

154th AIR CONTROL SQUADRON



LINEAGE

154th Tactical Control Squadron, Jun 1990
Federally recognized, 16 Jul 1990
Redesignated 154th Air Control Squadron 16 Jun 1992

STATIONS

Waimea, HI

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

Col Myron N. Dobashi.
LTC Norman S. Nitta, Jun 1993
LTC Myles M. Moriguchi

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 154th Air Control Squadron (154 ACS) provides a trained unit with qualified personnel to be available for active duty in the Air Force in time of war or national emergency and at such other times as the national security may require. Specifically, the 154 ACS provide a mobile, self sustainable, combat ready, forward extension and control element to meet world wide contingency requirements of the Air Force ground theater air control system (GTACS). Its mission is to provide the senior theater commander with an additional means to plan, direct, and execute joint or combined air operations. Capabilities and services include providing an air surveillance picture, an aircraft control and force marshaling capability, and a communications network, with data link capability, to support air operations and the air command structure. The ground radar operations section, with the unit support, is designed to provide command and control for air operations, aircraft surveillance and identification, weapons control and airspace management utilizing sophisticated radar, communications, and data link systems.

The 154 ACS traces its roots to the 150th Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron's reorganization. The Air Force mandated the draw down of the 150 ACWS on October 1, 1989, due to force reduction and budgetary-reasons. At the same time, a Pacific Air Forces/VIANG initiative was approved to establish a mobile radar mission in Hawaii. The 154 TCS (later changed to the 154 Air Control Squadron) was established in June 1990 and federally recognized on July 16, 1990. Many of the highly skilled and trained personnel whose positions were affected by the reorganization of the 150 ACWS were assigned to the 154 TCS. The 154 TCS was a manual system, Forward Air Control Post (FACP) mobile radar unit utilizing the TPS-43 radar. From its beginnings in 1990 through November 1995, the unit was housed in the Kekaha Armory until it moved into new facilities on the Pacific Missile Range Facility in December 1995.

In September, 1992, the facilities at the Kekaha Armory suffered extensive damage due to Hurricane Iniki. Quick response by 154 ACS personnel kept damage to the unit's equipment, files and programs to a minimum. The 154 ACS was not State activated at this time because so many of its personnel had been affected by the hurricane. Nevertheless, members of the 154 ACS volunteered for duty at the Mobility Control Center at Barking Sands and at Disaster Assistance Centers elsewhere on Kauai. Others from the 154 ACS assisted with emergency roof repairs and ice distribution to the civilian population. 154 ACS personnel also helped with the clean-up efforts on land and in the Koloa River, which had become choked with debris from the hurricane.

Ground breaking for the new unit training facility occurred in August 1994 and the building was completed during November 1995. This new facility was designed with the unit's mobility mission in mind. A drive on-drive off mound for the radar and satellite communication equipment facilitates mobility readiness; storage and supply warehouse, generator shop, vehicle maintenance bays, paint booth, and electronics workshops were designed to maximize productivity. The buildings have 30,000 square feet under the roof and the site is about 6.5 acres within the fence line.

The 154 ACS entered a two-year equipment conversion program to the Modular Control Equipment during Jan 1995 and will be completed in Jan 1997. The first of two MCE modules arrived in October 1994 and the second module was delivered on 15 June 95. The conversion will

enable the 154 ACS to be equipped with the latest command, control, and communication equipment available. The unit will have converted from a manual system Forward Air Control Post to an automated Control and Reporting Element.

Air Force Order of Battle

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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

Unit History. HI ANG. *Five Decades of Service Excellence*. 1996.