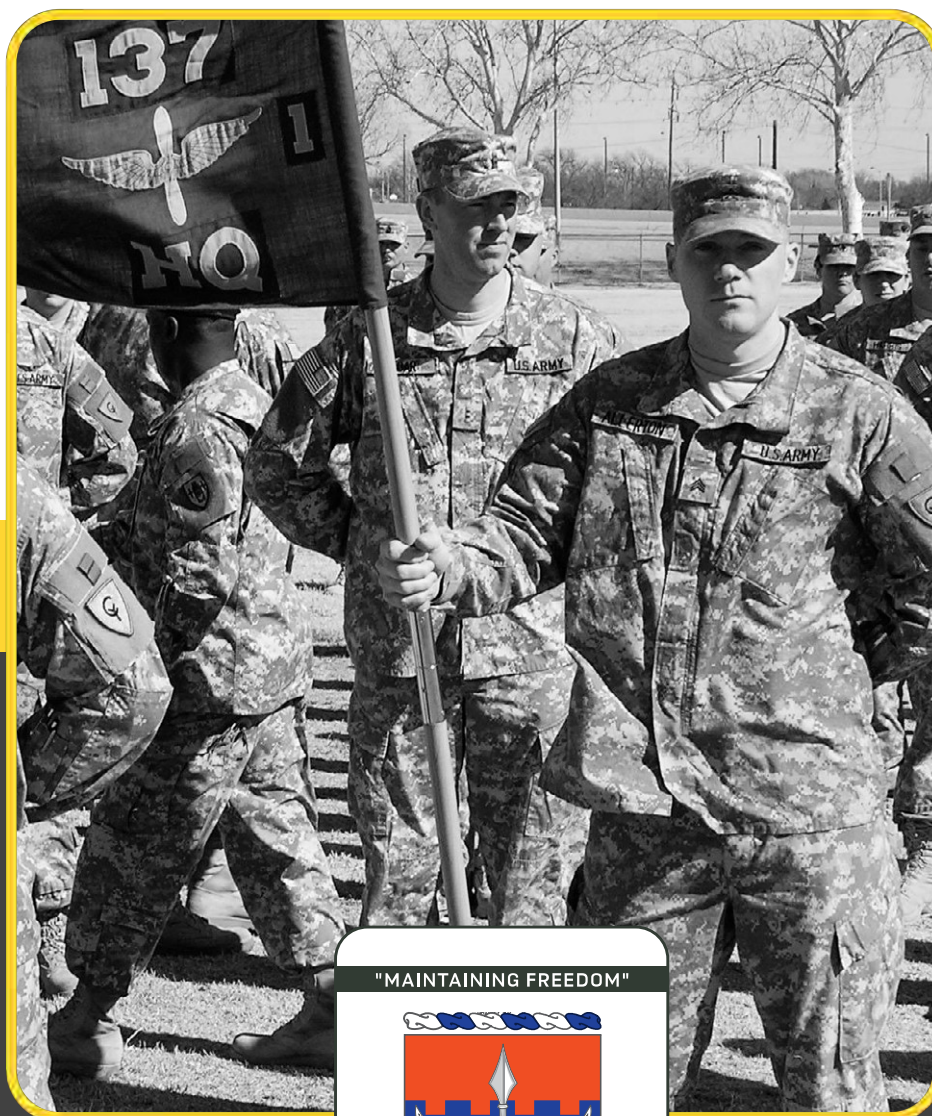


## UNIT HISTORICAL SKETCH



# HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 137TH AVIATION REGIMENT

COLUMBUS, OHIO

# HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 137TH AVIATION REGIMENT

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment was constituted Dec. 1, 1987, in the Ohio Army National Guard and organized and federally recognized March 5, 1990, in Worthington, Ohio. The 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation was first organized as an aviation maintenance battalion with no organic elements. On Sept. 1, 1994, the unit moved from Don Scott Field to Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base, where it remains today.

In 1996, the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation consolidated with elements of the 2d Battalion, 137th Aviation and 4th Squadron, 107th Armored Cavalry to form an assault helicopter battalion. A portion of the company mobilized in 2004-2005 to Kosovo as part of the 38th Infantry Division's Task Force Falcon. In 2009-2010, the unit deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom, where it earned the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Additional mobilizations to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility occurred in 2015-2016 and 2020-2021.



Lt. Col. Anthony Digiacommo, commander of the 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, emerges through a smoke cloud June 10, 2008, at Camp Grayling's Military Operations in Urban Terrain course, covering Spc. Sean White, a paralegal specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-137th Aviation Regiment.



Capt. Jason Brand, commander of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation Regiment, tries to catch his breath after leaving the CS gas chamber June 24, 2018, during annual training at the Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center in Grayling, Mich.



