

116th Air Control Squadron Lineage

EVENT	DATE	Location/Name
Constituted	24 May 1946	
Organized	8 July 1946	Marietta AAB, GA
FED Recognition	10 Dec 1946	
Name Change	3 Jan 1951	A/C Control & Warning Sqdn (Tactical)
Activated/Relocated	8 Jan 1951	Sewart AFB, TN
Name Changed	5 Feb 1951	Tac Cntl Sqdn
Reorganized	6 July 1951	ACWS
PCS'd	2 Jun 1951	Casablanca, French Morocco
PCS'd	20 Aug 1951	Rabat Sale, FM
Deactivated	8 Oct 1952	
Federalized	9 Jun 1971	Portland, OR

116th Air Control Squadron History

In August 1939 General George A. White, Oregon Adjutant General, contacted the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, General Williams, to request allocation of a National Guard Air Corps squadron to Oregon. A year latter, 1 August 1940, the authorization was given to form the 123 Observation Squadron. This was the beginning of the Air component in Oregon. After the Second World War, the - now - 123 Fighter Squadron (Single Engine) was combined with a Fighter Group and this large entity was subdivided. Out of this was born, 24 May 1946, the 142nd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (ACWS). The 116th Air Control Squadron's Oregon roots start here.

The 142ACWS went about the task of recruiting and training so that they would be ready if their country ever called. Five years later, they received that call. The 142ACWS was activated on 1 May 1951 to help with the Korean War effort.

It took a mere 28 days to process the unit and send them sailing aboard the USS Beaudoin to Port Seward, Alaska. The joke in the unit was that the higher headquarters were in such a hurry to get the unit activated and in place, they "waived everything but goodbye." The unit was based at Ladd AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska, but operated three remote sites along the Bering Sea. Just 21 months later, 1 February 1953, the unit was re-formed as a Guard unit at Portland.

In May 1956 the Air Defense reorganization of the Air National Guard took place. Some units were re-designated and the 142ACWS changed from a Squadron to a Flight (ACWF). The mission of the 142ACWF continued through to 1960 and then came a re-rolling.

In October 1960 the men and women of the ACWF started on a new mission of Communications. The new unit designator was the 142 Communication Squadron (Relay Center). The RADAR mission was not in the state for a decade. By the 1970's; however, RADAR found a home in Oregon again.

The 116th Tactical Control Squadron (TCS), Control and Reporting Center (CRC) was constituted and allotted, 27 May 1971, with station at Portland Air National Guard Base, Oregon and assigned to the 153rd Tactical Control Group. Federal recognition was received on 9 June 1971. The unit was reassigned to the 154th Tactical Control Group effective 1 April 1976.

The unit's initial tactical mission was as a manual CRC, the senior element of the USAF Tactical Air Control System. The 258 total assigned personnel consisted of 30 officers and 228 airmen.

Prime mission equipment in the early 1970's included the MPS-11 RADAR System, UPA-35 RADAR Control Scopes and TRC-24 Wideband Radios. In May 1972, FAA certification was received and the unit provided RADAR control to

its first live air mission. In 1974, the TRC-24 radios were replaced with the more sophisticated TRC-97 Troposcatter radios.

In December 1979, the unit received a new TPS-43E three-dimensional RADAR and a TSQ-92 Operations Shelter. This equipment replaced much older equipment and significantly enhanced the capabilities of the unit. In July 1984, military enhancements and increased personnel authorizations raised the unit's strength to 290 people.

On 1 May 1987, the mission of the 116th changed to a Forward Air Control Post (FACP). This smaller element of the Tactical Air Control System was authorized 93 military positions, consisting of 10 Officers and 83 enlisted personnel. In October of 1988 the unit moved from Portland ANG Base to Camp Rilea, Oregon.

New equipment started to arrive at the 116th on 1 October 1993, and the mission once again changed to that of a Control and Reporting Element (CRE). The new equipment changed the RADAR to an improved TPS-75 system, Satellite Communications, more sophisticated Wideband radios and modular operation shelters. The unit designation was changed to the 116th Air Control Squadron with the advent of the CRE mission.

Through the years, the 116th has participated in numerous Joint Chiefs of Staff exercises, Composite force training exercises, NORAD exercises, Major Command exercises, and National Guard exercises, as well as unit generated deployments and contingencies worldwide. Most recently these have included the Caribbean, Columbia, Saudi Arabia, Italy, and Hungary. Closer to home, the unit has been the primary RADAR element for three Green Flag (NV), Northern Edge (AK), and Red Flag (NV) exercises.

The 116th Air Control Squadron has earned and proudly displays two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards.