

407th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

17th Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942

Activated, 1 Mar 1942

Redesignated 407th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 April 1942

Redesignated 407th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 27 Sep 1944

Inactivated, 28 Feb 1946

407th Air Refueling Squadron, Strategic Fighter constituted, 13 Nov 1953

Activated, 18 Dec 1953

Redesignated 407th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium, 15 Sep 1958

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Jul 1961

Redesignated 407th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy and activated, 26 Jan 1962

Organized, 1 Apr 1962)

407th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy and 407th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retains designation: 407th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1991

STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 1 Mar 1942

MacDill Field, FL, 26 Mar 1942

Sarasota, FL, 17 May 1942

Fort Dix, NJ, 20 Jul-5 Aug 1942
Bovington, England, 18 Aug 1942
Alconbury, England, 6 Jan 1943
Podington, England, 15 Sep 1943
Istres, France, 27 Jun 1945-28 Feb 1946
Great Falls (later, Malmstrom) AFB, MT, 18 Dec 1953-15 Jul 1961
Homestead AFB, FL, 1 Apr 1962
Loring AFB, ME, 2 Jul 1968

ASSIGNMENTS

92nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) (later, 92nd Bombardment Group, Heavy), 1 Mar 1942-28 Feb 1946
407th Strategic Fighter Wing, 18 Dec 1953
4061st Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jul 1957-15 Jul 1961
Strategic Air Command, 26 Jan 1962
19th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Apr 1962
42nd Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 2 Jul 1968

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1946
B-17E
B-17F
B-17G
KB-29, 1953-1957
KC-97, 1957-1961
KC-135, 1962

COMMANDERS

Cpt William M. Reid, 31 Mar 1942
Maj Robert B. Keck, 5 May 1942
LTC James J. Griffith Jr., 28 Jan 1943
LTC William H. Nelson, Sep 1944
LTC Lloyd D. Chapman, Feb 1945
Cpt Clarence E. Bierman, 15 Oct 1945
Cpt Robert H. Watts, 3 Nov 1945-28 Feb 1946
Unkn, 18 Dec 1953-31 Jan 1954
1Lt Gomer W. Cochran, 1 Feb 1954
LTC Walter S. Shackelford Jr. 9 Feb 1958
LTC Gregg F. Glick, 1 Feb 1959
Maj Stanford A. Ensberg 1 Jun 1960
LTC James F. Williams, 30 Sep 1960
Unkn, 1-30 Apr 1962
LTC Burl B. Davenport, 1 May 1962
LTC Philip N. Currier, 2 Jul 1968

Unkn, 30 Sep 1968-19 Sep 1970
LTC Milton M. Bryon, 20 Sep 1970
LTC Jack D. Westfall, 1 Jul 1971
LTC William F. Moffett, 15 Oct 1972
LTC Royce L Matthews, 15 Dec 1973
LTC Earl J. Morris, Jr., 30 Sep 1974
LTC William P. Hurn, 16 Jan 1976
LTC Albert R. Esser, 19 Jul 1977
LTC Franklin J Black, 16 May 1980
Maj John F. Hannigan, Jr, 5 Mar 1981
LTC Francis B. Gilligan, 21 Apr 1981
LTC Russell A. Rinkin, Jr., 18 Aug 1982
Maj John B. Longenecker, 6 Mar 1984
LTC Tome H. Walters, Jr., 18 May 1984

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM



407th Bombardment Squadron emblem



407th Air Refueling Squadron emblem: An Assiniboin Indian tribe ceremonial shield of the grass dance, a ritual of the gods of plenty, in shades of tan, white, black, and green, pendanted with six feathers in shades of gray, red, black, and white; surmounting the shield a buffalo skull, in its proper colors, charged with a parfleche pouch, in its proper colors; the pouch marked with a symbolic design in bright shades of green, red, and blue. The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and the Assiniboin Indian tribe of Montana, Where the squadron was organized in 1953. The background is the ceremonial shield of the Assiniboin grass dance, the ritual of the gods of plenty. The three feathers on the left symbolize the character of the squadron personnel: skill, alertness, and pride, while the character of the Strategic Air Command is symbolized by the three feathers on the right: strength, vigilance, and steadfastness. The buffalo skull, used by the Assiniboin Indians in spiritual ceremonies, symbolizes power and plenty. Their parfleche pouch, used to transport meat and pemmican in their travels and to warriors in combat, symbolizes the function of the squadron.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Performed antisubmarine duty while training in Florida. Squadron sailed aboard the USS WESTPOINT to England in Aug 1942. Trained replacement crews Aug 1942-Jan 1943. Bombed targets in Germany and northwestern Europe between 15 May 1943 and 25 Apr 1945. Moved to France in May 1945. Between Jun and Sep 1945 the squadron transported American personnel to North Africa on their way home.

From Activation in 1953 until summer of 1957, the 407th AREFS deployed KB-29 and crews on air refueling missions to many parts of the world, participating in a continuing series of strategic

exercises as required by Strategic Air Command. The unit conducted similar operations with the KC-97 between Jul 1957 and Jul 1961, and with the KC-135 after Jul 1962, providing air refueling support for various kinds of aircraft from several commands on missions ranging from regional movements to intercontinental flights.

On August 7, 1990, the wing began deploying aircraft, personnel, and equipment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD. During DESERT SHIELD/STORM wing bombers deployed to Diego Garcia flew 960 missions (485 combat) in 44 days, dropping 12,588,766 pounds of bombs. Loring and other tankers deployed to the same location off-loaded 31,802,500 pounds of fuel to 648 receivers. In March 1991, resources deployed to the Gulf began their return to Loring. The Air Force and SAC reorganized after the Gulf War ended, and with this reorganization plan came numerous organizational changes. The wing designation changed to the 42nd Wing under the new SAC plan. Later in 1991, Loring was designated for closure. On October 1, 1991, the 407th ARS was inactivated. December 1991 saw SAC and Loring stand down all Alert forces and Loring's KC-135s ended their 24-hour alert.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Aug 2010

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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 yearbook. *Homestead AFB, FL*. 1964.

The United States Air Force in Maine, Progeny of the Cold War. John C. Garbinski. The Maine Aviation Historical Society. Bangor Maine. 2000.