

109th AIRCRAFT CONTROL AND WARNING SQUADRON



LINEAGE

STATIONS

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

December 1950, the 109th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron (109 ACWS) was organized. Maj. Valentine Siefermann was commander at federal recognition.

Maj. Frank R. Harlocker assumed command of the 109th ACWS in April 1951. Maj. Siefermann went to Fort Rucker and became Air Staff Officer of the Adjutant General's staff replacing Lt. Col. John Piper. Maj. James R. Ashford became Operations Officer of the 109th ACWS and Capt. Kiyoshi P. Goya took over the position of Radar Station Supervisor.

The 109th ACWS moved from its home at Battery Closson at Fort Kamehameha to the Kokohead Crater Radar Station. Maj. James R. Ashford assumed command of the 109th on Nov. 19 1952.

The 109th ACWS held end-to-end summer encampments at Kokohead Crater AFS. Training was on a 24-hour basis, emphasizing jet transition, F-86E formation flying, familiarization aerial gunnery, and ground control interception missions in conjunction with the 109th. **1953**

Feb. 15, 1955, Maj. Robert E. Paine assumed command of the 109th ACWS

The 109th ACWS acquired a second home in November 1955, the former Federal Quarantine Station at Sand Island that was used as a Prisoner of War compound during World War II. A dozen buildings for training facilities were rehabilitated. A Butler hangar was erected for supply. A temperate tower and a AN/FPS-8 search operational facility remained at Kokohead Crater AFS.

Aircraft Control and Warning workers began a crash program. The tower erected at Sand Island was hurriedly dismantled and re-erected at Punamano under the leadership of Capt. Arthur Ishimoto, MSGts Susumu Furuike and Charles Singletary. Seventh Air Force rehabilitated existent structures at Punamano, a small operations building, a generator shed, a latrine, and a small supply building. A new air/ground radio building was constructed.

Maj. Robert G. O'Hara assumed command of the multi-based 109th ACWS May 31, 1956. Capt. Peter M. Fowler was the Operations Officer and Maj. Kiyoshi P. Goya was the Electronics Officer.

At Punamano, Capt. Arthur Ishimolo was the Air Technician Supervisor with 54 full-time men. The controllers (Capt. Frederick M. Hemmings, Harold K. Lee, Lts. Paul S. Mori, William E. Mossman and Donald O'Day) also provided GCIs for the Marine FJ-2s. Most of the flying was from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., sometimes flying from sundown to sunup. A tremendous number of intercepts were logged. The controllers developed calluses on their elbows and resorted to wearing rubber pads. Seventh Air Force conducted its first air defense exercise in Oct. 1956. It lasted some four hours, and the targets were B-29s and T-33s. The "box score" was 100% of the fakers detected, identified, intercepted and ... destroyed.

The HANG multi-stationed AC&W structure was reorganized Oct. 7, 1956. The 169th ACWS was formed from a 109th cadre with headquarters at Sand island and operational facility at Kokohead Crater AFS. 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 pace of the 109th HANG at Punamano AFS began to accelerate rapidly. They formed a Detachment under the command of Maj. Robert W. Liddle to operate the rapidly completing \$323,310 operations facility at Kokee AFS, Kauai. Capt. Donald M. O'Day led the complicated transfer of personnel from Oahu to Kauai - for there had to be leapfrog continuity of ACW active

air defense from Punamano AFS to Kokee AFS. At 8:30 a.m., Mar. 15, 1961, "B" crew began active air defense operations from Kokee AFS. "A" crew left for Kauai that afternoon, and the leapfrog was completed.

Capt. William E. Mossman assumed command of Det. 1, 109th ACWS at Kokee AFS, Kauai. July 1, 1961. Capt. O'Day, Ops Officer of Det. 1, returned to Oahu and became Ops Officer of the 169th to Kokohead Crater AFS.

The 150th ACWS was activated Oct. 21, 1961, with station at Kokee AFS, Kauai. Capt. William E. Mossman was appointed Commander. The 109th ACWS at Punamano AFS had a resultant reduction in its personnel authorizations. (The HANG redoubled its efforts to have the 109th mission changed to mobile communications.)

Maj. Dewitt C. Bye assumed command of the 109th ACWS Jul. 31, 1962

Maj. Donald O'Day assumed command of the 109th ACWS Aug. 1, 1964.

The 169th 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 201st Mobile Communications Squadron was activated Mar. 6, 1967 with initial duty at Battery Selfridge. Maj. Paul S. Mori was appointed Commander. The 109th ACWS was inactivated.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources