

434 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

434 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1949
Ordered to Active Service, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1953
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Feb 1953
Ordered to Active Service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from Active Duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 434 Tactical Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1967
Inactivated, 31 Dec 1969
Redesignated 434 Special Operations Wing, 12 Jan 1971
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jan 1971
Redesignated 434 Tactical Fighter Wing, 1 Oct 1973
Redesignated 434 Air Refueling Wing, Heavy, 1 Jul 1987
Redesignated 434 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 434 Wing, 1 Aug 1992
Redesignated 434 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Atterbury AFB, IN, 1 Jul 1949
Lawson AFB, GA, 23 Jan 1952-1 Feb 1953
Atterbury (later, Bakalar) AFB, IN, 1 Feb 1953-31 Dec 1969
Grissom AFB (later ARB), IN, 15 Jan 1971

ASSIGNMENTS

Tenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1949
Tactical Air Command, 2 May 1951

Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Jun 1951-1 Feb 1953
2 Air Reserve District, 1 Feb 1953
Tenth Air Force, 15 Apr 1953
Fifth Air Force Reserve Region, 1 Sep 1960
Twelfth Air Force, 28 Oct 1962
Fifth Air Force Reserve Region, 28 Nov 1962-31 Dec 1969
Central Air Force Reserve Region, 15 Jan 1971
Tenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976
Twenty-second Air Force, 1 Oct 1993
Fourth Air Force, 1 Apr 1997

WEAPON SYSTEMS

T-7, 1949-1952
T-11, 1949-1952
C-47, 1949
C-46, 1949-1953
T-6, 1953
T-11, 1953
C-45, 1953-1957
C-46, 1953-1957
C-119, 1957-1969
U-3, 1969
O-2, 1971
U-3, 1971
A-37, 1971-1982
C-124, 1972
A/OA-10, 1980-1987, 1992-1994
KC-135, 1987
KC-10, 1987-1994

COMMANDERS

Brig Gen Lacey V. Murrow, 1 Jul 1949
Col Troy W. Crawford, 5 Jan 1952
Col Wallace L. Linn, 23 Jan 1952
Brig Gen Lacey V. Murrow, 5 Feb 1952
Col Troy W. Crawford, 20 Feb 1952



BG Lacy Murrow and LTC Howard Cloud, Jr. at a Fort Benjamin Harrison 10th Air Force reception. 1949
(USAF photo)

Brig Gen Lacey V. Murrow, 18 Apr 1952
Col Troy W. Crawford, 12 Jan-1 Feb 1953
Col George C. Riley, 1 Feb 1953
Brig Gen John O. Bradshaw, 22 Apr 1953
Brig Gen John W. Hoff, 13 Oct 1962
Brig Gen Alfred Verhulst, 16 Jul 1967
Col William J. Johnson, Jr., 1 Oct-31 Dec 1969
Unkn, 15 Jan-Mar 1971
Col John C. Riley, Apr 1971
Brig Gen Sidney S. Novaresi, Oct 1971
Col Joseph A. Thomas, 13 Nov 1973
Col Charles E. Jones III, 1 Mar 1974
Brig Gen Sidney S. Novaresi, 16 Jun 1974
Col Charles E. Jones III, 28 Sep 1975
Col Billy R. Henderson, 8 Aug 1977
Col Richard H. Kliemann, 11 Apr 1981
Col Duane L. Foster, 1 Oct 1984
Col Gordon C. Greider, 9 Feb 1987
Col Clayton B. Lyle III, 30 Apr 1987
Lt Col David A. Pasero, 1 Jul 1987
Brig Gen John F. Harvey, 2 Aug 1987
Brig Gen John J. Batbie, Jr., 14 Jul 1991
Col Donald E. Schell, 1 Jun 1994
Col Anthony Tassone, Jr., 27 May 1995
Unkn, 1997-Jan 2003
Brig Gen James T. Melin, Jan 2003

Brig Gen Dean J. Despinoy, Jul 2006
Col William T. Cahoon, 1 Jun 2010
Col Donald Buckley, 1 Jun 2012
Brig Gen James Melin,
Brig Gen Dean Despinoy
Col William T. Cahoon
Col Van T. Thai

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia Defense of Saudia Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Sep 1988-31 Aug 1990
1 Jun 1992-31 Aug 1993
1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1996
1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000; 12 Sep 2000-11 Sep 2002

