

III. NEW YORK AIR NATIONAL GUARD

MOBILIZATION

Major event of 1961 affecting the New York Air National Guard was the Federal call to active duty with the United States Air Force of 11 New York Air National Guard units, comprising approximately 2,200 officers and airmen. This helped to augment the regular forces to cope with the Soviet political and military pressures upon the Free World in Berlin and in other critical areas.

The units, consisting of our two tactical fighter squadrons, our air transport group and our tactical control group with supporting elements, totalled more than 45 per cent of the entire New York air organization. They entered upon active duty, effective 1 October, and were scheduled to serve a maximum of 12 months.

President Kennedy was authorized by Congress on 1 August to call up to 250,000 reservists for active duty to augment the regular Armed Forces. Subsequently, on that day, the Department of Defense advised 64 Air National Guard and seven Air Reserve units to be ready for mobilization. The Empire State furnished approximately 10 per cent of the Air Guard personnel required for the mobilization.

The 11 New York units were mobilized formally at ceremonies at Hancock Field on 1 October, attended by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. Also participating in the historic ceremonies were Lieutenant General Gabriel P. Disosway, Vice Commander of the Air Force's Tactical Air Command; Major General William P. Fisher, Commander of the Eastern Transport Air Force of the Military Air Transport Service; Major General A. C. O'Hara, Chief of Staff to Governor Rockefeller; and Major General Lewis A. Curtis, New York Air National Guard Commander.

It marked the second time since the creation of the Air National Guard following World War II that major portions of the Air Guard had been called into active Federal service. During the Korean emergency, in 1950 and 1951, approximately 75 per cent of the New York Air National Guard was inducted into the Air Force. The 1961 call-up involved four New York organizations that also served during the Korean period.

The New York units inducted, their commanders, and missions follow:

The 152d Tactical Control Group of Roslyn, Long Island, commanded by Colonel Willard S. Magalhaes. Its mission is to operate radar and electronic equipment for aircraft control and warning. The Group served with the Air Force from

1 August 1951 to 1 August 1953 during the Korean emergency, mostly with the Northeast Air Command in Newfoundland.

The 106th Tactical Control Squadron, also of Roslyn, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Marvin V. Sheu. This unit forms the hub of the radar and communications network of the 152d Group, and also served in Newfoundland during the Korean emergency.

The 108th Aircraft Control and Warning Flight of Syracuse, a unit of the 152d Group, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Alexie N. Stout. The Flight served during the Korean emergency in Newfoundland, where its principal mission was the operation of a radar station at Pepperrell Air Force Base.

The 109th Air Transport Group of Schenectady, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Frederick J. Zilly, Jr. The Group flies C-97 Stratofreighter aircraft, and was one of the first Air National Guard units to receive four-engine airplanes and a global mission under the Military Air Transport Service. Units of the 109th Group inducted, and their commanders, were: 139th Air Transportation Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel John C. Campbell, Jr.; 109th Air Base Squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Dale S. Carpenter; 109th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron (CAMRON), Lieutenant Colonel Alexander J. Allan, Jr.; 109th United States Air Force Dispensary, Lieutenant Colonel Robert P. Coolidge; and the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Flight.

The 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron of Niagara Falls, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John E. Blewett. This unit is equipped with F-100 Supersabre jets and was assigned for duty with the 113th Tactical Fighter Wing of the Air Force's Tactical Air Command at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. The 136th was inducted for 21 months of active duty with the Air Force during the Korean emergency, and 40 per cent of its personnel served overseas in Korea, Germany, Alaska, Guam and the Philippines.

The 138th Tactical Fighter Squadron of Syracuse, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Curtis J. Irwin. The 138th flies F-86 Sabre-jet aircraft of Korean War fame and was assigned for active duty with the 102d Tactical Fighter Wing at Logan Airport, Boston, Massachusetts, under the Tactical Air Command.

By November, little more than a month after induction, four of the New York units already had been deployed to Europe, with the 138th Tactical Fighter Squadron serving in France and the 152d Tactical Control Group and its 106th Squadron and 108th Flight serving in Germany.

Complimenting the Air National Guard commanders, from New York and other States, on their successful deployment, Air Force Secretary Eugene M. Zuckert wrote that "The manner in which the deployment was conducted so soon after recall could

only be the result of sustained superior performance."

