

931 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

Recruit, train, equip, and retain personnel for deployment and support of DoD peacetime and wartime tasking. To provide mission ready reservists to fly, maintain, and support Global Reach for America

LINEAGE

931 Troop Carrier Group, Medium established and activated, 15 Jan 1963
Organized in the Reserve, 11 Feb 1963
Redesignated 931 Tactical Airlift Group, 1 Jul 1967
Redesignated 931 Tactical Air Support Group, 25 Jun 1969
Redesignated 931 Special Operations Group, 1 Mar 1971
Redesignated 931 Tactical Fighter Group, 1 Oct 1973
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1975
Redesignated 931 Air Refueling Group, Heavy, 18 May 1977
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jul 1978
Inactivated, 1 Jul 1987
Redesignated 931 Air Refueling Group, 9 Sep 1994
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jan 1995
Redesignated 931 Air Refueling Wing, 5 Mar 2016

STATIONS

Bakalar AFB, IN, 11 Feb 1963
Grissom AFB, IN, 15 Jan 1970-1 Jul 1975
Grissom AFB, IN, 1 Jul 1978-1 Jul 1987
McConnell AFB, KS, 1 Jan 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

434 Troop Carrier (later, 434 Tactical Airlift) Wing, 11 Feb 1963
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
403 Composite Wing, 1 Jun 1970
434 Special Operations (later, 434 Tactical Fighter) Wing, 15 Jan 1971-1 Jul 1975
452 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jul 1978-1 Jul 1987
Fourth Air Force, 1 Jan 1995
507 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Mar 1999

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-119, 1963-1969
U-3, 1969-1971
O-2, 1969-1971
A-37, 1971-1975
KC-135, 1978-1987
KC-135, 1995

COMMANDERS

Col Arthur W. Howard, Jr., 15 Jan 1963
Lt Col William D. Murchie, Dec 1967
Col Joseph P. Rolles, Jun 1970
Col Jack F. Linn, Jun 1971
Col Joseph A. Thomas, Jun 1972
Lt Col Herman A. Heuss, 2 Oct 1973-1 Jul 1975
Col William B. McDaniel, 1 Jul 1978
Col James E. Hamer, 1 Jun 1980
Lt Col David P. Pasero, 18 Aug 1985-1 Jul 1987
Unkn, 1-14 Jan 1995
Col Vik C. Malling, 15 Jan 1995
Col Dean J. Despinoy, 1 Sep 1997
Col Daniel E. Opp, 24 Oct 1999
Col James A. Bouska, 7 May 2000
Col Jeffery R. Glass, 19 May 2002
Col Karl J. Hurdle, 24 Aug 2003
Col Clayton W. Childs, 13 Aug 2006
Col William T. Cahoon, 11 Dec 2006
Col Edsel A. Frye Jr., 25 May 2008
Col Daniel J. Heires (Interim), Mar 2011
Col William H. Mason Jr., 31 Jul 2011
Col Mark S. Larson, Jul 2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Meritorious Unit Award

11 Sep 2001-30 Jun 2004

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1978-31 Dec 1979

1 May 1985-31 Aug 1986

1 Nov 1995-30 Sep 1997

1 Nov 1997-31 Oct 1999

1 Sep 2002-30 Sep 2003

1 Oct 2007-30 Sep 2009

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

14 Feb-11 Mar 1968

EMBLEM



931 Special Operations Group emblem



931 AREFG Celeste, a bend chequy argent and azure, overall a knight in armor, mounted on a winged horse salient and caparisoned, grasping in the sinister arm a shield and holding in the dexter hand a torch palewise supporting a mullet of five points all or garnished brown, issuing from the mullet and terminating before an arc of three mullets of five points in sinister chief of the last, three rays of the third, in dexter base a sphere with axis palewise light blue, rimmed and gridlined of the third, all within a diminished bordure or. (Approved, 5 Apr 1979)



Celeste, a bend chequy argent and azure, overall a knight in armor, mounted on a winged horse radiant and caparisoned, grasping in the sinister arm a shield and holding in the dexter hand a torch palewise supporting a mullet of five points all or garnished brown, issuing from the mullet, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "931st AIR REFUELING GROUP" in blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Air Force Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Air Force Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. Pegasus, the flying horse denotes the Wing as a flying organization. The knight represents the support function of the unit's mission and draws the emblem of its predecessor units together. The knight is holding the Torch of Knowledge that signifies training to serve. Behind Pegasus and the knight, one notices the blue and white checky element that symbolizes day and night missions of the unit.

Unofficial emblem significance provided by unit. PEGASUS - The flying horse denotes a flying organization. KNIGHT - The knight represents the support function of the unit's mission. The knight also draws the 4-52 AREFW's, 94-Oth AREFG's, and 931st AREFG's unit emblems together - apart but united. TORCH OF KNOWLEDGE - Training to serve. BLUE AND WHITE SASH - .Checkered style symbolic of Indy "500" victory lane. THREE GOLDEN STARS - Third Air Force Reserve Tanker Unit. GLOBE - Worldwide mission.