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
14 Feb-11 Mar 1968

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 434 Operations Group prior to 1 Jul 1949

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland
Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

France, [6-7] Jun 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

6-7 Jun 1944

20-28 Aug 1944

French Fourragere

EMBLEM



434th Troop Carrier Wing emblem: On a shield or, in chief a pair of stylized wings erect and conjoined azure, between a chevronel reversed gules; issuing from base a demi-sphere with land markings azure, longitude and latitude lines argent, thereover a parachute of the last; the sphere surmounting the apex of the chevronel. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The wings are symbolic of the Air Force mission. Wings are also emblematic of protection and strength. The demi-sphere, wings, and parachute reflect transportation over land and sea. The reversed chevron is symbolic of the support and coordination of the important mission of the 434th Troop Carrier Wing. (Approval, 10 Oct 1952)



434 Tactical Fighter Wing emblem: Azure, a base embattled fesswise throughout or masoned of

the first below a demi-sun issuing from sinister chief of the second and a pattern of four mullets of five points in dexter chief argent, issuing from base a demi-sphere of the last, gridlined of the first supporting a hurt charged with a mullet of five points argent, on which is centered a torteau, enveloping the hurt and arced to dexter chief, four jet streams vert, gules, azure and maroon, all fimbriated argent, all within a diminished bordure of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the unit and the Air Force colors, ultramarine blue and golden yellow, as well as the National colors, are used in the design. The color blue allude to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations and yellow to the sun and excellence of personnel in assigned tasks. The arrows represent the basic fighter aircraft formation. The half-globe, with lines of latitude and longitude, symbolize the Wing's worldwide theater capability. The wall represents the unit's unbending determination to protect and preserve freedom. The stars denote the capability of the unit to operate in the night skies; singly, they represent the skill, courage, knowledge, and resolution of the Wing in the accomplishment of its required mission. The large star represents the heritage of our modern Air Force. (Approved, 27 Jun 1975)



434 Air Refueling Wing emblem: Per fess embattled abased Azure and Or masoned of the first surmounted in base by a hurt fimbriated Argent charged with a mullet of the like pierced Gules, and from sinister radiating four arcing arrows bendwise Celeste over Scarlet over Dark Blue over Brown each fimbriated White; all within a diminished bordure of the second. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed 434TH AIR

REFUELING WING in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The arrows radiating in formation from the star symbolizes the Wing's heritage and its current mission. The wall represents the unit as a bulwark in the defense and protection of the nation's freedoms.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The 434th was constituted as a medium troop carrier wing on 1 July 1949 and activated in C-46's at Atterbury AFB IN (renamed Bakalar AFB in November 1954). The wing and its squadrons were ordered to active military service on 1 May 1951 during the Korean War. It became part of TAC's 18th Air Force and moved to Lawson AFB GA, where it supported Army airborne training until it was released from active service on 1 February 1953. Upon its release, the wing was immediately activated again as a C-46 wing at Atterbury AFB. In September 1957 the wing's squadrons converted to C-119's.

On 28 October 1962 the wing and its squadrons were again ordered to active military service, for 32 days at home station as it turned out, during the Cuban missile crisis. In July 1967, in common with all Tactical Air Command and Air Force Reserve C-119 units, the 434th was redesignated as a tactical airlift wing.

On 31 December, as its subordinate units prepared to move from the closing Bakalar AFB, the 434th Tactical Airlift Wing was inactivated. Its inactivity lasted but a year, however, as it was activated as the 434th Special Operations Wing at Grissom AFB IN on 15 January 1971 with the 930th Special Operations Group and the 931st Tactical Air Support Group assigned. By this time, the 930th had converted to A-37's and the 931st was preparing to do so. On 1 October 1973, in consonance with Tactical Air Command policy, the wing and all its components were redesignated as tactical fighter units.

On 1 July 1981, the 434th Tactical Fighter Wing and its collocated 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Grissom AFB, IN began converting from A-37Bs to A-10As. Trained as a Reserve troop carrier wing under supervision of the 2466th Air Reserve Training Center, Jul 1949-Feb 1951.