"It is my desire that every man in your organization know of the pride the whole Air Force feels in this accomplishment which reflects the high standards set and maintained in Air National Guard training," the Secretary added.

Additional compliments were received from Major General Winston P. Wilson, United States Air Force Deputy Chief of the National Guard Bureau in Washington, and from Major General O'Hara, Chief of Staff to Governor Rockefeller. General Curtis E. LeMay, Air Force Chief of Staff, visited each of the Air National Guard units overseas, and expressed his satisfaction over the excellence of the performance.

As of December, both the 109th Air Transport Group of Schenectady and the 136th Tactical Fighter Squadron of Niagara Falls were performing their Air Force duty at their home stations.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Continuing a policy of increasing the airlift potential of Air National Guard organizations, which began in the Empire State in 1960, the Department of Defense on 27 January reassigned the 105th Tactical Fighter Group and its 137th Tactical Fighter Squadron of White Plains to an aeromedical transport mission, and changed its aircraft from the F-86 Sabre-jet fighters to the C-119 Flying Boxcar transport airplane.

Effective 1 February, the units at White Plains were redesignated the 137th Aeromedical Transport Squadron; were relieved of assignment to the 107th Tactical Fighter Wing of Niagara Falls and the Tactical Air Command and were assigned to the 106th Aeromedical Transport Group of Brooklyn under the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

On 21 May, the 106th Aeromedical Transport Group, its 137th Squadron at White Plains and various military and civilian agencies in New York and New Jersey participated in a major training operation, designated Operation "CONCRASH." The exercise, involving the simulated movement of injured personnel from a major "disaster" area at Paramus, New Jersey, to medical hospitals and similar facilities, was coordinated by Colonel Cornelius J. Kraissl, Senior Medical Staff Officer, Headquarters, New York Air National Guard.

On 20 January, Honor units of the New York Air National Guard participated with other Empire State military organizations in the Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C. New York Air National Guard units involved were the 107th Tactical

Fighter Group of Syracuse, recently selected as the best F-86 unit in the entire Air National Guard, and the 105th Tactical Fighter Group of White Plains, last year's winner of the Governor's Air Trophy and the Commanders' Trophy for excellence among all Empire State air units.

The 213th GEEIA Squadron (Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency), commanded by Major Frank R. Healy, Jr., of Roslyn, Long Island, held its annual field training for the third straight year in July at the Air Force's Missile Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida, where its personnel helped to install and modify electronic and communications facilities.

TRAINING

Following the Federal induction of the 11 New York air units, all remaining units were directed by Headquarters, New York Air National Guard, to intensify their training to achieve operational readiness as quickly as possible.

Unit Commanders were warned that future call-ups for active duty might require immediate mobilization.

Regular training during 1960 again was concentrated at 48 weekend Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs), and during the 15-day annual field training periods staged for each organization. Air crew members were authorized 36 additional flying training periods during the year.

The 1961 field training schedule for New York Air National Guard units follows:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Dates</u>
106th Aeromedical Transport Group	Otis Air Force Base Massachusetts	15-29 July
152d Tactical Control Group	Roslyn Air National Guard Station	8-22 July
106th Tactical Control Squadron	Roslyn Air National Guard Station	8-22 July
552d Air Force Band	Roslyn Air National Guard Station	8-22 July
213th Ground Electronics Engineering Installation Agency	Cape Canaveral Florida	1-15 July
274th Communications Squadron	Roslyn Air National Guard Station	12-26 August

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Dates</u>
108th Aircraft Control and Warning Flight	Sea Girt, New Jersey	8-22 July
137th Aeromedical Transport Squadron	White Plains	1-29 July
109th Air Transport Group	Schenectady	1 July 61- 30 June 62
138th Tactical Fighter Squadron	Syracuse	15 July-26 August
107th Tactical Fighter Wing	Niagara Falls	29 July-12 August
136th Tactical Fighter Squadron	Niagara Falls	29 July-12 August

Pilots of the New York Air National Guard flew a total of 29,059 hours during 1961, compared to 20,059 during the previous year.

