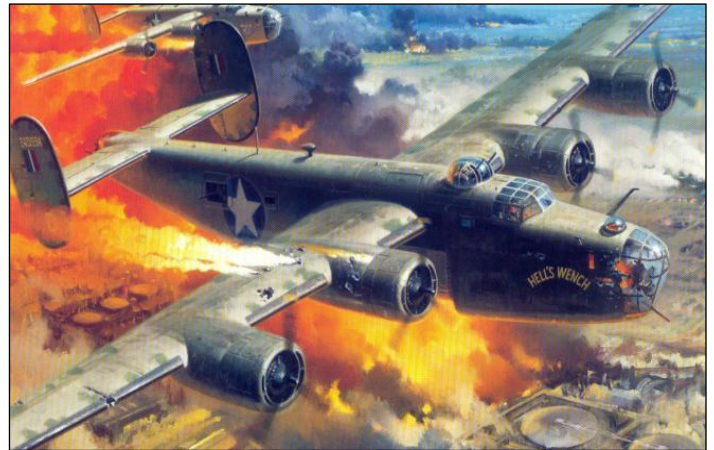




Air National Guard History

- On November 1, 1915, the Guard's first genuine aviation unit was established. That outfit, known today as the 102d Rescue Squadron, New York Air National Guard (ANG), is recognized as the ANG's oldest unit.
- During World War I, the few existing Guard air units disbanded. Four former Guardsmen became aces and one Guard aviator, CPT Erwin Bleckley of Kansas, received the Medal of Honor posthumously.
- During World War II, approximately 4,800 Guard aviation personnel in 29 observation squadrons mobilized. They served in every major operation theater, primarily as individuals in wartime Army Air Forces units. One Guard flyer, LTC Addison Baker, received the Medal of Honor posthumously for his role at Ploesti. Two prewar Guardsmen became aces.
- The National Security Act established the ANG as a separate reserve component on September 18, 1947, concurrent with the creation of the U.S. Air Force.
- The ANG mobilized 45,594 Guardsmen in 67 of its flying squadrons, over 80 percent of its total force, during the Korean War. Four Air Guardsmen became aces.
- In 1968, 10,676 ANG personnel responded to the North Korean seizure of the USS Pueblo and the Tet offensive in Vietnam. Four fighter squadrons deployed to Vietnam and two went to Korea.
- The Persian Gulf crisis of 1990-1991 saw 12,404 Air Guardsmen called into for federal service.
- Within 24 hours of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, 15 ANG units had flown 179 fighter missions and 18 ANG tanker wings had mobilized 78 aircraft to assist.
- ANG volunteers flew 4,132 airlift sorties in relief efforts during the devastating 2005 hurricane season.
- Personnel fought wildfires nationwide, including the Carr (2018, CA), Swan Lake (2019, AK), and Lionshead Fires (2020, OR).
- Air Guardsmen supported COVID-19 relief efforts beginning in March 2020, sanitizing facilities, supporting safe training events, and providing testing support nationwide.



Ploesti Raid 1943



Korea 1951



Katrina 2005