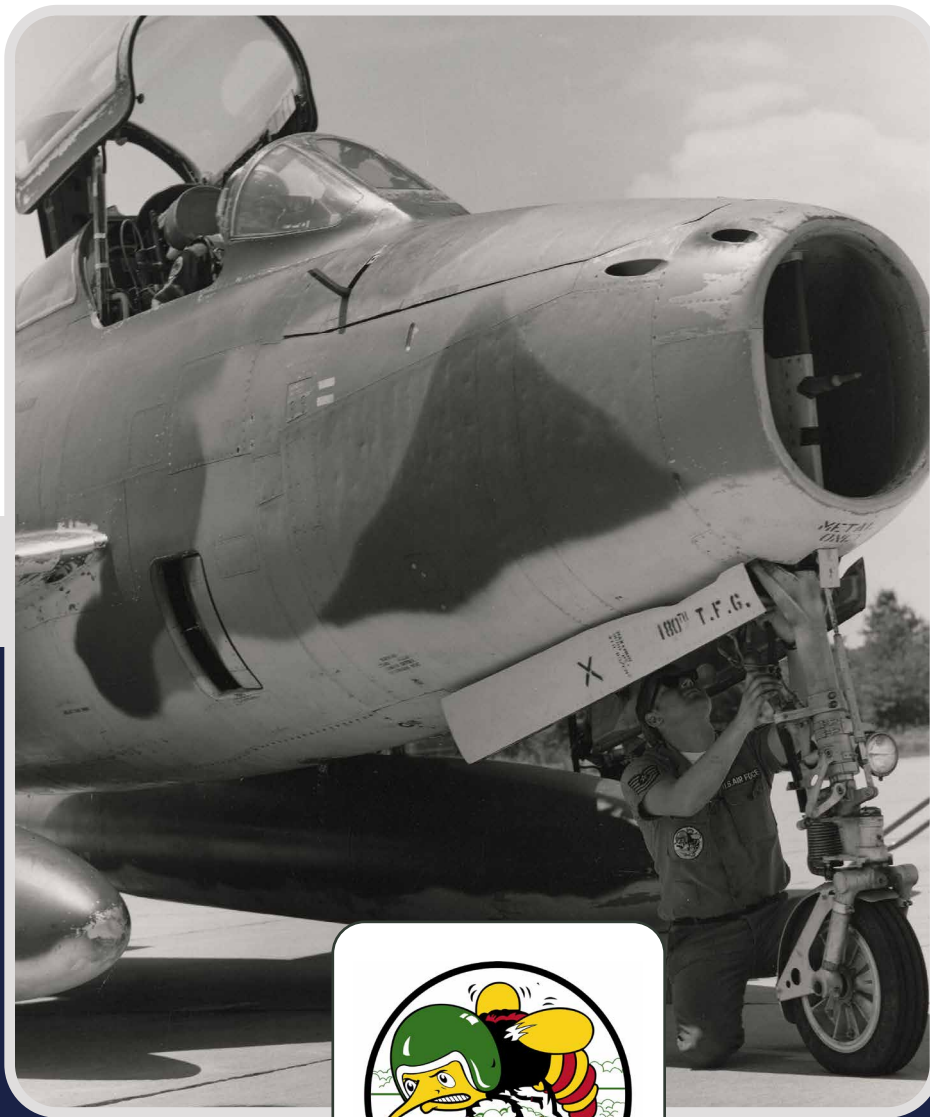


UNIT HISTORICAL SKETCH



112TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

TOLEDO, OHIO

112TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

The 112th Fighter Squadron traces its start to the 112th Aero Squadron, which was first organized in the U.S. Army Air Service on Aug. 18, 1917, at Kelly Field, Texas. On Feb. 1, 1918, the squadron was redesignated as the 633d Aero Squadron and was demobilized on Aug. 19, 1919.

