

1 PHOTO FLIGHT (LIGHT)

MISSION

LINEAGE

1 Photo Flight (Light)

STATIONS

Shemya, AK

ASSIGNMENTS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

On April 15, 1943, an Army Air Base Service Unit was formed on Shemya. This unit consisted of the First Photo Flight (L); Detachment 11th Flight Control Squadron; Base Medical Detachments; three officers of a detachment from the 861st Signal Service Company (Avn.); two officers of a detachment of the 2055th Ordnance Company Avn. (SV); and five enlisted men of the 11th Air Force Finance Detachment. It had a total strength of fourteen officers and thirty-seven enlisted men upon activation.

On May 10, 1943, one of the longest reconnaissance missions departed Shemya. Twelve B-24s of the 404th Bombardment Squadron (H), with an objective of Paramushiru, one the Kuril group of islands, divided into two groups of six each upon arrival over the target. One group photographed the western section while the other photographed the eastern section, and a total of over 1,300 negatives were taken. Personnel of the First Photo Flight (L) developed them and made 8,000 prints in less than forty-eight hours. The next day the most successful bombing raid in the history of the 404th took place.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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