

301st AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

Peacetime mission of wing consisted of world/wide aerial refueling for strategic bombers, strategic airlift, tactical fighters, and other aircraft as directed. Wartime mission of wing was to generate aircraft to perform single integrated operations plan air refueling and provide organic airlift for dispersing bomber aircraft.

LINEAGE

301st Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, established, 15 Oct 1947

Organized, 5 Nov 1947

Discontinued, 1 Aug 1948

Redesignated 301st Bombardment Wing, Medium, and activated, 1 Aug 1948

Redesignated 301st Air Refueling Wing, 15 Jun 1964

Inactivated, 1 Jun 1992

STATIONS

Smoky Hill Aflid (later, AFB), KS, 5 Nov 1947-1 Aug 1948

Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 1 Aug 1948

Barksdale AFB, LA, 7 Nov 1949

Lockbourne (later, Rickenbacker) AFB, OH, 15 Apr 1958

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Lakenheath, England, 28 Jun 1950-28 Nov 1950

Upper Heyford, England, 17 Dec 1952-6 Mar 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifteenth Air Force, 5 Nov 1947-1 Aug 1948

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Aug 1948

Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1950
4th Air Division, 10 Feb 1951
801st Air Division, 15 Apr 1958
817th Air Division, 15 Mar 1965
57th Air Division, 15 Nov 1965
40th Air Division, 2 Jul 1966
42nd Air Division, 31 Mar 1970
40th Air Division, 1 Jul 1973
42nd Air Division, 1 Jul 1975
4th Air Division
15th Air Force, 23 Aug 1988

ATTACHMENTS

7th Air Division, 3 Dec 1952-4 Mar 1953
5th Air Division, 10 Feb-17 Apr 1954

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1947-1948
B-29, 1948-1953
KB-29, 1949-1950, 1950-1953
B-47, 1953-1961, 1963-1964
KC-97, 1953-1960, 1960-1961, 1962-1963
RB-47, 1958
E-47, 1961-1964, 1965
EC-135, 1964-1966
KC-135, 1963-1972, 1972

COMMANDERS

Col Leslie G. Mulzer, 5 Nov 1947-1 Aug 1948
Col Leslie G. Mulzer, 1 Aug 1948
Col Joe W. Kelly, 3 Jan 1949
Col Thomas W. Steed, 1 Apr 1950
Col Randolph L. Wood, 15 May 1950
Col Horace M. Wade, 24 May 1950
Col Thomas W. Steed, 19 Jun 1950
Col Randolph L. Wood, 19 Jul 1950
Col Henry K. Mooney, 21 Jul 1950
Col Horace M. Wade, 12 Aug 1950
Col Vernon C. Smith, 24 Aug 1950
Col Thomas W. Steed, 8 Dec 1950
Col Horace M. Wade, 10 Feb 1951
Col George Y. Jumper, 11 Apr 1953
Col Horace M. Wade, 2 Jul 1953
Col John C. Jennison, Jr., 12 Jun 1954

Col Everett W. Holmstrom, 11 Jun 1955
Col Kenneth S. Steele, 13 Apr 1957
Col Osce V. Jones, 6 Mar 1958
Col William H. Reddell, 15 Apr 1958
Col Robert G. David, 16 Mar 1960
Col William H. Reddell, 14 Apr 1960
Col Robert G. David, 3 May 1960
Col Raymond F. Rudell, 23 Feb 1962
Col John W. Farrar, 15 Aug 1965
Col James O. Britt, 6 Jul 1966
Col George N. Payne, 18 Aug 1967
Col Raymond J. Bryan, 10 Apr 1968
Col Richard A. Bosworth, 16 Jul 1969
Col Irwin R. Stuhr, 5 Mar 1970
Col William L. Nicholson III, 21 Apr 1972
Col Jean M. Crane, 10 Jun 1972
Col Herman St. John, 15 Jul 1972
Col William E. Long, 8 Oct 1972
Col William L. Nicholson, 8 Dec 1972
Col William E. Long, 19 Dec 1972
Col Roger K. Peterson, 5 Jan 1973
Col William L. Nicholson III, 18 Jan 1973
Col David A. Woods, Jr., 7 Apr 1973
Col Thomas W. Sherman, Jr., 10 May 1973
Col Edward F. Gehrke, 26 Nov 1973
Col David A. Woods, Jr., 24 Jul 1974
Col Caleb C Pendley, 31 May 1975
Col Richard J. Smith, 21 Jun 1975
Col Caleb G. Pendley, 27 Jun 1975
Col Richard J. Kiefer, 3 Jul 1975
Col Regis F. A. Urschler, 11 Jul 1977

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1961-31 Dec 1962

1 Oct 1966-1 Apr 1967

EMBLEM

Light blue, on a chief nebuly azure, four mullets or, on a base nebuly of the second a lightning flash of the third, a spray of laurel bend sinister-wise argent, superimposed overall and throughout by a flight symbol gules fimbriated of the fourth, all within a diminished bordure of the like. The Shield is in the colors of the Air Force. The numerical designation of the organization is shown by the three impaled ravens on the single spear— as well as being an allusion to the powers of the organization to bag multiple objectives—or three birds with one stone. It might imply any three principal enemies. At the time of the adoption of this insignia there were three such principal enemies, Hitler, Tojo and Mussolini.

MOTTO

Who Fears?

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Conducted strategic bombardment training, 1947-1948, and aerial gunnery training for other SAC organizations, Nov 1947-Jan 1948. Strategic bombardment training, 1948-1964, and aerial refueling.

Deployed in England, Dec 1952-Mar 1953, and in French Morocco, Feb-Apr 1954. Added electronic countermeasures activities to its other missions in Jul 1958, and soon devoted most of its activity to ECM work. Became an air refueling wing in Apr 1964, discontinuing all previous missions. In addition, participated in the post attack command and control system from 3 Mar 1965 to 30 Jun 1966.

From 9 Jun to 8 Oct 1972, most of the wing headquarters staff, all tactical aircraft and crews, and most of the maintenance personnel, plus support personnel in various categories, deployed in Southeast Asia, attached to other SAC organizations. A reduced wing headquarters remained in the United States to administer activities of the combat support group and hospital at Lockbourne AFB, Ohio. From 19 Dec 1972 to 18 Jan 1973, the wing repeated previous deployed condition on a smaller scale, with deployed resources forming a provisional air refueling squadron in the Philippines.

Achieved initial operational capability on 3 Oct 88.

Air Force Order of Battle

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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.