Following World War I, the 112th Observation Squadron was allotted to the Ohio National Guard, but was not organized until June 20, 1927. The squadron was federally recognized at the Cleveland Central Armory with 101 men, but had no airplanes or building. The squadron celebrated its first anniversary with the dedication of a new hangar at Cleveland Hopkins Airport and the assignment of four aircraft. The squadron was part of the 37th Division Aviation and flew various observation aircraft in their early years. On Nov. 25, 1940, the squadron was inducted into federal service and was sent to Pope Field, N.C. where it performed antisubmarine patrols along the Carolina coast and near Delaware Bay. In October 1942, the squadron was inactivated and many of the officers and men were transferred to various units of the rapidly expanding Army Air Corps.

In April 1943, the unit was reactivated as the 112th Liaison Squadron and served as a courier unit in the Pacific Northwest. In June 1944, the squadron was reassigned to the Ninth Air Force in England, operating light transport aircraft. Additionally, the squadron provided VIP transportation to Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force through the end of the war. The squadron was inactivated on Nov. 7, 1945.

The squadron was reorganized in the Ohio National Guard in 1946 as the 112th Bomb Squadron (Light) and was federally recognized on Dec. 2, 1946, at Cleveland Municipal Airport. The unit was redesignated Sept. 25, 1950, as the 112th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron and the following month was ordered into active service for the Korean War. The squadron later deployed to France with its R-26B/C Invader reconnaissance aircraft and provided tactical, visual, photographic and electronic reconnaissance across Europe.

Upon release from active duty in Jul 1952, the squadron was reorganized at the Akron-Canton Airport in July 1952 as the 112th Fighter Bomber Squadron flying F-51H Mustangs. In July 1955, the squadron was redesignated as the 112th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, and moved to Toledo the following April, where it received F-84E Thunderjets. On Oct. 1, 1961, the squadron returned to federal service and deployed to France and Germany during the Berlin Crisis. After returning to Ohio in August 1962, the unit was redesignated as the 112th Tactical Fighter Squadron and was assigned to the newly formed 180th Tactical Fighter Group. In addition to the F-84E, the squadron was equipped with the F-84F Thunderstreak, F-100 Super Sabre and A-7D Corsair II. While deployed to Panama in 1989 for a Coronet Cove rotation, squadron A-7s flew 22 combat sorties in support of Operation Just Cause.

On March 15, 1992, the squadron was redesignated as the 112th Fighter Squadron and was equipped with the F-16C/D Fighting Falcon. The squadron provided air support immediately following the terrorist attacks on the homeland on Sept. 11, 2001, and has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the War on Terrorism.

HERALDIC ITEMS



EMBLEM

Description/Blazon: On a disc Argent, issuant from base a stylized beehive of the first, detailed Vert, edged Sable, below three cloud banks of the first garnished of the second, overall a caricature of a bee volant in an attack position of the third, its face and wings Or, eyes and teeth garnished of the first, wearing a helmet Vert, gloved Gules, abdomen of seven segments alternating of the fourth and of the sixth, stinger of the last and encircled by two smoke clouds Argent, the end of the stinger emitting a plane silhouette to dexter, detailed and fimbriated Sable, garnished White, holding in dexter hand a pistol fesswise Black, garnished White, muzzle to dexter and in sinister hand a missile bend sinisterwise Yellow all fimbriated Sable; all within a narrow border Black.

Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "112TH FIGHTER SQ" in Black letters.

Significance: Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The bee, social in its habits, living in communities and performing service for the common welfare for all, alludes to the "Guardsmen" who participate in the activities of the National Guard, to be prepared to ensure the security of the nation. The bee's stinger denotes the defensive purposes and readiness of the various military units of the Air Guard. The sting of the 112th Fighter Squadron is depicted by the armament carried by the bee, the firepower of the unit's aircraft, always sharp and ready as needed.

Background: The emblem was originally approved on 9 March 1954.



