

# **490<sup>th</sup> AIR ENGINEERING SQUADRON**

## **MISSION**

## **LINEAGE**

490th Air Engineering Squadron  
Disbanded, 8 Oct 1948

## **STATIONS**

Kahuku AAF, Territory of Hawaii

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

386<sup>th</sup> Air Service Group

## **COMMANDERS**

## **HONORS**

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 386th Air Service Group arrived at Honolulu Harbor from Seattle, from Ft. Lawton, Wash., aboard the Liberty ship John W. Weeks on June 17, 1944. The group spent a few weeks in preparation for deployment overseas. Upon debarking, they were transported to Kahuku AAB aboard an OR&L Co. steam locomotive for a six hour journey that was only 40 miles in length.

Living quarters at the base consisted of huts, barracks and tents, surrounded with dirt, sand and mud. Within a couple days, the group's members had settled in their new surroundings and shops and sections had been set up.

By July 1944, the group had been restructured and consisted of: Headquarters and Base Service Squadron, 490th Air Engineering Squadron and the 611th Air Material Squadrons, which were larger in troop strength than prior to the reconstructing. Colonel Cook was the group CO assisted by Captain Mills, the 490th was under Captain Sperry, and the 611th was commanded by Captain Head.

In the final days of September, the 386th ASG underwent jungle training at the "Unit Jungle Training Center" located at Kahana Bay, down the coast from Kahuku. The group had the distinction of being the first USAAF troops to enroll in the rigid course that included handling a variety of weapons, jungle and swamp survival.

While troops of the 386th were in the last phase of jungle training, the unit was assigned a change of station to Bellows AAB located some 28 air miles SSE of Kahuku AAB in October 1944.

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.