

THE
184th Wing
VISITOR'S GUIDE

Kansas
Air 
National
Guard



Warriors on the Silicon Prairie

How the 184th Wing is leading the future of
combat operations.

FEATURED
Articles



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FROM THE
Commander

**On behalf the the Fighting Jayhawks,
welcome to the 184th Wing!**

We're proud to open our doors and share the story of who we are, what we do, and where we're going. Within these pages, you'll find an overview of our missions, the Airmen who carry them out, and the values that guide us every day. You'll also see the unique ways we serve our nation, our state, and our local communities.

As you learn more about the 184th Wing, we hope you gain a deeper understanding of our commitment to being Lethal, Ready, and Resilient – always prepared to answer our nation's call. Thank you for your interest in the Fighting Jayhawks, and welcome to our team's story.

JOSEPH J. DEEDS

Commander

BATTLEFIELD INTELLIGENCE | CYBERSPACE OPERATIONS

COMMAND & CONTROL | MISSION SUPPORT

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184th Wing

Creating the Next Generation of Warfare

How the 184th Wing's history of change has prepared them to lead the future of combat.



It would be hard to find a military unit with as many diverse mission sets as the Kansas Air National Guard's 184th Wing.

To call us adaptive and resilient is an understatement.

A Constant State of Change

When Maj. Gen. David Weishaar was the commander of the 184th Wing, he said, "The only thing constant at the 184th is change.

"Change ranging from fighter aircraft, to bombers, to refuel-

"Our members... embrace new opportunities and challenges as naturally as a Kansas summer breeze."

ers, to our current identity.

After the news of a mission change, we saw our members get back up off the deck, time and time again, dust themselves off and embrace new opportunities and challenges as naturally as a Kansas summer breeze.

Our Airmen's ability to do that, in my 30+ year career with the wing, should not surprise me, yet the admiration I have for [them] grows each time I see it."



To catch a glimpse of the change we've experienced, take a stroll through the Reflections of Freedom Air Park. You'll see a sample of the aircraft we've flown and maintained during the last 85+ years.

While the 184th Wing honors its past, we don't dwell on it. In fact, our history shows that we embrace change. We don't just embrace it...we lead it.

The Origins of Cyber and Intelligence

More than 20 years ago, the 184th Bomb Wing nearly shut down with the drawdown of the B-1 Bomber fleet in the summer of 2001.

After gallant efforts from the leaders of that era, the wing secured new missions along with the KC-135R Stratotanker. Those new missions were the 177th Information Aggressor Squadron, the 299th Network Operations Squadron, and the 161st Intelligence Squadron.

It was unclear how to turn knuckle-busting aircraft maintainers into intelligence analysts and computer operators, but the 184th was up for the challenge.

Not only did we survive...we flourished.

Today, the 177th IAS is the only squadron of its kind in the Air National Guard. The 299th NOS is one of three network enterprise-level organizations in the Air Force. And the 161st IS grew to become its own group. It's now part of the 184th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group.



Next Generation Warfare Wing

The 184th Wing continues to seek new and better ways of exploiting and engaging adversaries.

We've recently added the 129th Intelligence Squadron, the 127th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, and created the 184th Cyberspace Operations Group to increase capabilities on the virtual frontline.

The Airmen assigned to these organizations provide advanced capabilities to the entire Department of War. They also expose weaknesses in defensive postures and strengthen digital weapons systems.

When adversaries find their way into the network, these Airmen find the enemy, remove them, and secure the virtual perimeter.

Additionally, the wing realigned the 184th Regional Support Group to strengthen deployable capabilities.

We extended the training airspace at Smoky

Hill Air National Guard Range across much of central and western Kansas. This is to accommodate the advanced weapons systems on fifth-generation fighters that train at the largest and busiest weapons range in the ANG.

