

# **10<sup>th</sup> AIR RESCUE GROUP**

## **LINEAGE**

## **STATIONS**

Elmendorf AFB, AK

## **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

## **ATTACHMENTS**

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

## **UNIT COLORS**

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

## **MOTTO**

## NICKNAME

## OPERATIONS

Following the war, all the activities were consolidated into one unit, the 10th Air Rescue Squadron. It was activated 1 April 1946 at Elmendorf Field, and Lt. Col. Edward E. Cunningham served as its first commander. The famed arctic and Antarctic aviator, Col. Bernt Balchen, assumed command in November 1948 and retained this position until October 1950.

The 10th Air Rescue Squadron remained under AAC control until 1 July 1950, when it was transferred to the Air Rescue Service. During the 1940s and early 1950s, the 10th was equipped with OA-10s, SB-17s, C-45s, L-5s, and R-5 helicopters.

Detachments were maintained at Elmendorf AFB, Ladd AFB, and Adak Naval Station. The 10th was redesignated as a group on 4 November 1952. At the same time, the detachments were upgraded to squadrons, which resulted in the assignment of the 71st and 72nd Air Rescue Squadrons to Elmendorf AFB, the 73rd Air Rescue Squadron to Adak Naval Station, and the 74th Air Rescue Squadron to Ladd AFB. The 72nd and 73rd were inactivated in September and November of the following year, in response to the withdrawal of Air Force units from the Aleutians.

During this period, the 10th Air Rescue Group became widely known in Alaska as "The Guardian of the North," and provided support not only to the military but also to the civilian communities. The group established a pattern that would be followed in the years ahead. A rescue coordination center was maintained at Elmendorf AFB on a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week basis to coordinate search-and-rescue activities, which included any support given by civilian agencies throughout Alaska.

The group's responsibilities were threefold: search, aid and rescue. The search function was performed by specially equipped aircraft and ground vehicles, as well as dog teams, which were used occasionally. Aid was rendered by highly trained paramedics, who were capable of parachuting to the rescue scene when necessary. Rescue was carried out by several means, including the use of helicopters, amphibious and conventional aircraft, and surface vehicles.

The 10th Air Rescue Group continued to provide support to AAC's growing air defense system. By 1957, with the steady decline in AAC forces, Headquarters, USAF, questioned the need to continue the group, particularly in view of the contemplated reduction of search-and-rescue forces worldwide. The 72nd Air Rescue Squadron was inactivated on 8 December 1957, and the 10th Air Rescue Group on 8 January 1958.

In September 1954 the 8th ARG was established to perform the mission of Strategic Air Command aircrew recovery in the polar region and Pacific Ocean. Stateside units assigned Albatrosses included the 10th ARS at Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

500316	LC-126A	49-1955	A Fit	10ARS	Elmendorf AFB, AK	LACGL	Prior, Thomas W. Jr.	Lake Hood Aux. Strip
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510708	SH-5A	43-46616	Ladd AFB, AK	TOAEF	Alden, Frank A.	Ladd AFB
510710	LC-126A	49-1948	Elmendorf AFB, AK	LAC	Logan, Lewis BC.	Snug Harbor
461203	C-45F	44-47674		LAC	Green, Alvey F	Erding Air Depot
510728	SH-5F	47-0489	Elmendorf AFB, AK	TOA	Pullen, John L.	Sparrevohn
511204	SC-47B	45-0894	Elmendorf AFB, AK	ACC	Cronin, Lawrence C.	CLASSIFIED
511209	LC-126A	49-1954	Elmendorf AFB, AK	TOA	Holdiman, Roy L.	65 Mi NW Lake Hood

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Air Force Order of Battle  
Created: 22 May 2013  
Updated:

Sources

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