

## 168<sup>th</sup> AIR REFUELING WING



### LINEAGE

*168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group, activated, 23 Oct 1990*

*168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group activated, 1 Jul 1990*

*Redesignated 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing,*

### STATIONS

Eielson AFB, AK

### ASSIGNMENTS

### WEAPON SYSTEMS

**Mission Aircraft**

KC-135R

**Support Aircraft**

C-26B

### ASSIGNED TAIL/BASE CODES

### COMMANDERS

Col Donald S. Wenke, 5 April 2008 - 31 March 2011

### HONORS

**Service Streamers**

**Campaign Streamers**

**Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

**Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

8 Jan 1991-7 Jan 1993

8 Jan 1993-Jun 1995

**EMBLEM**

The upper right of the shield consists of a compass rose against a yellow background. The compass rose signifies the global nature of the Wing mission and is set at a 30 degree angle to the east representing the magnetic variation of Alaska where the Group was first formed. The yellow background represents the midnight sun at our latitude and the day aspect of the air refueling mission. The lower left of the shield depicts a red lightning bolt running from cloud to cloud against a blue background. The red lightning bolt signifies the projection of military power, the clouds are the medium in which we perform our mission, and the blue background the Arctic night and the night aspect of our mission. The red lightning bolt is also a prominent feature of the squadron patch from which the 168th Air Refueling Group/Wing evolved. Between the yellow and blue fields is a bar of ultramarine blue containing eight yellow stars. The ultramarine blue is Air Force blue representing our role in the Total Force; it is also the background color of the Alaska flag. The eight yellow stars are the stars of the big dipper also found on the Alaska flag.

**MOTTO****NICKNAME****OPERATIONS**

The 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is the only Arctic-region refueling unit for all of PACAF, and maintains a substantial number of personnel on active duty and civilian technician status in order to meet its daily operational requirements. The Wing's Primary Assigned Aircraft is eight KC-135Rs; there is also one Backup Aircraft Inventory. The 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing completed its R-model conversion in 1995, and in 2000 they completed a major flight deck upgrade called "Pacer CRAG" Compass, Radar, and Guidance Positioning System.

The mission of the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is to train and equip KC-135R combat crews to provide air refueling in support of PACAF Operations Plans. The peacetime mission provides air refueling training and exercise support for all 11th Air Force AWACS and fighter aircraft as well as alert tankers and crews to support Alaska NORAD Region plans and RC-135X/S refueling requirements. Besides a federally directed mission requirement, as a unit of the Alaska National Guard, the 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is an asset of the Governor of Alaska. As such, the Governor can direct the unit to respond to emergencies declared or missions required within the State.

The 168<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, with an authorized end strength of 700 personnel, has command and control over twelve subordinate assigned units whose missions includes all aircraft maintenance for nine PACAF gained KC-135R, providing financial, transportation, contracting, and base supply resources, communications, data processing, and visual information functions,

organizational security, disaster preparedness and air base operability, all personnel activities including training, social actions and recruiting, and limited diagnostic and therapeutic service in general medicine, flight medicine, bioenvironmental, environmental, and dental services.



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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

#### 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. AK ANG. *Alaska Air National Guard, The 40th Anniversary, 40 Years and Still Going Strong, 1952-1992.*