LINEAGE AND HONORS

Lineage: Organized as the 112th Aero Squadron (U.S. Army Air Service), 18 August 1917. Redesignated 633d Aero Squadron, 1 February 1918. Demobilized, 19 August 1919. Activated and redesignated 112th Observation Squadron (Ohio National Guard), 20 June 1927. Federal Recognition as the 112th Observation Squadron, 20 June 1927. In 1936, the lineage and honors of the 112th Aero Squadron was consolidated with the 112th Observation Squadron. Inactivated, October 1942. Activated and redesignated 112th Liaison Squadron, April 1943. Inactivated 7 November 1945. Activated and Redesignated 112th Bomb Squadron (Light), 24 May 1946. Federally recognized, 2 December 1946. Redesignated 112th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 25 September 1950. Redesignated 112th Fighter Bomber Squadron, 10 July 1952. Redesignated 112th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, July 1955. Redesignated 112th Tactical Fighter Squadron, 20 August 1962. Redesignated 112th Fighter Squadron, 15 March 1992.

Assignments: U.S. Army Air Service, 18 August 1917. National Guard Bureau, June 1927. Ohio National Guard, June 1927. 37th Division, Ohio National Guard, 20 June 1927. Fourth Corps, 25 November 1940. 65th Observation Group, 1 September 1941. Continental Air Command, September 1945. National Guard Bureau, May 1946. Ohio National Guard, May 1946. 106th Bomb Group, 2 August 1946. 11th Air Force, 2 December 1946. 1st Air Force, 1 July 1948. 117th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 27 October 1950. Ohio Air National Guard, July 1952. United States Air Forces Europe, 1 February 1952. 121st Fighter Group (USAFE), 10 July 1952. Air Defense Command, 1 July 1960. Continental Air Command, 1 December 1948. 9th Air Force, 23 February 1949. Tactical Air Command, August 1962. Assigned to 180th Tactical Fighter Group, 15 October 1962. Air Combat Command, June 1992. 180th Fighter Wing, 16 October 1995.

Stations: Kelly Field, TX, 18 August 1917. Hopkins Airport-Cleveland, OH, 20 June 1927. Pope Field-Ft Bragg, North Carolina, 25 November 1940. Drew Field, FL, 1945. Cleveland Municipal Airport, OH, December 1946. Lawson Air Force Base, GA, 10 October 1950. Toul-Rosiere, France, 10 November 1951. Akron-Canton Municipal Airport, OH, October 1952. Toledo Municipal Airport, OH, April 1956. Toledo Express Airport, OH, January 1959.

Aircraft: PT-1, O-17, O-11, BT-1, O-2, O-38 O-47, BC-1 (1927-1940). UC-78, April 1943. A-26B/C, December 1946. F-51H, July 1952. T-28A, April 1956, T-33, April 1956, F-84E, April 1956. F-84F, January 1959. F-100D/F, October 1970. A7D/K, Summer 1979. F-16C/D (Block 25), February 1992.

Operations: Called to active duty service, 25 November 1940. The unit moved eight times, flew Anti-Submarine Warfare Patrols along the Atlantic coast. In May 1944, the 112 OS shipped to England. Between June 1944 and VE Day, the 112th followed Allied troops on the European Continent, flying courier missions behind the front lines. On 10 October 1950, the 112th Bomb Squadron was called to active duty as part of the Air National Guard call-up of the Korean War mobilization. Demobilized and returned to state control, 9 July 1952. Mobilized to federal service for Berlin Crisis and deployed to France and Germany, 1 October 1961. Demobilized and returned to state control, 20 August 1962. Flew 22 combat sorties during Operation Just Cause in Panama, December 1989.

Service Streamer: World War II American Theater.

Campaign Streamers:

World War II: ANTISUBMARINE CAMPAIGN.

Afghanistan: Consolidation II Phase 2006 – 2009

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers: None.

