

4050 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

4050 Air Refueling Wing organized, 1 Apr 1955
Discontinued, 1 Jan 1963

STATIONS

Westover AFB, MA, 1 Apr 1955-1 Jan 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

Eighth Air Force, 1 Apr 1955
57 Air Division, 4 Sep 1956-1 Jan 1963

WEAPON SYSTEMS

KC-97, 1955-1963
KC-135, 1958-1963

COMMANDERS

Col Elbert D. Reynolds, 1 Apr 1955
Col Jay P. Thomas, Jun 1955
Col George W. R. Zethren, 10 Sep 1956
Col Harry R. Burrell, 28 Jun 1958
Col Timothy J. Dacey, Jr., 19 Jul 1961
Col William R. Brown, 13 Aug 1962-1 Jan 1963

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

8 Feb 1956-1 Dec 1959

EMBLEM

On a shield per fess nebuly abaisse, azure and argent; in chief a Roman Helmet proper with black detail, crested gules, surmounting a lightning bolt or and a refueling boom proper in saltire, all between two stars or; in base a laurel branch vert and a quill pen proper, above a star or; the shield edged of the last. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem symbolizes the qualities of esprit de corps and the many phases of the mission. The field of the shield is blue and white representing the sky, the air theater of operations. The Roman helmet is for defense protection; the lightning bolt is for swiftness; the refueling boom symbolizes the vital mission; air refueling; the golden stars in the blue sky stand for the two tactical squadrons; the heraldic nebuly partition of the field indicates SAC is a skylike fortress; laurel indicates peace; the quill pen relates to the broad administrative responsibility; the golden star marking the cloud-like fortress is for the group. The colors symbolize the noble attributes; white--honor; blue--air supremacy and red--valor and bloodshed. (Approved, 20 Aug 1956)

MOTTO

AUXILIUM AB ALTO—Help from above

OPERATIONS

From 1955 to 1963, conducted aerial refueling of Strategic Air Command manned bombers and other US military aircraft as directed.

4050 AREFW was called upon to fill in on refueling missions to support tactical air command when air force KC-50 fleet was grounded. 1962

1962-4050 AREFW steps were taken by 4050 air refueling wing at Westover AFB MA to suspend all normal flying activities (and alert posture was increased to meet higher headquarters mission requirements) during Cuban missile crisis of late Oct 62. Wing increased its KC-135 airborne alert support, and all wing personnel went on seven day week schedule with all sections being manned 24 hours per day.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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