The 434 Troop Carrier Wing (TCW) at Atterbury AFB, Indiana was activated on May 1, 1951. The 434 TCW was one of ten wings that was mobilized and retained intact for essential augmentation in time of crisis, and performed their roles well in the first post World War II test of the Air Force Reserve. The 434 served at Atterbury AFB, IN until being reassigned to Lawson AFB, GA on 23 Jan 1952, and was released from active duty on 1 Feb 1953. Ordered to active service and flew airlift missions and participated in tactical exercises, May 1951-Jan 1953. With the start of the Korean War, the 434 was called to active duty. After receiving its initial training at Atterbury AFB, the Wing was moved to Lawson AFB, Georgia. The Wing served on active duty for 21 months before returning to Reserve status on once again coming back to Indiana.

Provided C-46 combat crew training in support of Far East requirements, Sep 1952-Jan 1953. Trained as a Reserve troop carrier wing, Feb 1953-Oct 1958, using C-46s as primary training aircraft to Jan 1957 and C-119s thereafter.

Began Air Reserve Technician program in Oct 1958 and soon began flying overseas missions.

Went on one-month active duty in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis.

Further improvement on the "Alamo Slingshot," a method of airdropping heavy cargo originally developed by the 433d Troop Carrier Wing at Kelly AFB, Tex., was also recorded by the Reservists of the 434 Troop Carrier Wing at Bakalar AFB, Ind. The 434 combat delivery system is known as SPADS—Slingshot Positive Aerial Delivery System—and has greatly improved the combat capability of the C-119s.

The wing in Jun 1969 converted one group to U-3A with a forward air control training mission but for only six months.

Trained for special operations missions, 1971-1973 and for close air support missions, 1973-1987. Provided combat crew training in A-37 for USAF and friendly foreign nations until Jun 1980.

Flew the bulk of fighter missions needed for forward air controller training at Patrick AFB, FL, 1975-Jun 1987.

Provided A-10 tactical fighter training for reserve and guard pilots, Oct 1981-Jun 1987. On 1 Jul 1987 redesignated to an air refueling wing, absorbing the personnel, equipment, and worldwide air refueling mission of the inactivated 931st Air Refueling Group at Grissom AFB.

The wing deployed personnel and equipment to Southwest Asia and to locations within the U.S. in support of operations in the Persian Gulf, 1990-1991. The 434 was recalled to active duty for the Gulf War in 1990 and helped form one of the world's largest tanker forces. Operating out of western Saudi Arabia, the 434 and its partners flew more than 7,000 refueling missions, offloading fuel to more than 25,000 receiver aircraft.

In June, 1992, the 434 Air Refueling Wing and the 930th Fighter Group (another Air Force Reserve unit located at Grissom AFB), merged to form the very first reserve composite wing. The new unit, the 434 Wing, consisted of KC-135 and A-10 and was responsible for aerial refueling and close air support missions. In 1994, the unit's A-10 squadron was inactivated and the unit designation reverted back to the 434 Air Refueling Wing.

Since late 1993, periodically deployed personnel and equipment to Italy and other European locations in support of operations in the Balkans.

KC-135 from 434 Wing deployed to RAF Fairford, England for central enterprise 1994. Volunteers from 434 AREFW deployed to a forward operating location at Homestead ARB, FL to support operation restore democracy missions to Haiti Sep 94. 434 wing deployed to Volk Field readiness training center WI for an operational readiness exercise 24-30 Oct. 1995

The 434 ARW traveled to such countries as Panama, Iceland, England, France, Italy, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Norway, and Venezuela to participate in exercises and front-line operations. During the December 1993 to May 1996 time period, the Wing staged three separate deployments to Europe to support Operation Decisive Endeavor, the United Nations' enforcement of the no-fly zone over war-torn Bosnia. Deployment sites included Istres, France; Aviano, Italy, and Piza, Italy. During one such 30 day deployment, the unit flew 178 aerial refueling missions and offloaded 8,970,000 pounds of fuel to 1,237 receiver aircraft.

The 434 was recalled to active duty shortly after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on America.

The 434th Wing is headquartered at Grissom Air Force Base, Ind., and is the Air Force Reserve's only composite wing. The unit is responsible for both the aerial refueling and the close air support fighter mission. The wing is equipped with the KC-135R Stratotanker, the KC-10A Extender, and the A-10 and OA-10 Thunderbolt II fighter aircraft. During peacetime, the mission of the 434th Wing is to develop and maintain the operational capability of its units and train reservists for worldwide duty. Training consists of flight operations, deployments and weekend training. It also has special tasking to generate aircraft and crews in support of the Air Mobility Command and the Air Combat Command. Headquarters Air Force Reserve, Robins Air Force Base, Ga., and 10th Air Force, Bergstrom Air Force Base, Texas, provide command and supervisory guidance prior to mobilization.