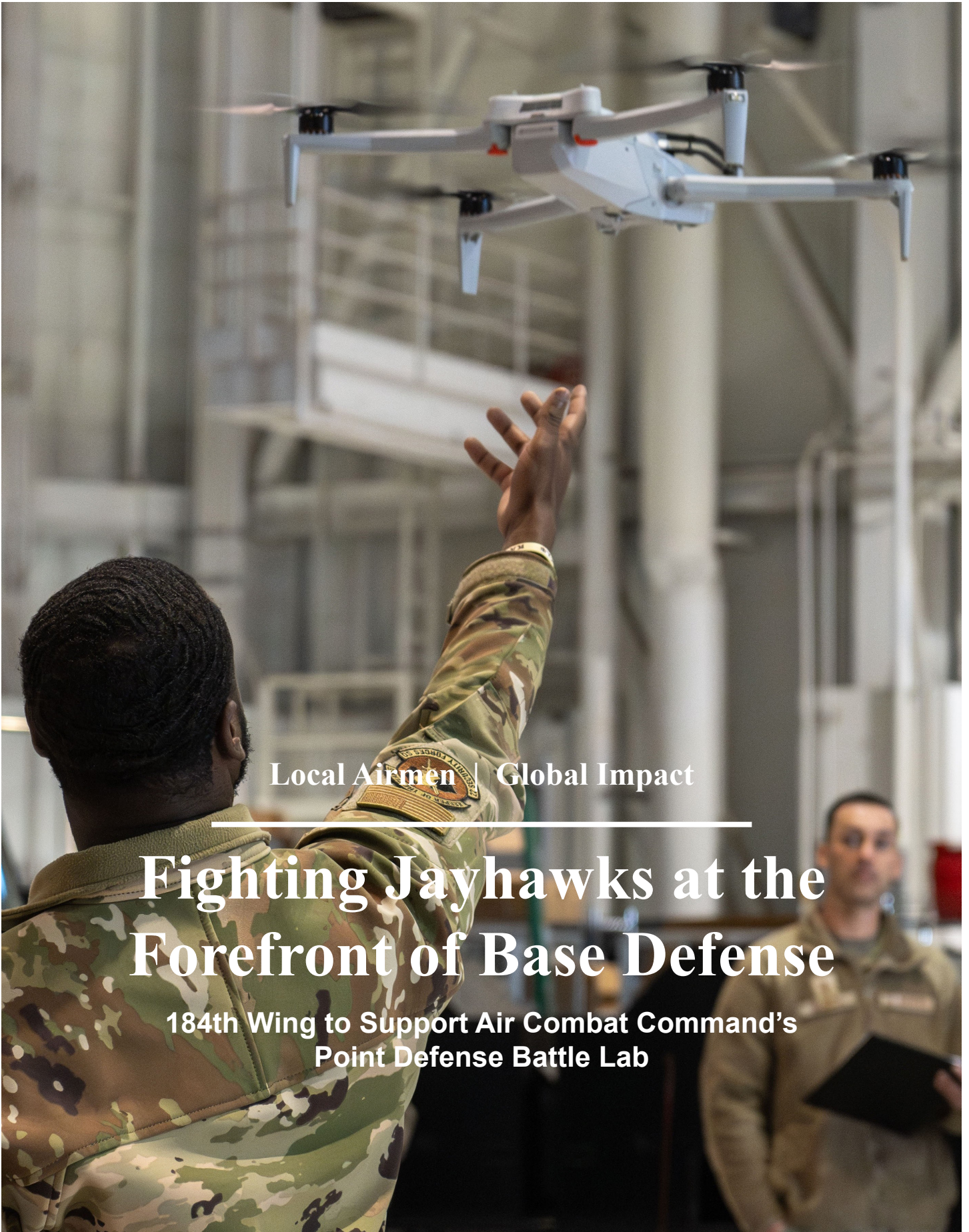
Finally, to deconflict airspace, we've upgraded the aircraft tracking equipment assigned to the 134th Air Control Squadron. The new equipment gives us a better picture of friendly and adversarial air forces, and streamlines communication within the kill-chain.

Conclusion

The 184th Wing has a long history of seeking out new missions, new technologies, and new techniques.

We innovate ways to carry out our missions to stay ahead of a quickly evolving, face-paced environment.