Aircraft assigned to New York Air National Guard units as of 31 December comprised the following:

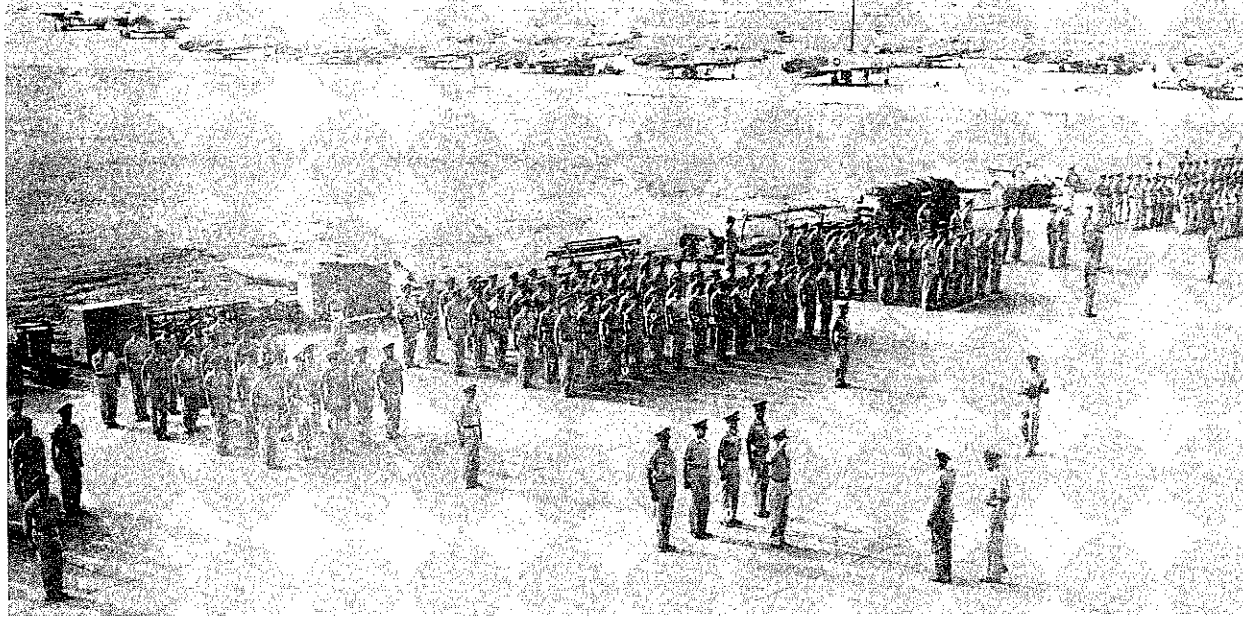
<u>F-100C</u>	<u>C-97 Transport</u>	<u>C-119 Transport</u>	<u>C-47 Transport</u>	<u>T-33 Jet</u>
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Regular Air Force training at basic and technical schools, continued during 1961 to attract personnel from the New York Air National Guard.

A total of 3 were graduated and received their wings and commissions as Second Lieutenants.

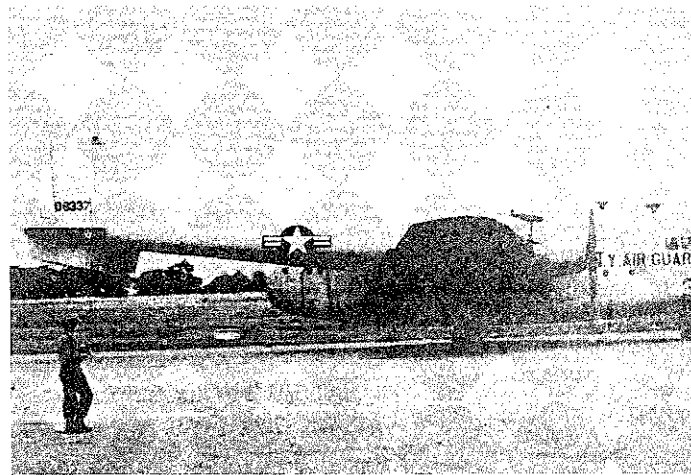
92 officers and 380 airmen attended various Air Force schools in their respective military career fields.

A total of 330 new personnel attended the Air Force basic training course at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.