Decorations:

DUC: Germany, 24 Mar 1945

AFOUA: 1 Oct 2001-30 Sep 2003

1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005

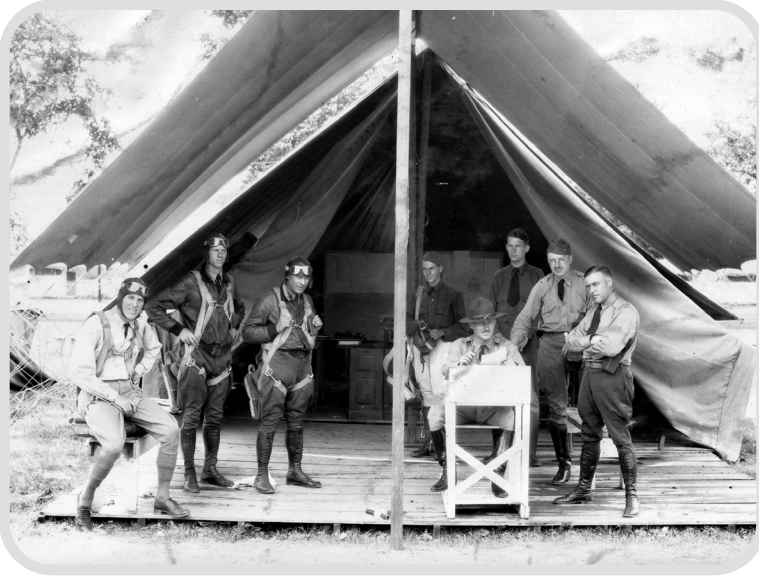
MUA: 1 Jun 2009-31 May 2010



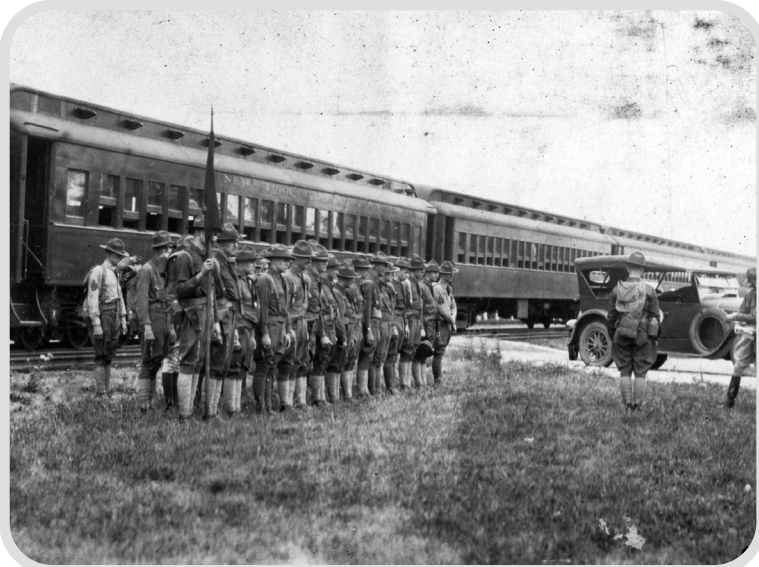
Maj. Tom Herbert, commanding officer of the 112th Observation Squadron, in front of a Douglas O-2 at Camp Perry, Ohio, 1927.



Ohio Gov. George White with officers of the 112th Observation Squadron, prior to a flight to Columbus on Mar. 22, 1931. From left, Lt. Cummings, Lt. Richard V. Nelson, Lt. Willard E. Leisy, Mr. Howells, Capt. Samuel J. Price, Lt. Col. Thomas Herbert, Gov. White, Brig. Gen. Frank Henderson, Capt. Wright, Capt. Clarence D. Barnhill and Capt. Fred Smith.



Pilots from the 112th Observation Squadron prepare for a flight during training at Camp Perry, Ohio, circa 1930.



Soldiers from the 112th Observation Squadron stand in formation near a troop train after arriving at Camp Perry, Ohio for training, circa 1930.



112th Observation Squadron pilots offload a reconnaissance camera from an O-2H airplane after a photo mission, circa 1935.



Airmen from the 112th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron pose for a photograph in front of an A-26 Invader light attack bomber during Exercise Southern Pine at Pope Air Force Base, N.C., Aug. 23, 1951.



F-51H Mustangs assigned to the 112th Fighter-Bomber Squadron move off the ramp toward the runway at Akron-Canton Airport, circa 1955.



112th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, Camp Grayling, Mich., 1953.



Airmen from the 112th Tactical Fighter Interceptor Squadron inspect a component of an F-84F Thunderstreak circa 1960.