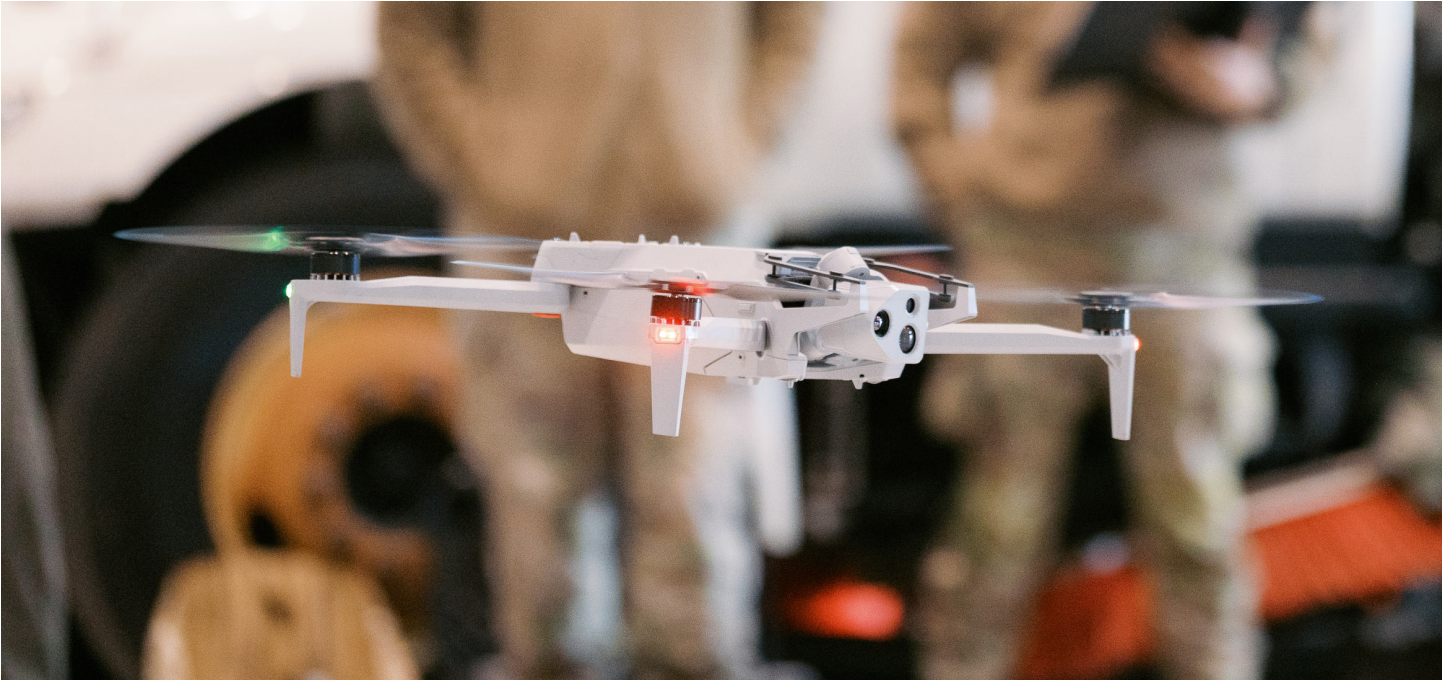
By leaning forward into the future, we're creating the next generation of warfare.



Local Airmen | Global Impact

Fighting Jayhawks at the Forefront of Base Defense

184th Wing to Support Air Combat Command's Point Defense Battle Lab



The 184th Wing has been selected to support Air Combat Command's newly established Point Defense Battle Lab. The 184th Wing will support the 319th Reconnaissance Wing, Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, who will serve as the lead organization.

The PDBL is a critical initiative within the Department of the Air Force, designed to safeguard installations, protect vital assets, and ensure continuity of air operations. Specifically, the PDBL will focus on developing and validating tactics, techniques, and procedures for countering a wide range of airborne threats, including small Unmanned Aircraft Systems. The Battle Lab's efforts will enhance the Air

“This is a significant opportunity for the 184th Wing to leverage our expertise and contribute to a critical national security mission.”

Force's ability to detect, track, and neutralize these airborne threats effectively.

ACC selected the 184th Wing, in partnership with the 319th Reconnaissance Wing, based on combined current capabilities, missions, industry and academia partnerships and alignment with counter-small UAS fielding timelines.

The 184th Wing was specifically selected for its expertise in air battle management, cyber operations, and AI-enabled intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. The 134th Air Control Squadron's continued efforts with the Air Base Air Defense System-Missile Defense, which has already positioned the 184th



Wing as a leader in airbase defense, will also be contributing to the efforts of the Battle Lab.

