

# 121<sup>st</sup> AIR REFUELING WING



## LINEAGE

121<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing activated, 1 Nov 1950

Redesignated 121<sup>st</sup> Fighter Bomber Wing, Oct 1952

Redesignated 121<sup>st</sup> Fighter Interceptor Wing, 1955

Redesignated 121<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing (Special Delivery), 10 Nov 1958

Redesignated 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 1991

## STATIONS

Lockbourne Air Force Base, Columbus, Ohio

Rickenbacker ANGB, Columbus, OH

## ASSIGNMENTS

### WEAPON SYSTEMS

#### Mission Aircraft

KC-135R

#### Support Aircraft

C-26A

### COMMANDERS

BG Errol H. Zistel, 1950

BG Ernest H. Briscoe, 1953

BG Dale E. Shafer, 1960

BG Paul E. Hoover, 1964

Col Harry L. Cochran, 1973

BG John H. Smith, #1993

Col James V. Jones October 2012 - Present

### HONORS

#### Service Streamers

#### Campaign Streamers

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

### **EMBLEM**

The 121st Fighter Wing adopted the 121st Fighter Group emblem 15 Oct 1962. the SEMPER OMNIA motto was deleted and the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing title was inserted on the lower banner.

### **EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE**

### **MOTTO**

### **NICKNAME**

### **OPERATIONS**

The 121st Air Refueling Wing was originally established as part of the 55th Fighter Wing in December 1947 based at Lockbourne Air Force Base (AFB). The unit was redesignated the 121st Fighter Wing in 1950 and converted from the P-51 to the F-84C.

In 1961, the unit was called to active duty in support of the Berlin Crisis. After returning from active duty at Etain, France, the 121<sup>st</sup> converted to the F-100.

1 October 1961, The 121st Tactical Fighter Wing was called to active duty during the Berlin Crisis. The 121st Tactical Fighter Wing Headquarters stayed at Lockbourne Air Force Base, Columbus, Ohio. The 121st by drawing on key personnel from various units attached to its command to form the 7121st Tactical Fighter Wing which served and was stationed at Etain France during the 1961-2 Berlin Crisis. The attached 121st Tactical Fighter Wing Units that remained behind in the United States were utilized to support numerous Army and Air Force Exercises. On the 20th of August 1962, the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing was deactivated and returned to State Control. There was a complete reorganization of Wing, Group and Squadron concepts at this time. During the Berlin Crisis activation the GANG Wing was split and dispersed to so many different areas that the support group could not properly serve the squadrons.

A part of the 121st Tactical Fighter Wing was activated 26 January 1968. The Tactical Fighter Group and the 166th Tactical Fighter Squadron were activated and served at Kunsan, Korea during the Pueblo Crisis. These Units reverted back to State Control 16 June 1969. Another call-up to active duty occurred in 1968 as a result of the USS Pueblo Crisis. One year of the 18-month activation was spent in Kunsan Air Base, South Korea.

The 121st Air Refueling Wing finished two months of Expeditionary Aerospace Force deployments in October 2000. About 75 airmen and two KC-135s participated in rotations at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. They supported the no-fly zone over Iraq as part of Operation Northern Watch. In addition, personnel also provided support in security, supply and

communications. A second contingency participated in Operation Joint Forge, based in Istres, France. The mission provided mid-air refueling to coalition aircraft in the Bosnia-Herzegovina region. Overall, 200 members deployed for rotations of 10 days or more.

**2005 2 Sep** The ANG CAT filled a NORTHCOM request for an ANG Combat Weather Team. Three Combat Weather personnel from Detachment 1, Washington ANG, and two Weather Forecasters from the 121<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Ohio ANG, and the 175<sup>th</sup> Wing, Maryland ANG, deployed in Title 10 status to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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Air Force Order of Battle

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Updated:

Sources