

## 909 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

19 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942  
Activated, 1 Mar 1942  
Redesignated 409 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942  
Redesignated 409 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 6 Mar 1944  
Inactivated, 6 Jul 1945  
Redesignated 409 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945  
Activated, 20 Aug 1945  
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1946

909 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy constituted and activated, 18 Jan 1963  
Organized, 1 Apr 1963

409 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy consolidated with 909 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy,  
19 Sep 1985. Consolidated organization designated 909 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy

Redesignated 909 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Oct 1991

#### STATIONS

Barksdale Field, LA, 1 Mar 1942  
Fort Myers, FL, 18 May–13 Aug 1942  
Alconbury, England, 7 Sep 1942  
Hardwick, England, 6 Dec 1942–15 Jun 1945 (air echelon operated from Tafaraoui, Algeria,  
7–15 Dec 1942; Gambut, Libya, 16 Dec 1942–25 Feb 1943; Bengasi, Libya, 27 Jun–26 Aug  
1943; Oudna, Tunisia, 18 Sep–3 Oct 1943)  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 26 Jun–6 Jul 1945  
Pratt AAFld, KS, 20 Aug 1945  
Clovis AAFld, NM, 13 Dec 1945

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 18 Jun–1 Oct 1946  
Amarillo AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1963  
March AFB, CA, 25 Jun 1966  
Kadena AB, Okinawa (later, Japan), 1 Jul 1971

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

93 Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1942–6 Jul 1945  
93 Bombardment Group, 20 Aug 1945  
444 Bombardment Group, 6 May–1 Oct 1946  
Strategic Air Command, 18 Jan 1963  
461 Bombardment Wing, 1 Apr 1963  
22 Bombardment Wing, 25 Jun 1966  
376 Strategic Wing, 1 Jul 1971  
18 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1991

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B–24, 1942–1945  
B–29, 1945–1946  
KC–135, 1963–1971, 1971

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Stanley A. Zidiales, 26 Mar 1942  
Maj Keith K. Compton, 12 Jul 1942  
Maj William B. Musselwhite, 15 Oct 1942  
Lt Col Kenneth O. Dessert, 13 Mar 1943  
Maj William V. Taylor, 31 Dec 1943  
Lt Col Therman D. Brown, 3 Apr 1944  
Lt Col Murray G. Fant, 10 Dec 1944-Unkn  
Cpt Julian R. Abernathy, 20 Aug 1945-Unkn  
Lt Col Delmore P. Wood, 24 Jun–1 Oct 1946  
Cpt Robert L. Parks, 1 Apr 1963  
Lt Col Carlton E. Justis, 10 May 1963  
Lt Col Joseph R. Hanlen, 25 Sep 1964  
Lt Col Tom H. Dalton, 17 Dec 1964  
Lt Col Nicholas A. Corrao, 31 Dec 1966  
Lt Col Harold K. Jordan, By 30 Jun 1968  
Lt Col Raymond L. Horvath, 15 Jun 1969  
Lt Col Ralph T. Kivette, 1 Jul 1971  
Lt Col Richard W. Fouss, 16 Mar 1973  
Lt Col Norman A. Hamel, 1 Jun 1974  
Maj Bruce S. Goodhue, 5 Jun 1976  
Lt Col Lawrence M. Pring, 3 Jul 1976  
Lt Col Theodore C. Dreyer, 27 Jul 1977  
Lt Col Clifton J. Jester, 17 May 1979

Lt Col Phillip Daisher, 23 Mar 1981  
Lt Col Lawrence F. Brunello, 5 Jun 1982  
Lt Col Robert J. Pietras, 23 May 1984  
Lt Col Robert J. Rhoades, 24 Jun 1985  
Lt Col Thomas D. Deriso, 12 Sep 1986  
Lt Col Leon A. Stamm, 8 Jul 1988  
Lt Col Robert W. Vincent, 8 Sep 1989  
Lt Col Richard V. Smith, 24 Aug 1990  
Lt Col Dale F. Bible, 1 Jul 1992  
Lt Col Edward G. Redman, 10 Jun 1994  
Lt Col Leon M. Hoffsette, 9 Jun 1995  
Lt Col Mark E. Andersen, 11 Jun 1996  
Lt Col Larry G. Brockshus, 29 May 1998  
Lt Col Ray E. Lamarche, 13 Jun 2000  
Lt Col Kyle E. Garland, 21 Mar 2002  
Lt Col Evin R. Westernen, 25 Jun 2003  
Lt Col Christopher A. Comeau, 6 May 2005  
Lt Col Jack Flynt