“This is a significant opportunity for the 184th Wing to leverage our expertise and contribute to a critical national security mission,” said Col. Joe Deeds, commander of the 184th Wing. “Our Air Battle Managers, cyber warriors, ISR operators, and AI specialists are ready to work alongside the 319th Reconnaissance Wing to ensure the success of the Point Defense Battle Lab and to enhance the security of Air Force installations.”

The Point Defense Battle Lab will drive innovation and collaboration across the Total Force to address the growing challenges from increasingly widespread use of small



Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS).

By integrating the expertise of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing and the 184th Wing, the PDBL will deliver critical tactical-level data, advanced site design concepts, and cutting-edge integration strategies for emerging technologies. Additionally, the lab will spearhead operational experiments and red teaming initiatives, ensuring the Air Force remains agile and prepared to counter evolving threats.

Through its efforts, the PDBL strengthens the Point Defense Task Force’s ability to safeguard airpower, maintain combat readiness, and confidently respond to emerging challenges, further securing Air Force installations and operations.



184th LOGISTICS GROUP

ANG-OUTSTANDING
AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
AWARD
"BEST IN THE ANG"

REGENERATIVE AIR SYSTEMS
TYMCO
WACO, TEXAS

TYMCO
WACO, TEXAS

DURASIDE

LETHALITY

DECONFLICTING THE KILL-CHAIN



Preparing for the Future Fight with Local C2 and ISR Integration

Airmen assigned to the 184th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group and 134th Air Control Squadron, are at the forefront of addressing long-range kill-chain challenges, as demonstrated by their recent creation and execution of Exercise Bamboo Jayhawk 25-1, June 7-10, 2025. Both units are assigned to the 184th Wing, Kansas Air National Guard, at McConnell Air Force Base.

By 1st Lt. Samantha Root, 184th Wing Public Affairs



Streamlining the Flow of Info

While the ISRG and ACS have traditionally executed missions independent from each other, the 184th Wing is actively testing how the Air Force can streamline the flow of information in the kill-chain by integrating the two mission sets.

The “kill-chain” consist of six key functions: Find, fix, track, target, engage, and assess. The ISRG focuses on the find, fix, track portion of the kill-chain, and the ACS focuses on the track, target, engage portion.

“For the ACS, Bamboo Jayhawk was a test of our current integration capabilities so that we can develop the appropriate way forward to improve upon the [long-range kill-chain],” stated Capt. Roman Belden, chief of Training and Exercises, 134th ACS. “Bamboo Jayhawk did just that. It allowed us to see the areas that currently worked well and it also allowed us to see the areas that we need to focus on so that we can advance our integration. We all came out with lessons learned but more so, ready to get after the problem set with new ideas and motivations.”

The Power of Integration

The integration of the 134th ACS proved particularly valuable, enhancing the flow of information between intelligence gathering from the ISRG and command and control from the ACS.

“Bamboo Jayhawk really helped us to see where the points of friction are between intel and C2,” stated Belden. “Now we can start to identify ways to prioritize and pass information over many different means to develop a robust and redundant communication and information sharing network.

“[This] will allow us the ability to continue operations when traditional communications methods might fail. This will entail subject matter experts from the ISR, C2, and Cyber communities, all of which we have here at the 184th Wing, to develop this intricate, yet robust network.”

Designed to test their readiness for wartime operations, Bamboo Jayhawk gave Airmen the ability to leverage synthetic intelligence data and full motion video feed from the 526th Intelligence Squadron, 152nd Intelligence Squadron, and 132nd Wing, Detachment 1.

“We created BAJA to simulate a peer threat environment to test our DSGs ability to ‘pick up the gun’ at a moment’s notice in the event a conflict kicks off and our traditional Guardsmen are called to the test,” stated Capt. Jamie Elliott, flight commander and exercise planner, 184th ISRG.





Protect, Fight, and Win

Simultaneous execution of real-world federal taskings further enhanced the complexity of the exercise. While the 184th ISRG and 134th ACS execute missions year-round, BAJA 25-1 gave both traditional drill-status Guardsmen and full-time members an opportunity to test their lethality under pressure.

“We are cognizant that our DSGs do not get a lot of seat time with these analytical problem sets and the best way to test/improve their ability is to really immerse them and put them into a high stress environment,” stated Elliott.

