

## 11 TACTICAL CONTROL GROUP



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

531 Aircraft Control and Warning Group established, 22 May 1948  
Activated, 21 Jun 1948  
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1950  
Activated, 17 Nov 1950  
Inactivated, 13 Apr 1953  
Activated, 15 Nov 1977  
Redesignated 11 Tactical Control Group, 1 Jul 1981

#### STATIONS

McChord AFB, WA, 21 Jun 1948-5 Jul 1949  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 13 Jul 1949-1 Jan 1950  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 17 Nov 1950-13 Apr 1953  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 1977

#### ASSIGNMENTS

Fourth Air Force, 21 Jun 1948  
Continental Air Command, 1 Dec 1948-5 Jul 1949  
Alaskan Air Command, 13 Jul 1949-1 Jan 1950  
10<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 17 Nov 1950  
Alaskan Air Command, 20 Jul 1951  
10<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Nov 1952-13 Apr 1953

21<sup>st</sup> Composite Wing, 15 Nov 1977  
Alaskan Air Command, 16 Apr 1979

## **ATTACHMENTS**

505<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Group, 21 Jun-27 Sep 1948

## **COMMANDERS**

Cpt Enoch P Lenon, Jun 1948  
Maj Thomas R Nelson, Jun 1948  
Maj John Kirsch, Jun 1948  
LTC Lester F Mathison, 21 Jul 1948  
Unkn, 1 Oct 1949-1 Jan 1950.  
Unkn, 17 Nov 1950-31 Oct 1951  
LTC Fred A Deyo, 1 Nov 1951  
Unkn, 9 Nov 1952-13 Apr 1953  
Col Robert T Cassell, 15 Nov 1977  
LTC Raymond C. Haag, 15 Aug 1978  
Col Leland T Kennedy, 1 Nov 1978  
Col James P Sweeney, 29 Sep 1982  
Col Arthur D Kerr, 19 Dec 1983  
Col Robert B Hinckley, 14 Mar 1986  
Col Thomas T Walker, 15 Sep 1986

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award  
1 Jan-31 Dec 1978  
1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984  
1 Oct 1985-30 Sep 1987

## **EMBLEM**



531<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Control and Warning Group emblem



11<sup>th</sup> Tactical Control Group emblem approved, 25 Mar 1983

**MOTTO**

**NICKNAME**

**OPERATIONS**

Trained at McChord AFB, WA, prior to its transfer to Alaska in 1949. Played a vital role in the air defense of Alaska, establishing and maintaining aircraft warning and control sites in support of the 10th Air Division and Alaskan Air Command in the southern half of Alaska.

Group facilities included radar, ground observer, communications, and fighter-interceptor control networks.

Operated through its subordinate squadron detachments at Elmendorf, Davis (Aleutian Islands), Ladd, Naknek, Marks, Clear, and Galena AFBs, and at Gambell Point (St. Lawrence Island). Inactivated in Jan 1950, it again activated the following Nov and constructed an aircraft control and warning network which included Farewell, Bethel, Kenai, and Willow, Alaska. In 1952 the 531st Group established aircraft control and warning facilities at Takotna, Newenham, Romanzof, Fire Island, and Sparrevohn. Construction of the latter site was a major undertaking, involving massive airlifting of equipment and materials into the interior of Alaska. Group completed some of its sites just prior to inactivation in 1953.

Activated on 15 Nov 1977 to manage thirteen aircraft control and warning squadrons, operating radar stations throughout Alaska, at Cape Lisburne, Kotzebue, Fort Yukon, Murphey Dome, King Salmon, Campion, Cape Romanzof, Cape Newenham, Tatalina, Tin City, Indian Mountain, Sparrevohn, and Cold Bay. Provided a radar command and control system for employment of Alaskan air defense and tactical air forces. Provided personnel and training for the Alaskan NORAD Region Control Center, 15 Nov 1977-22 Apr 1983.

In 1980 AAC began a major modernization of the Alaskan ground environment. On 1 Jul 1981 group redesignated from an aircraft control and warning group to a tactical control group and gained control of the 3d Air Support Operations Center Flight. Gained responsibility to provide tactical air control parties and an air support operations center for US Army ground forces in Alaska. By mid-1983 the surveillance and intercept network had converted from a manual to an automated system and the Alaskan

The group became the single manager for ensuring that the contractor personnel maintained the automated radar stations. By Aug 1985 the 1950's era radar at the remote stations was replaced by three-dimensional Minimally Attended Radar.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.