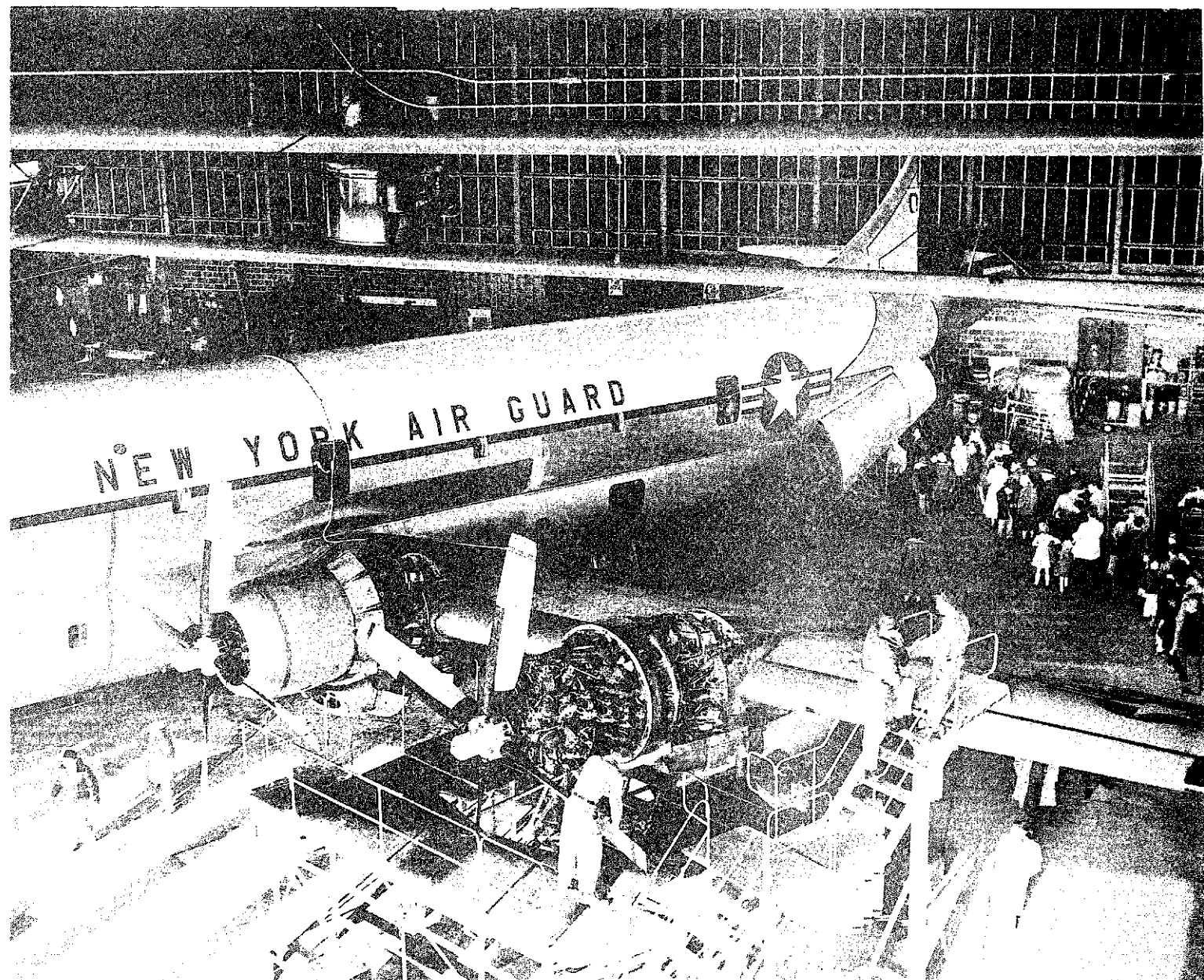
PERSONNEL OF THE 107th TACTICAL FIGHTER WING at Niagara Falls are inspected by Lt Col William C Nutting of the Second Air Force IG's office during the organization's annual Federal inspection. Unit's F100s are lined-up in background.

C-119 'FLYING BOXCAR' TRANSPORT AIRPLANE of the 106th Aeromedical Transport Group participates in training operation 'CONCRASH'.



F-86 SABRE-JET FIGHTER AIRCRAFT of the 107th Tactical Fighter Wing.





RESIDENTS OF THE SCHENECTADY AREA stand in line in the hangar of the 109th Air Transport Group to inspect one of the unit's big C97 "Stratofreighters" during Muster Day Ceremonies.