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Egypt-Libya  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe  
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Southwest Asia  
Defense of Saudi Arabia  
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Forces**

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

North Africa, 17 Dec 1942–20 Feb 1943

Ploesti, Rumania, 1 Aug 1943

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards with Combat "V" Device

1 Jul 1971–31 Mar 1972

1 Apr 1972–28 Jan 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr–1 Oct 1967

25 Mar–1 May 1968

1 Jul 1969–30 Jun 1970

1 Sep 1970–30 Jun 1971

29 Jan 1973–31 Mar 1974

1 Jul 1974–30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1976–30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1979

1 Jul 1981–30 Jun 1983

1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1987–30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 1985-30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1988

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

1 Jun 1991-31 May 1993

1 Jun 1993-31 Aug 1994

1 Sep 1995-31 Aug 1997

1 Oct 1998-30 Sep 2000

1 Oct 2000-30 Sep 2002

1 Oct 2002-30 Sep 2004

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Jul 1971–28 Jan 1973

## **EMBLEM**



409 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) emblem: On a yellow disc, a caricatured panda bear, emitting three drops of perspiration proper and running with a large white aerial bomb, trimmed black, grasped under left forepaw, point to dexter chief. (Approved, 16 Feb 1943)

#### Squadron Insignia

The Squadron insignia of the 409th Bomb Squadron was designed by a member of the squadron, Sgt. Joseph Giordano, during training in the United States prior to movement of the squadron to foreign service. This panda bear "lugging" a bomb outlined by yellow disc signifies the bear as "Reddy Teddy" to get the bombs any where and at any time.

This insignia was approved by the War Department on 16 February 1943.



909 Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a disc divided into an Air Force Blue sky and a White cloud formation within a narrow Black border, two stylized Yellow aircraft in horizontal flight each emitting a Yellow thunderbolt to a double six-pointed star with Orange center, Yellow, and Black tips giving off Black rays. (Approved, 2 Dec 1963; replaced emblem approved, 16 Feb 1943)

#### **MOTTO**

ALWAYS THERE

#### **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols, May–30 Jul 1942. Combat in ETO and MTO, 9 Oct 1942–25 Apr 1945.





Worldwide air refueling, Jul 1963–Jun 1971 and Aug 1971–. Rotated aircrews to Southeast Asia, 1967–1973. Provided air refueling in Southwest Asia, Aug 1990–Mar 1991.

Supported air refueling activities in areas near Eielson Air Force Base AK And Spanish Tanker Task Force areas in Spain. 1964

On 17 May 66, a KC-135 crashed and burned at Amarillo AFB, TX, killing four crew members and one passenger. 1966

1 July 1971, the 909th Air Refueling Squadron moved from March AFB, California, to Kadena where it was assigned to the 376th Strategic Wing, joining that wing's other permanent change of station (PCS) unit, the 82d Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron. The 909th was equipped with ten KC-135s and five KC-135Qs for a dual mission of refueling and reconnaissance support. It replaced the two TDY tanker task forces which had furnished tankers and crews for the Kadena—based wing. By the end of July, Young Tiger requirements dropped sharply to 27 daily sorties. In the latter part of September the Young Tiger daily sortie rate began to climb again, first to 30, then to 33 early in November, rising to 36 by the end of that month.

After commencing operations in the latter half of 1967, the RC-135Ms flew Combat Apple missions for the duration of the Southeast Asia war, a period of nearly six years. By the time they ceased operations, they had flown over 3,250 operational sorties for 39,286 orbit hours and provided MIG warning, assistance to sea-air rescue (SAR), and the collection of signal intelligence. Other reconnaissance operations by tankers in the Far East were part of

continuing SAC programs. As has been related previously, the 909th Air Refueling Squadron was transferred to Kadena as a PCS unit on 1 July 1971 with a mixed force of KC-135As and KC-135Qs, the better to further the aims of reconnaissance programs.

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USAF Unit Histories

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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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.

*461 Bombardment Wing (H), 1963*. Army and Navy Publishing Co. Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1963.