

99th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

9th Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942
Redesignated 399th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942
Activated, 15 Jul 1942
Inactivated, 1 May 1944

99th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy constituted, 12 Feb 1957
Activated, 1 Jul 1957
Inactivated, 30 Sep 1973
Activated, 1 Oct 1983

399th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) consolidated with 99th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy,
19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 99th Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991
Inactivated, 1 Sep 2008
Activated, 1 Oct 2009

STATIONS

Salt Lake City AAB, UT, 15 Jul 1942
Geiger Field, WA, 1 Sep 1942
Walla Walla AAB, WA, 21 Sep 1942
Rapid City AAB, SD, 26 Oct 1942
Walla Walla AAB, WA, 28 Nov 1942
Redmond Muni Aprt, OR, 1 Jan 1943
Walla Walla AAB, WA, 2 Feb 1943
Madras AAFld, OR, 11 Jun 1943

Walla Walla AAFld, WA, 21 Jul 1943
Avon Park AAFld, FL, 7 Nov 1943–1 May 1944
Turner AFB, GA, 1 Jul 1957
Westover AFB, MA, 22 Aug 1957–30 Sep 1973
Robins AFB, GA, 1 Oct 1983-1 Sep 2008
Birmingham IAP, AL, 1 Oct 2009

ASSIGNMENTS

88th Bombardment Group, 15 Jul 1942–1 May 1944
4050th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jul 1957
499th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jan 1963
99th Bombardment Wing, 1 Jan 1966–30 Sep 1973
19th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1983
19th Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
6 Operations Group, 1 Oct 2009

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942–1944
B-17F
KC-135A, 1957–1973
EC-135, 1965–1970
KC-135, 1983
EC-135, 1984
EC-137, 1991
KC-135R

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 15 Jul 1942-1 May 1944
LTC George M. Broutsas, 1 Jul 1957
LTC William O. Ross, 28 Jun 1958
Col Robert C. Bachtell, Dec 1958
LTC Silas J. Minton, c. Jul 1960
Maj James W. Burt, c. Sep 1960
LTC Silas J. Minton, by Oct 1960
LTC James W. Burt, 16 Jul 1962
LTC Earl J. Rookey, 15 Aug 1962
LTC Donald A. Currie Jr., 17 Nov 1964
LTC Lucien B. Schuler, 1 Jul 1966-30 Sep 1967
Unkn, 1 Oct 1967-31 Mar 1968
LTC Lucien B. Schuler, 1 Apr-16 Sep 1968
Unkn, 17 Sep 1968-31 Mar 1969
LTC Lucien B. Schuler, 1 Apr 1969
LTC Robert N. Gilbert, 26 Jul 1969-14 Mar 1970
Unkn, 15 Mar-22 Jun 1970

LTC Robert N. Gilbert, 23 Jun 1970
LTC Paul A. Barber, 1 Dec 1970
LTC Peter L. Smith, 15 Sep 1972
LTC Frederick Hartstein, May-30 Sep 1973
LTC W. Frasier Fortner, 14 Oct 1983
LTC Edward T. Miles, 11 Mar 1985
LTC Bennie L. Jester, 25 Jul 1985
LTC Kyle W. Rensler, 2 Feb 1987
LTC James J. Poland, 13 Jan 1989
LTC Stephen C. German, 21 Sep 1990
LTC Samuel P. Goode, 15 May 1992
LTC Charles F. Schreck, 23 Nov 1993
LTC Roger H. Ducey II, 22 Nov 199
LTC Matthew Mendenhall, 15 Feb 1996
LTC Thomas J. Stark, 22 Jul 1997
LTC Bryan J. Benson, 1 Apr 1999
LTC Joel S. Reese, 21 Jun 2000
LTC David A. Sprague, 21 Dec 2001
LTC Creg D. Paulk, 1 Jul 2003
LTC Marc C. VanWert, 30 Jun 2005
LTC Sandra M. Chandler, 12 Jan 2007
LTC Christopher D. Leist, 4 Apr-1 Sep 2008
LTC Kevin E. Schiller, 30 Sep 2009
LTC Kingston L. Lampley, 11 Jun 2011
LTC Robert A. Shelton, 28 Jun 2013

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device
2–21 Mar 1969 and 15–31 Mar 1970

Meritorious Unit Award: 1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007.

