

## 99th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE<sup>1</sup>

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, Utah, 15 Jul 1942  
Geiger Field, Washington, 1 Sep 1942  
Walla Walla AAB, Washington, 21 Sep 1942

---

<sup>1</sup> Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

Rapid City AAB, South Dakota, 26 Oct 1942  
Walla Walla AAB, Washington, 28 Nov 1942  
Redmond Muni Aprt, Oregon, 1 Jan 1943  
Walla Walla AAB, Washington, 2 Feb 1943  
Madras AAFld, Oregon, 11 Jun 1943  
Walla Walla AAFld, Washington, 21 Jul 1943  
Avon Park AAFld, Florida, 7 Nov 1943–1 May 1944  
Turner AFB, Georgia, 1 Jul 1957  
Westover AFB, Massachusetts, 22 Aug 1957–30 Sep 1973  
Robins AFB, Georgia, 1 Oct 1983-1 Sep 2008  
Birmingham IAP, Alabama, 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  
6th Operations Group, 1 Oct 2009

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

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

### **COMMANDERS**

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

Lt Col Lucien B. Schuler, 1 Apr 1969  
Lt Col Robert N. Gilbert, 26 Jul 1969-14 Mar 1970  
Unkn, 15 Mar-22 Jun 1970  
Lt Col Robert N. Gilbert, 23 Jun 1970  
Lt Col Paul A. Barber, 1 Dec 1970  
Lt Col Peter L. Smith, 15 Sep 1972  
Lt Col Frederick Hartstein, May-30 Sep 1973  
Lt Col W. Frasier Fortner, 14 Oct 1983  
Lt Col Edward T. Miles, 11 Mar 1985  
Lt Col Bennie L. Jester, 25 Jul 1985  
Lt Col Kyle W. Rensler, 2 Feb 1987  
Lt Col James J. Poland, 13 Jan 1989  
Lt Col Stephen C. German, 21 Sep 1990  
Lt Col Samuel P. Goode, 15 May 1992  
Lt Col Charles F. Schreck, 23 Nov 1993  
Lt Col Roger H. Ducey li, 22 Nov 199  
Lt Col Matthew Mendenhall, 15 Feb 1996  
Lt Col Thomas J. Stark, 22 Jul 1997  
Lt Col Bryan J. Benson, 1 Apr 1999  
Lt Col Joel S. Reese, 21 Jun 2000  
Lt Col David A. Sprague, 21 Dec 2001  
Lt Col Creg D. Paulk, 1 Jul 2003  
Lt Col Marc C. Vanwert, 30 Jun 2005  
Lt Col Sandra M. Chandler, 12 Jan 2007  
Lt Col Christopher D. Leist, 4 Apr-1 Sep 2008  
Lt Col Kevin E. Schiller, 30 Sep 2009  
Lt Col Kingston L. Lampley, 11 Jun 2011  
Lt Col 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**

### **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





399 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)



99 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy patch



99 Air Refueling Squadron emblem: 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. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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.<sup>2</sup>

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**<sup>3</sup>

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

---

<sup>2</sup> The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

<sup>3</sup> Unit yearbook. *The 99th, Caveant Aggressores, 1968 Edition*, 99<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, Westover AFB, Massachusetts. 1968.

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.



Lt Col R. N. Gilbert, commander, Westover, @1968.



Westover, @1968.



Westover, @1968.



Westover, @1968.



@1968





@1968



@1968



@1968

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.