# LINEAGE AND HONORS

Constituted 1 December 1987 in the Ohio Army National Guard as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 137th Aviation

Organized and Federally recognized 5 March 1990 at Worthington

Location changed 1 September 1994 to Columbus

Ordered into active Federal service 2 January 2009 at Columbus; released from active Federal service 5 February 2010 and reverted to state control

Ordered into active Federal service 1 February 2015 at Columbus; released from active Federal service 24 January 2016 and reverted to state control

Ordered into active Federal service 18 June 2020 at Columbus; released from active Federal service 17 June 2021 and reverted to state control

## CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

War on Terrorism  
Iraq:  
Iraqi Sovereignty

Additional campaigns to be determined

## DECORATIONS

Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army), Streamer embroidered IRAQ 2009

# HERALDIC ITEMS



## DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA

Description/Blazon: A Silver color metal and enamel device  $1 \frac{3}{16}$  inches (3.02 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Azure, a chief embattled Tenné, overall issuant from base a winged demi-spear Argent. Attached at base and sides of the shield, a scroll Azure doubled and inscribed "MAINTAINING FREEDOM" in Silver.

Symbolism: Ultramarine blue and golden orange are the colors traditionally associated with U.S. Army Aviation. The embattled division of the shield background recalls a fort or wall and symbolizes strong defense. The spear implies the combat readiness of the defense forces and it is winged to portray the strike capabilities of an aviation unit. The winged spear also suggests the aviation mission as the spearhead of attack forces.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved effective 1 December 1987.



## COAT OF ARMS

Description/Blazon:

Shield: Azure, a chief embattled Tenné, overall issuant from base a demi-spear Proper winged Argent.

Crest: That for the regiments and separate battalions of the Ohio Army National Guard: On a wreath of the colors Argent and Azure, a sheaf of seventeen arrows Argent bound by a sprig of buckeye (*Aesculus glabra*) fructed Proper (two leaves with bursting burr).

Motto: "MAINTAINING FREEDOM"

Symbolism: Ultramarine blue and golden orange are the colors traditionally associated with U.S. Army Aviation. The embattled division of the shield background recalls a fort or wall and symbolizes strong defense. The spear implies the combat readiness of the defense forces and it is winged to portray the strike capabilities of an aviation unit. The winged spear also suggests the aviation mission as the spearhead of attack forces.

Background: The coat of arms was approved effective 1 December 1987.



## SHOULDER SLEEVE INSIGNIA

Description/Blazon: On a white diagonally placed square edged with a  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch (.32 cm) blue border, a red disc emitting to the vertices four red spearheads. Overall dimensions are  $3 \frac{1}{8}$  inches (7.94 cm) point to point.

Symbolism: Red, white, and blue are the national colors. Red denotes valor, white suggests purity, and blue indicates perseverance. The diagonal square alludes to a diamond, the rare and precious resource that each member of the Brigade brings to the fight. The disc at the center signifies the location of the Brigade's origin in the center of the United States. The four spearheads symbolize the four cardinal indices representing the Brigade's willingness to go in any direction to support and defend the constitution.

Background: The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved for the 77th Aviation Brigade on 27 July 2006.

# PAST COMMANDERS

Capt. Mary A. Reynard, 1988-1992  
Capt. Mark D. Ziegler, 1992-1995  
Capt. Andrew D. Morrow, 1995-1996  
Capt. Charles A. Burley, 1996-1998  
Capt. William S. Ireland, 1999-2001  
Capt. Anthony J. Lam, 2001-2003  
Capt. Wayne A. Thomas, 2003-2005  
Capt. Joshua T. Evilsizor, 2005-2007  
Capt. Brian K. Smith, 2008-2010  
Capt. Matthew H. Veit, 2010-2012  
Capt. James J. O'Dell, 2012-2013  
Capt. Philip R. Glotfelty, 2013-2015  
Capt. Kevin R. Medellin, 2015-2018  
Capt. Jason M. Brand, 2018-2019  
Capt. Michael A. Walter, 2019-2020  
Capt. Eric D. Waller, 2020-Present



Capt. Reynard



Capt. Ziegler



Capt. Morrow



Capt. Burley



Capt. Ireland



Capt. Lam



Capt. Thomas



Capt. Evilsizor



Capt. Smith



Capt. Veit



Capt. O'Dell



Capt. Brand



Capt. Walter

# PAST FIRST SERGEANTS

1st Sgt. Joseph E. Riedlinger, 1996-1997

1st Sgt. William Richards, 1997-2000

1st Sgt. Kenneth W. Fanty, 2000-2003

1st Sgt. Hugh R. Compton, 2003-2008

1st Sgt. Jose M. Camacho, 2008-2013

1st Sgt. Richard E. Lane, 2013-2014

1st Sgt. Brad R. Pietzcker, 2014-2016

1st Sgt. Edward D. Sells, 2016-2017

1st Sgt. Neal L. Thompson, 2017-2019

1st Sgt. John R. Tucker, 2019-Present



1st Sgt. Riedlinger



1st Sgt. Richards



1st Sgt. Fanty



1st Sgt. Compton



1st Sgt. Camacho



1st Sgt. Lane



1st Sgt. Pietzcker



1st Sgt. Sells



1st Sgt. Thompson



1st Sgt. Tucker



Updated as of March 1, 2024

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:

State of Ohio, Adjutant General's Department, ATTN: NGOH-HIS, 2825 West Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235-2789  
or [joshua.d.mann.mil@army.mil](mailto:joshua.d.mann.mil@army.mil)