

## ELEVENTH AIR FORCE



### LINEAGE

Alaskan Air Force established, 28 Dec 1941

Activated, 15 Jan 1942

Redesignated 11th Air Force, 5 Feb 1942

Redesignated Eleventh Air Force, 18 Sep 1942

Redesignated Alaskan Air Command and assumed major command status, 18 Dec 1945

Redesignated Eleventh Air Force, 9 Aug 1990 and concurrently, status changed from a major command of the United States Air Force to a subordinate organization of Pacific Air Forces

\*Not to be confused with the other Eleventh Air Force established on May 13, 1946. Activated on June 13, 1946 at Olmsted Field, Pennsylvania, and assigned to Air Defense Command. Inactivated on July 1, 1948.

### STATIONS

Elmendorf Field, AK, 15 Jan 1942

Adak, AK, 10 Aug 1943

Elmendorf Field, AK, 1 Oct 1946

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

Pacific Air Forces, 9 Aug 1990

## **COMMANDERS**

LTC Everett S. Davis, 15 Jan 1942  
Col Lionel H. Dunlap, 17 Feb 1942  
MG William O. Butler, 8 Mar 1942  
MG Davenport Johnson, 13 Sep 1943  
BG Isaiah Davies, 4 May 1945  
MG John B. Brooks, 22 Jun 1945  
BG Edmund C. Lynch, 21 Dec 1945  
MG Joseph H. Atkinson, 1 Oct 1946  
MG Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., 26 Feb 1949  
MG William D. Old, 27 Dec 1950  
BG Walter R. Agee, 27 Oct 1952  
MG George R. Acheson, 26 Feb 1953  
Brig Gen T. Alan Bennett, 2 Feb 1956  
Lt Gen Joseph A. Atkinson, 24 Feb 1956  
Maj Gen Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., 17 Jul 1956  
Maj Gen James H. Davies, 24 Oct 1956  
Lt Gen Frank A. Armstrong, Jr., 27 Jun 1957  
Brig Gen Kenneth H. Gibson, 19 Aug 1957  
Maj Gen Conrad F. Necrason, 14 Aug 1958  
Brig Gen Jack A. Gibbs, 20 Jul 1961  
Maj Gen Wendell W. Bowman, 26 Jul 1961  
Col Alfred V. Walton, 9 Aug 1963  
Maj Gen James C. Jensen, 15 Aug 1963  
Maj Gen Thomas E. Moore, 15 Nov 1966  
Maj Gen Joseph A. Cunningham, 25 Jul 1969  
Maj Gen Donovan F. Smith, 31 Jul 1972  
Col John A. Nelson, 6 Jun 1973  
Maj Gen Charles W. Carson, Jr., 18 Jun 1973  
Col David T. Stockman, 3 Mar 1974  
Maj Gen Jack K. Gamble, 19 Mar 1974  
LTG James E. Hill, 1 Jul 1975  
LTG Marion L. Boswell, 15 Oct 1976  
LTG Winfield W. Scott, Jr., 27 Jun 1978  
LTG Lynwood E. Clark, 31 Mar 1981  
LTG Bruce K. Brown, 26 Aug 1981  
LTG David L. Nichols, 27 Sep 1985  
LTG Thomas G. McInerney, 23 May 1988  
LTG Joseph W. Ralston, 13 Jul 1992  
LTG Lawrence E. Boese, 29 Jun 1994  
LTG Patrick K. Gamble, 21 Aug 1996

LTG David J. McCloud, 18 Dec 1997  
BG Tommy F. Crawford, 26 Jul 1998  
LTG Thomas R. Case, 3 Oct 1998  
LTG Norton A. Schwartz, 26 Sep 2000  
LTG Carrol H. Chandler, 30 Sep 2002  
LTG Douglas M. Fraser, 11 Oct 2005

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Japan  
Aleutian Islands

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award  
15 Jul 1985-14 Jul 1987

#### Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005  
1 Nov 2005-31 Oct 2007

## **EMBLEM**

On an ultramarine blue shield, a red Arabic numeral "11" outlined in white, above a winged white star, bend sinisterwise, with a red disc in the center, wing golden yellow. (Approved, 13 Aug 1943. This insignie was superseded by another, 23 May 1947; revised, 4 Jun 1990)

## **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The winged star-in-circle is adapted from the Air Force logo and is a stylized representation of the North Star, which suggests the 11th Air Force's home base in Alaska and the scope of the organization's defense mission. The "11" refers to the numerical designation of the unit.

On an ultramarine blue shield 2 1/2 inches (6.35 cm) in height and 2 3/8 inches (6.03 cm) in width a red number "11" outlined in white 3/4 inch (1.91 cm) in height above a winged white star, bendsinisterwise, 1 inch (2,54 cm) in diameter with a red disc in the center, wing golden yellow.

## Symbolism

The winged star represents the Army Air Forces and the number "11" the unit designation.

## Background

The shoulder sleeve insignia was approved on 13 August 1943.

## **MOTTO**

**TOP COVER FOR AMERICA**

In 1952, Col Robert F. Fulton, the Elmendorf AFB base commander,, offered a \$25 cash award for anyone who could come up with a motto for Elmendorf AFB. A committee of five, headed by Maj. Charles W. Hinkle, the public information officer, Alaskan Command, sifted through some 200 entries, which included: "Russian Roadblock," "Stalin's Stalemate," and "First in Defense of the Last Frontier." Finally, they selected "Top Cover for America," submitted by Master Sgt. Douglas B. Hills from the 1931st Airways and Air Communications Service Squadron, later 1931st Communications Group. Sgt. Hills received his money, and the motto was printed on a sign near the main gate to Elmendorf AFB. In October 1969, Lt. Col. Charles T. Gale, the director of management analysis, AAC, decided to include the motto in a capsule data booklet his staff was preparing for the new AAC commander, Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Cunningham. He suggested that AAC adopt the motto as its own. His recommendation was approved. Although it took AAC 17 years to begin using Top Cover for America," the motto aptly described the importance of AAC's air defense mission during the 1950s.

## **OPERATIONS**

Primary air command element in the offensive that drove the Japanese from the Aleutians, attacked the enemy in the Kuril Islands, and served as part of the defense force for Alaska. From the 1950s through the 1980s, served as the primary air command for the Alaskan theater, expanded and maintained key air defenses through extensive air control and early warning systems, and commanded interceptor forces responsible for countering Soviet bomber threats. With the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, the command shifted its emphasis to maintaining proficient combat forces and conducting operational training.



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Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 23 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

AFHRA

Air Force Magazine Almanacs. Air Force Association. Arlington, VA. Various years.