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Periodically deployed aircraft and personnel to bases in Europe to support NATO operations in the Balkans, to bases in Turkey to support allied operations in maintaining the no-fly zone over Iraq, and to Iceland to support the European Tanker Task Force.

The 931 ARG began flying operations in May 1995, refueling the christened B-2, "Spirit of Kansas." The 931 ARG is an associate unit to the active-duty 22 ARW and currently has about 365 personnel. Host unit and 931 ARG share responsibilities for maintenance, with flying operations conducted by both units, using the inventory of 48 KC-135R. Performed worldwide air refueling and some airlift missions.

Members of the 931 AREFG have participated in many operations, to include Operation Desert Fox, Phoenix Scorpion II, Operation Southern Watch, JTF-6, Silver Flag, Iceland Tanker Task Force, Geilenkirchen Tanker Task Force, Trailblazer 97, Joint Forge, Phoenix Duke, Deny Flight, Deliberate Guard, Operation Northern Watch, Operation Allied Force, Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. From April to July 1999, more than 70 members of the 931st were activated under a Presidential Selected Reserve Call-Up. In support of Operation Allied Force, members deployed to Moron, Spain and Souda Bay, Crete. In support of Operation Northern Watch, members deployed to Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. In March 2003, more than 100 members of the 931st were mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Most of the mobilized individuals were KC-135 aircrew members.

2007, Airmen from the 931st Air Refueling Group recently deployed to Guam on two rotations with members of the 507th Air Refueling Wing from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla. Three elements of the 931st ARG deployed to the location: aircrew, intelligence and maintenance. The deployment was in support of Pacific Air Forces and Pacific Command. "We were manned for 24 hour operations, but only implemented the 24 hour operations during perceived escalations in the region," said Lt. Col. William Eaton, 931st Operations Support Flight, Chief of Intelligence. Some of the Airmen were there for a little longer than two weeks, but some stayed the duration. "I spent 15 days in theater," said Maj. Michael Moeding, 931st OSF, Chief of Current Operations. When not on alert status, the crews flew training sorties.

"The tankers would refuel one or two B-52's on training missions daily," said Lt. Col. Eaton. "Occasionally, the aircraft were tasked by the Tanker Airlift Control Center for other missions, including prisoner transport." Crews rotated the missions. "I flew twice and offloaded about 85,000 pounds of fuel," said Major Moeding. Quite a bit of fuel was transferred during their time

there. "The 931st aircrews and support staff supported contingency missions totaling 220 plus hours while offloading in excess of 1.3 million pounds of gas," said Lt. Col. Eaton. Some missions were performed on the Ground. "This was a great trip to escape the below freezing weather in Wichita and enjoy the Pacific island weather of 80-90 degrees," said Lt. Col. Eaton. "Activities that were accomplished included SCUBA certification and diving, snorkeling, WWII island tours, golf, physical fitness, beach parties, and some volunteer work also."

The last rotations of 931st Air Refueling Group Airmen have returned from supporting operations at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey. Since May 30, more than 118 of the group's personnel have served on rotations ranging from two weeks to the entirety of the mission. A wide range of specialties from the group took their skills to support operations at the base. "While deployed, we flew 24 flights for over 70 hours and were able to offload 1,348,000 pounds of fuel to multiple receivers," said Maj. Joe Oline of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron. The 931st joined forces with other Reserve units from the 434th Air Refueling Wing from Grissom Air Reserve Base, Ind., the 452nd ARW from March ARB, Calif., the 459th ARW from Andrews AFB, Md., and the 916th ARW from Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C. in the deployment. "I enjoyed the deployment because there was a lot of comradery with all the people here," said Tech. Sgt. David Sevart of the 931st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. 2007

Air Force Reserve Command's 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell AFB, Kan., will be elevated to wing status, ahead of the unit's transition from the KC-135 to the KC-46A, officials announced. The 931st ARG augments McConnell's Active Duty 22nd Air Refueling Wing as an associate unit operating the KC-135 tanker. The unit will gain operations and maintenance groups, and stand up the 905th Air Refueling Squadron and 924th ARS, in addition to a force support squadron when it becomes a wing-level organization early next year, according to a release. McConnell was selected as the first Active Duty-led operational base for the Air Force's future KC-46A Pegasus tanker. The 931st ARW will transition to the new airframe alongside McConnell's Active Duty flying wing beginning next year 2015

The first Reserve wing to fly the KC-46A is taking shape. The 931st Air Refueling Group at McConnell AFB, Kan., was designated the 931st Air Refueling Wing on 5 March 2016 bringing in more than 400 new personnel to the base, according to a base release. The Wing designation establishes the 931st Operations Group, the 931st Maintenance Group, and the 931st Force Support Squadron, along with the creation of the 905th and 924th Refueling Squadrons. "The designation as a wing is a testament to the excellence of our Reserve airmen, both past and present," said Col. Mark Larson, 931st ARG commander. McConnell also will serve as the first Active Duty-led KC-46A base. The first aircraft are slated to arrive in 2017.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.