Beyond the broader strategic objectives, BAJA 25-1 provided valuable lessons at the individual level.

“One of the biggest challenges my [Airman and I faced] was interoperability. The Airman assigned to me, while experienced in our career field, had never worked in our shop before and was unfamiliar with our processes,” explained Staff Sgt. Rowan Catlett, 184th ISRG. “The exercise tested my effectiveness with communication, and my Airman’s ability to absorb unfamiliar information and act on it quickly and effectively.”

Bamboo Jayhawk 25-1 gave the 184th Wing a critical opportunity to integrate Airmen from ISR and C2 communities, forging a stronger, more lethal operational force right here in Kansas, ready to protect, fight, and win against our nation’s adversaries, any time.

A photograph of two military personnel in a field. One person is standing next to a tripod-mounted device, possibly a camera or sensor. The background shows rolling hills and a clear sky. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

Game-changer: Technological Leaps Shape a New Era in Base Defense

The 134th Air Control Squadron (ACS) received the first Tactical Operations Center-Light (TOC-L) Air Base Air Defense System - Missile Defense (ABADS - MD) at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, Sept. 23, 2024. This advanced system allows the unit to experiment with new tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), and shape the future of airbase defense and command and control operations.



Revolutionizing Air Base Defense

The ABADS - MD is a relocatable, compact command and control system designed to defend airbases against modern aerial threats, including drones and missiles. Its integration into the 134th ACS marks a significant advancement in protecting key airfield infrastructure and supporting agile combat employment (ACE) across the U.S. Air Force.

“The TOC-L ABADS is a game-changer,” said Lt. Col. Naomi Leonard, commander of the 134th ACS. “It enables us to innovate, adapt to new threats, and refine our approach to airbase defense in a multi-domain fight.”



ABADS-MD Key Capabilities

- *Enhanced Situational Awareness: Integrates sensor data to track aerial threats in real time.*
- *Interoperability with Joint Forces: Seamlessly communicates with U.S. military branches and allied forces.*
- *Scalable and Mobile: Designed for quick deployment across multiple air-base locations.*
- *Automated Threat Response: Coordinates defense systems to counter detected threats autonomously.*
- *Control Ground and Air Engagement Effects*

Experimentation and Joint Integration

The 134th ACS is collaborating closely with the 46th Test Squadron and multiple contractors to develop and test new TTPs. The unit plans to utilize the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range, Kansas, as a primary testing ground for integrating ABADS - MD with other defense systems. This partnership will help shape how the system is used in real-world operations and ensure it meets the dynamic needs of the battlefield.

Additionally, the unit is working with key partners like the 552nd Air Control Wing and the 55th Wing to enhance integration with the broader Joint All-Domain Command and Control (JADC2) network. These collaborations are essential for creating a cohesive defense strategy that links sensors, shooters, and command elements across air, land, sea, space, and cyber domains.

The system's multi-generational leap in technology has inspired airmen across the unit.

"I'm excited to see how ABADS - MD will enable better battle management decisions," said Tech. Sgt. Tyler Corby, weapons director, 134th ACS. "This technology brings us closer to the fight, allowing us to make faster, more informed decisions and integrate more effectively with our joint partners."





Shaping Future Operations

The ABADS - MD system's deployment aligns with the U.S. Air Force's ACE concept, which focuses on dispersing forces to unpredictable locations to maintain operational flexibility. By defending both hub and spoke airfields, the 134th ACS is exploring innovative ways to integrate airbase defense into the JADC2 framework, enhancing the resilience and agility of U.S. air operations.

The unit's work with the ABADS - MD will directly impact how the Air Force approaches airbase defense and JADC2 integration, ensuring that critical assets remain protected in contested environments. Through its pioneering efforts, the 134th ACS is helping to shape the future of U.S. Air Force operations, keeping airpower agile and responsive to emerging threats.

Below: An Airman assigned to the 134th Air Control Squadron, Kansas Air National Guard, demonstrates the operational agility of the Tactical Operations Center – Light, Air Base Air Defense Systems – Missile Defense (ABADS-MD), while training in degraded and contested environmental conditions at McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas, Sept. 24, 2024. The ABADS-MD is a compact mobile command and control system that defends airbases from modern aerial threats including drones and missiles.





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