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

[1 Jul 1957]–1 Dec 1959

1 Oct 1967–1 Mar 1968

2 Mar–1 Apr 1968

1 Jul 1971–30 Jun 197

1 Oct 1983–30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1984–30 Jun 1986

1 Jun 1986–30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1993-30 Jun 1994

1 Jul 1994-30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1998-30 Jun 1999

24 Mar-10 Jun 1999

1 Jul 1999-30 Jun 2000

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2001

1 Jul 2001-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2003

1 Jul 2003-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2009 – 30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2013 – 30 Jun 2014

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

2 Mar 1969–31 Mar 1970

EMBLEM



399th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) emblem: On an orange disc, border green, a skull wearing a black top hat proper, between two green aerial bombs held in skeleton hands. (Approved, 25 Feb 1943)



On a disc Sable, a globe Azure gridlined of the first, overall a stylized aircraft to sinister Argent, leaving a trail of exhaust Gules, encircling the globe and terminating in a split trail in dexter, all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "99TH AIR REFUELING SQ" in Black letters. The background of the disc represents space and the future. The trail circumnavigating the globe indicates the speed and distance capability of the aircraft. The split trail represents the dual capability of the aircraft. (Approved, 15 May 1959; Reapproved, 11 Dec 1984 and 20 Apr 2011.

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operational training unit, Oct–Nov 1942; replacement training unit, Dec 1942–May 1943 and Nov 1943–Apr 1944.

In Dec 57, the 99 AREFS received its first KC-135

Operation Top Sail KC-135 Record Flights - On 27 and 29 June 1958, two KC-135s of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron broke the existing speed records in flights from New York to London and return. The actual official records that were established by the lead aircraft, "Alfa" (Serial Number 56-3630), which was piloted by Major Burl B. Davenport, were as follows: New York to London, five hours, 29 minutes, and 14.64 seconds; London to New York, five hours, 53 minutes, and 12.77 seconds (the record-making flights originated at Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts). A third KC-135, also scheduled to participate in the flight, crashed on takeoff at Westover. Among the fifteen casualties were Brigadier General Donald W. Saunders, 57th Air Division Commander, and Lieutenant Colonel George M. Broutsas, 99th Air Refueling Squadron Commander. 1958

KC-135 Weight Lifting Record - On 24 Sept 1958, another KC-135 of the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, Westover Air Force Base, Massachusetts, piloted by Captain William H. Howell, captured the official world weight-lifting record by lifting a payload of 78,089.5lbs to an altitude of 2,000 meters. This broke the old record of 44,214lbs airlifted by a Russian TU-104A jet transport on 6 September. The KC-135 carried a load of nails, concrete block, and steel plate. 1958

Theater and overseas aerial refueling, beginning 1958, including support of operations in Southeast Asia, 1965–1973; airborne command post mission, 1965–1970.

Launched KC-135 to Spain and Puerto Rico on iron fist and banyon tree iii missions. 1962

Supported redeployment of fighter aircraft in operation big lift and deployment and redeployment of tactical air command fighter aircraft to India in Operation Shiksha. 1963-1964

Supported Delawar overseas deployment/redeployment of tactical air command fighter aircraft, supported bomber aircraft rotations to Spain and the far east and participated in strategic air command/air defense command exercise Top Rung IV. 1964

Supported Tactical Air Command Fox Able deployment and redeployment of fighter aircraft to the Middle East. 1964

Suffered from lack of navigators which limited total number of aircrews to 29 per squadron.

Requested release from requirement to provide instructor personnel for base instrument school at Westover.

Provided support to rotation of F-100s to Aviano AB (Fox Able 170/166 and Fox Able 173), and to B-47 conducting special photographic missions over Europe.

Worldwide aerial refueling, 1983– and airborne command post mission, 1984; supported operations in Grenada, 23–24 Oct 1983; Panama, 18–21 Dec 1989; and Southwest Asia, Aug 1990–Mar 1991.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 24 Apr 2017

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.