Lt. Col. Milan R. Forkapa, left, commander of the 112th Tactical Fighter Squadron along with his wife Evelyn watch as Toledo Mayor Michael Damas prepares to christen an F-84F Thunderstreak as the City of Toledo circa 1960.



Officers from the 112th Tactical Fighter Squadron prepare for a flight in their F-100 Super Sabers at Toledo Airport circa 1975.



An F-16 of the 112th Fighter Squadron is refueled on Iraq's border by a KC-135. The squadron enforced a no-fly zone as part of Operation Provide Comfort II from Dec. 7, 1996 through Jan. 7, 1997.

RIGHT: 1st Lt. Joshua Utter, an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot assigned to the 112th Fighter Squadron, steps into an F-16 during the Global Information Dominance Experiment 3 before a flight at Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, Alpena, Michigan, July 13, 2021.

BELOW: An F-16 Fighting Falcon, assigned to the 112th Fighter Squadron, flies over the 180th Fighter Wing at Toledo Express Airport during a training flight on Dec. 26, 2023.



PAST COMMANDERS

112TH OBSERVATION SQUADRON

1927-1929: Maj. Thomas J. Herbert

1929-1934: Maj. Errol H. Zistel

1934-1937: Maj. Fred L. Smith

1937-1940: Maj. Clarence D. Barnhill

112TH BOMB SQUADRON (LIGHT)

1946-1949: Lt. Col. Lloyd M. Griffin

1949-1950: Maj. William Walker

112TH TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON

1950-1952: Maj. William Walker

112TH FIGHTER BOMBER SQUADRON

1952-1954: Lt. Col. Warren B. Howe

1954-1955: Lt. Col. Milan R. Forkapa

112TH FIGHTER INTERCEPTOR SQUADRON

1955-1962: Lt. Col. Milan R. Forkapa

112TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON

1962-1966: Lt. Col. Robert G. Etter

1966-1967: Lt. Col. Winston W. Hasel

1967-1968: Maj. Robert D. Oberlin

1968-1969: Lt. Col. Winston W. Hasel

1969-1977: Lt. Col. Richard C. Laufert

1977-1980: Lt. Col. James White

1980-1982: Lt. Col. John Peebles

1982-1984: Maj. John Murphy

1984-1987: Maj. Bob Buchwald



Maj. Herbert



Maj. Zistel



Maj. Smith



Maj. Barnhill



Lt. Col. Griffin



Maj. Walker



Lt. Col. Howe



Lt. Col. Forkapa



Lt. Col. Etter



Lt. Col. Hasel



Lt. Col. Laufert



Lt. Col. White



Lt. Col. Peebles



Maj. Murphy



Maj. Buchwald

PAST COMMANDERS

112TH TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRON (CONTINUED)

1987-1988: Lt. Col. James Robertson

1991-1992: Lt. Col. Philip Lehman

112TH FIGHTER SQUADRON

1992-: Lt. Col. Philip Lehman

1993-1996: Lt. Col. Robert Decker

Lt. Col. David Pifer

Lt. Col. Mike Adams

1999-2001: Lt. Col. Richard Liebich

2002-2006: Lt. Col. Steven S. Nordhaus

2006: Lt. Col. Scott E. Reed

2013-2016: Lt. Col. Chris Belli

2016: Lt. Col. Michael DiDio

2017-2019: Lt. Col. Gregory Barasch

2020: Lt. Col. Brian Moran

2024: Lt. Col. Randall J. Kreps



Lt. Col. Robertson



Lt. Col. Lehman



Lt. Col. Decker



Lt. Col. Pifer



Lt. Col. Adams



Lt. Col. Nordhaus



Lt. Col. Reed



Lt. Col. DiDio



Lt. Col. Barasch



Updated as of October 16, 2025

This historical sketch is published IAW AGOR 870-5 by the office of the Historian, Ohio National Guard. This history reflects the approved lineage and honors of the unit as determined by the U.S. Army Center of Military History. All photographs used, unless otherwise cited, are from the Ohio National Guard Heritage Center. Errors, corrections and suggestions may be submitted to:

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