

169 AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON



MISSION

169 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (ACWS) is responsible for the air defense of the Hawaiian airspace. Its mission is to detect and identify aircraft entering the Hawaiian airspace, provide intercept information to lighters scrambled for identification of unknown aircraft, and if necessary, to order the destruction of hostile aircraft which threaten the Hawaiian Islands.

The Operations Section performs surveillance, identification, intercept control, and command and control within the Hawaiian Air Defense Region by use of automated data processing and display equipment and inputs from Kaala and Kokee sensor sites. It also provides navigational and emergency assistance to aircraft in distress. Although air defense is its primary mission, the 169 (Baldwin control) controls daily air combat/ dissimilar air combat training missions.

The 169 ACWS, which has a radar site on Mt. Kaala and a command and control site at Wheeler Army Airfield, has an authorized unit strength of 203 officer and enlisted personnel. Computer Programmers develop and implement systems and procedures to ensure maximum use of the HIROCC computer software. The security police provide security for the Mt. Kaala complex; participate in multi-force, multi-national exercises such as Commando Warrior in Korea; and provide security for the community during events such as Hurricane Iniki. Food Service personnel provide meals for the Mt. Kaala complex and HIROCC personnel during increased air defense alert conditions. Vehicle Maintenance personnel manage and maintain assigned vehicles. Administration personnel assist and advise the commander on all matters pertaining to unit administration and personnel actions. And Supply personnel provide supply support for the squadron.

The Ground Computer Electronic Equipment Maintenance section maintains the Wheeler/Mt. Kaala complex air defense communications, radar, HIROCC computer/ displays and other allied

equipment. Pacer-bound radios installed in September 1993 brought us into the tactical world of digital information links. Through the use of RADIL (ROCC/AWACS Digital Information Link), these HF frequency radios link the HIROCC with aircraft, ships and other ground bases. During non-duty hours, the HIROCC monitors the Oahu State Civil Defense Pacific-Disaster Center computer, which alerts the state of any-natural disasters in the Pacific. HIROCC involvement will be very cost effective to the state and benefit the whole Pacific area.

The Advanced Interface Control Unit expanded our capability to receive and update flight plans. Have Quick II radios installed in 1996 expanded our operations capability and enhanced our ability to support real world contingencies anywhere on the globe. This multi-channel radio with frequency hopping capability prevents radio communication jamming between HIROCC and fighters by its adversaries.

LINEAGE

169 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron
Oct. 7, 1956

STATIONS

Wheeler AAF, HI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

LTC Scott W. Hoadley
LTC Dewey D.A. Arakawa
LTC Dennis K. Matsuura

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
July 1, 1973 to June 30, 1975

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The HANG multi-stationed AC&W structure was reorganized Oct. 7, 1956. The 169 ACWS was formed from a 109th cadre with headquarters at Sand island and operational facility at Kokohead Crater AFS. At that time, it provided Hawaii with an early warning system during daylight hours. A train trolley carried people and supplies to the top of Kokohead Crater where the unit's wooden buildings and outdoor latrine stood on a dusty landscape beneath Kiawe trees.

Maj. Kiyoshi P. Goya was appointed Commander, Capt. George T. Miki was Aircraft Controller Staff Officer and Capt. John C.Y. Ing was C-E Staff Officer. The 109th ACWS was cut down in numbers, and the station was established at Punamano AFS only.

The 169 ACWS installed a new Search Radar (FPS-8) and allied equipment at Kokohead Crater AFS. The Sand Island facility was abandoned and the station of the 169 ACWS became solely Kokohead Crater AFS, Dec. 15, 1957. The 169 commenced 24 hour active air defense Feb. 1, 1958.

The 169 introduced a new split drill schedule in October. This gave more opportunity for concentrated OJT of all personnel, as the number on duty at any one time was small.

The 169 had their hands full: the Mount Kaala Complex was completed and the \$3 million gear was checked out

The 169 closed up shop at Kokohead Crater AFS, July 1, 1965 and at the same instant "opened shop" at the multi-stationed Mount Kaala Complex: operations and radio maintenance at Building 204, Wheeler AFB; radar maintenance jointly with the FAA atop Mt. Kaala; and radio-relay to/from the 150th on Kauai at Punamano AFS. The 109th ACWS ended its activities at Punamano AFS and moved to Kokohead Crater AFS July 1,1965. Maj. Paul S. Mori assumed command of this proud senior ACWS August 1st.

The 169 ACWS, meanwhile, underwent a reorganization. The unit's authorized strength was reduced from 235 to 180. The ground power and communications center sections were deactivated and the air police section was reactivated. There were no changes in the unit's mission or location.

The 169 received its initial exposure to the Tactical Air Control System performing the role of Control and Reporting Center in its active support of Exercise Cope Elite. This was a Joint Chiefs of Staff coordinated, Commander-in-Chief Pacific sponsored joint exercise conducted in support of the Army's Exercise held from April-June.

Col. Goya commanded the 169 ACWS before assuming command from Lt. Col. Paul S. Mori.

Lt. Col. Donald M. O'Day was transferred from the headquarters to assume the position of Commander of the 169 ACWS.

During the May UTA, the 169 ACWS was presented the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for exceptional and meritorious service in support of military operations from July 1973 to June 1975. Maj. Gen. Charles C. Patillo, Vice Commander-in-Chief of Pacific Air Forces, made the presentation.

On Jan. 25, 1979, the AC&W units were assigned to the 154th COMCG.