In times of war or national emergency, the 434th Wing would augment the active duty force. Its KC-135 units would be assigned to the Air Mobility Command while the KC-10 Extender and OA and A-10 Thunderbolt IIs would support the Air Combat Command. The wing has more than 30 units and 4,000 personnel assigned to three major locations. At Grissom Air Force Base, the 434th Wing has approximately 2,300 members assigned to its major units which include the 434th Operations Group, 930th Operations Group, 434th Logistics Group and the 434th Support Group. The wing also includes the 927th Air Refueling Group, a KC-135E Stratotanker unit at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., and the 916th Air Refueling Group, an associate KC-10A Extender unit located at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

The unit has a very long and distinguished heritage. The 434th Wing traces its roots back to World War II when the original 434th Troop Carrier Group was activated in February 1944. The wing, which flew C-47 transport aircraft, won numerous awards and citations including the French Croix de Guerre. Throughout the ensuing years the 434th served as a troop carrier wing, tactical airlift wing, special operations group, tactical fighter wing and an air refueling wing. It has been equipped with aircraft including the C-46 and C-47, C-119, U-3, O-2, A-37, A-10, KC-10 and the KC-135.

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On 1 July 1981, the 434th Tactical Fighter Wing and its collocated 45th Tactical Fighter Squadron at Grissom AFB, IN began converting from A-37Bs to A-10As.

Trained as a Reserve troop carrier wing, Jul 1949-Feb 1951. Ordered to active service and flew airlift missions and participated in tactical exercises, May 1951-Jan 1953. Also provided C-46 combat crew training in support of Far East requirements, Sep 1952-Jan 1953. Trained as a Reserve troop carrier wing, Feb 1953—Oct 1958, using C-46 aircraft as primary training aircraft to Jan 1957 and C-119s thereafter. Began Air Reserve Technician program in Oct 1958 and soon became capable of flying overseas missions. Participated in numerous tactical exercises on a regular basis. Went on one-month active duty in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis. Converted to tactical groups in Feb 1963; one (932d) transferred in 1966 and another (930th) went on active duty from May 1968-Jun 1969. The 931st became a tactical air support group in Jun 1969, and converted to U-3A aircraft, with a forward air control training mission. The wing inactivated at Bakalar AFB, Ind, on 31 Dec 1969.

The wing activated as a special operations wing at Grissom AFB, Ind, on 15 Jan 1971, assuming control over the 930th and 931st Groups. The 930th was using A-37 aircraft at the time and the 931st soon transitioned to A-37s from O-2 and U-3 aircraft. Gained the 910th TASG on 1 Jul 1971, which converted from U-3s to A-37s soon after assignment. The 908th TASG was briefly controlled by the wing. It was to have converted from U-3s to A-37s, but instead 434 AREFW converted to C-7s and reassigned to another wing. The 917th MAG (C-124 equipped) joined the wing on 25 Feb 1972 and soon converted to A-37s. On 1 Oct 1973 the wing and all its tactical units redesignated to tactical fighter organizations. On 1 Jul 1975 lost the 930th and 931st Groups but gained two tactical fighter squadrons. Gained the 926th Group on 1 Jan 1978 and

the 442d Group on 1 Oct 1982. Lost these latter Groups on 1 Feb 1984, leaving the wing with one group (917th) and one squadron (45th) . Provided combat crew training in A-37 aircraft for USAF and friendly foreign nations until Jun 1980. Participated in tactical exercises, competitions, and demonstrations. Trained as fighter bomber unit to provide close air support to ground forces. Provided the bulk of fighter missions needed for forward air controller training at Patrick AFB, Fla, 1975-Jun 1987. ng components transitioned to A-10 aircraft, 1980-1982. Provided A-10 tactical fighter training for AFRES and ANG pilots, Oct 1981-Jun 1987.

On 1 Jul 1987 the wing redesignated to an air refueling wing, absorbing the personnel and equipment of the inactivated 931st Air Refueling Group at Grissom AFB. Lost all tactical fighter organizations and gained the 72d Air Refueling Squadron at Grissom, flying KC-135 aircraft and two Air Refueling Groups (98th and 916th), flying KC-10s. Flew worldwide air refueling missions, Jul 1987-. Participated in SAC-directed exercises and competitions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 12 Nov 2023

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.