Fiscal year 1983 was highlighted by the dedication of a new building housing the HIROCC part of the nationwide Joint Surveillance System on Sept. 24, 1983. The Hawaii Air Defense System is utilizing state-of-the-art technology and equipment. Its computer processes large amounts of data and displays the information in near-real time, replacing the radar scopes and manual plotting boards used by the HANG since 1956. By 1984, the HANG took control of the HIROCC highlighted by the Initial Operational Capability of the HIROCC. The first ACT/DACT mission was conducted on Mar. 20, 1984. On May 22, 1984, operations at the HIROCC were initiated on a 12 hour per day basis and on June 10, operations assumed full 24 hour manning of the HIROCC. A live System Air Defense Exercise was conducted on June 23, 1984. The System Turnover Certificate for the HIROCC was dated

The 169 ACWS replaced the older radar scopes and manual plotting boards and moved into new facilities known as the Hawaii Regional Operations Control Center (HIROCC) on June 29, 1984. The HIROCC is one of seven region/sector operation control centers located in the United States and Canada which make up the Joint Surveillance System responsible for the US air defense. The radar units and support squadrons conduct various exercises and training scenarios to measure combat effectiveness and readiness. Group commanders debrief the results with affected agencies, and attempt to determine what measures can be used to improve customer responsiveness.

Lt. Col. Donald M. O'Day, 169 ACWS Commander, retired on Jan. 3, 1986 and was replaced by Lt. Col. Norman Chang.

The 169 ACWS also takes part in humanitarian efforts and community service. On September 1992, Hurricane Iniki devastated the island of Kauai. Members from the 169 ACWS came to Kauai's aid by staffing the voting booths during the island's primary elections; worked at the Oahu State Civil Defense operations control center; and arrived in Kauai days after the hurricane to provide security, clean-up and hand out food, plastic-bags, lumber and other materials to aid residents in rebuilding their lives and homes. Since January 1993, the 169 takes part in the State Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Highway Program. Chairperson, Capt. Kyle Yanagisawa organizes this event once a quarter to serve the community and inspire unit camaraderie. The 169 performs its state and federal missions with such skill and dedication, it received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award seven times.

In 1994, Lt. Col. Patrick Casey and MSgt. Milton Yamamoto along with 169ACWS and 154 ACS personnel participated in a Headquarters Air Combat Command sponsored Tactics

Development and Evaluation of Night Vision Devices with the 199 Fighter Squadron. Weapons control support was provided by these AC&W personnel using modular control equipment of the 255 ACS, Gulfport, MS. with successful results.

A conversion period for the assumption of the active Air Force duties began in October 1995. The HIANG will have the authority to scramble the HIANG F-15s on 24-hour alert, authority previously done only by the active Air Force.

Alaska's Cope Thunder, Korea's Team Spirit, Japan's Cope North, and Thailand's Cobra Gold. Because their years of experience surpass many of their active-duty counterparts, HIROCC members are well known and sought after for their expertise and advice. Five HIROCC operations personnel went to Saudi Arabia from June to December 95 for the country's Peace Shield Program. Capt. Jeff Waechter, Capt. Kyle Yanagisawa, SMSgt. Robert Suzui, MSgt. Roy Sunaoka, and MSgt. Gary Ishii visited Saudi military installations to evaluate its air defense systems.

Together these five members with more than 120 years of experience in Air Defense represented the United States as evaluators of "Peace Shield," the Royal Saudi Air Force Air Defense System.

The 169 sent its first team to "Top Scope 96," the Air Force competition to determine the best in Air Defense and AWACS units worldwide. The HIROCC team, which went to Tynclall AFB, Florida in March 1996, included weapons assignment officer - Capt. Jeff Waechter; weapons director - Capt. Peter Ching; weapons technician - SMSgt Deogracius Agbayani; tracking technician - SSgt. Obed Sniffen; and ID technician - SSgt. Selwyn Valenciano. Capt. Waechter tied for first place as weapons assignment officer and SSgt. Obed Sniffen placed first among tracking technicians throughout the Air Force/ Guard.

In 1994-1995 the 169 participated in exercise Sentry Aloha which included F-16s from Texas ANG

In 1996 the 169 deployed to Eielson AFB, AK for exercise Cope Thunder.

Air defense system upgraded The 169 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron also underwent some changes. One of the most significant changes was the departure of the old air defense system. The AN/FYQ93 was shut down after 22 years during a termination sequence May 19, 2006. The Battle Control System-Fixed was put in its place with its open architecture design to allow the Hawaii Air Defense system to expand and grow to meet emerging threats to our homeland security.

Hawaiian Air Guardsmen Visit Philippines Members of the Hawaii Air National Guard's 154th Wing last month returned home to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from the Philippines after a

week of exchange with Philippine airmen on air defense and command and control issues, according to a wing release. The airmen from the 109th Air Operation Group and the 169 Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron traveled to Col. Jesus Villamor Air Base in Pasay City for meetings with their Philippine counterparts from Aug. 19 to Aug. 23, states the Aug. 30 release. The guests and hosts took turns giving briefings and sharing expertise on topics like C2, identification, surveillance, tactics, weapons, and the role of the air operations center. This trip took place under the auspices of the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. 2013

Air battle managers with the Hawaiian Air National Guard's 169 Air Control and Warning Squadron were able to train virtually for the first time at home at Wheeler Army Airfield with fighter units in the continental United States. Thanks to Air Forces Northern's Distributed Mission Operations network, these Air Guardsmen practiced air defense intercept procedures for homeland defense with fighter pilots flying in simulators at the Distributed Training Operations Center in Des Moines, Iowa, according to AFNORTH's Jan. 23 release. The battle managers were tied to the pilots via the DMO network's interconnected command, control, communications, and computer equipment during the Jan. 15 exercise. "The DMO capability will have a great impact for our members' training and for our unit's combat mission readiness," said Maj. Blane Vilorio, 169 ACWS director of operations. The distributed network obviates the need for the Hawaiian Air Guardsmen to travel to temporary-duty locations to train and maintain their currency, states the release. 2014

USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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