

6th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



LINEAGE

6th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 22 Dec 1939
Activated, 1 Feb 1940
Redesignated 6th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 28 Mar 1944
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1944
Activated, 1 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 20 May 1946
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

6th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 6 Apr 1951
Activated, 10 Apr 1951
Inactivated, 1 Aug 1951
Redesignated 6th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 1 Apr 1957
Activated, 1 Nov 1957
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jan 1967

6th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 6th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium consolidated,
19 Sep 1985

Activated, 3 Jan 1989
Redesignated 6th Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb 1940
MacDill Field, FL, 21 May 1940
Gowen Field, ID, 25 Jun 1942–1 Apr 1944
Pratt AAFld, KS, 1 Apr 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 25 May 1944
Pratt AAFld, KS, 17 Jul–6 Dec 1944
North Field, Guam, 17 Jan 1945–20 May 1946
Barksdale Field (later, AFB), LA, 15 Jun 1947–27 Jun 1949

Walker AFB, NM, 10 Apr–1 Aug 1951
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 1 Nov 1957
Walker AFB, NM, 3 Jan 1958–25 Jan 1967
March AFB, CA, 3 Jan 1989
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

29th Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940–1 Apr 1944
29th Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944–20 May 1946
Tenth Air Force, 15 Jun 1947
482nd Bombardment Group, 30 Sep 1947–27 Jun 1949
6th Bombardment Group, 10 Apr–1 Aug 1951
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1957
6th Bombardment (later, 6th Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 3 Jan 1958–25 Jan 1967
22nd Air Refueling Wing, 3 Jan 1989
22nd Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
722nd Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994
60th Operations Group, 1 Aug 1995

WEAPON SYSTEMS

YB-17, 1940
B-17, 1940–1943
B-18, 1940–1941
B-24, 1943–1944
B-17, 1944
B-29, 1944–1946
AT-6, 1947–1949
AT-11, 1947–1949
KC-135, 1958–1967
KC-10, 1989

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

Maj Hugo P. Rush 1 Feb 1940-15 May 1941
Maj Edwin L. Tucker 15 May 1941-Aug 1941
Maj James S. Sutton, unkn
Maj Wray, unkn
2Lt William B. David, by 7 Dec 1941
Cpt Robert B. Sutterwhite, unkn-31 Dec 1942
Cpt Thomas E. Fenton, 1 Jan 1943
Cpt Benjamin Kelly, 24 May 1943

Maj Robert B. Sullivan, 2 Jun 1943
Cpt James A. Anderson, 22 Jul-31 Dec 1943
Unkn, Jan-Mar 1944
None (not manned), 1 Apr-3 May 1944
Cpt Samuel W. Bright, 4 May 1944
Maj James D. Baird, 30 Jun 1944
Maj Gerald R. Jorgensen, by 1 Aug 1945-unkn
None (not manned), 15 Feb-20 May 1946
LTC James E. Bailey, 15 Jun 1947-unkn
None (not manned) 10 Apr-1 Aug 1951
Maj Gover E. Sims. 1 Nov 1957
LTC Rowland H. Worrel, Jr., 7 Jan 1958
LTC Donald W. Brookie, Mar 1960
LTC Joseph R. Hanley, Nov 1961
LTC Keith L. Gillespie, 1 Sep 1964-25 Jan 1967
LTC Robert D. Glass, 3 Jan 1989
LTC Andrew S. Miller, 8 Jun 1990
LTC Ronald M. Varely, 1 Sep 1991
LTC Richard P. Packard, 2 Sep 1992
LTC Brooks L. Bash, 1 Aug 1995
LTC Raymond Torres, 10 Jun 1997
LTC Mark A. Stank, 12 Jul 1999
LTC Michael R. Mendonca, 6 Apr 2001
LTC Kevin J. Kilb, 4 Apr 2003
LTC Shaun B. Turner, 6 Jan 2005
LTC James H. Craft, 26 Jan 2007
LTC Joel D. Jackson, 16 May 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Japan, 31 Mar 1945

Japan, 19-26 Jun 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 May 1960–31 May 1962

1 Feb–30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 2010–30 Jun 2012

EMBLEM

On a blue disc flying across a yellow crescent moon a white pelican, bill and feet proper, holding in his beak a black bomb sparked at the fuse. (Approved, 6 Apr 1942)

Celeste, a Taeguk Or and Azure charged with a pegasus soaring Argent garnished Sable, all within a diminished bordure of the third. (Approved, 9 Dec 1994; replaced emblems approved, 12 Oct 1960 and, 6 Apr 1942 Approved, 12 Oct 1960)

On a disk Celeste, a Taeguk Or, and Azure fimbriated of the last, surmounted by a Pegasus soaring toward dexter Argent, detailed Sable, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “VIS EXTENSA” in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “6TH AIR REFUELING SQ” in Blue letters

EMBLEM SIGNIFICANCE

The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. Against a light blue background with stars, to represent the sky, and a compass rose, to represent the four cardinal headings and world refueling capability; a wheel of life, divided white and deep blue to indicate day and night, bears an armored hand grasping a refueling receptacle to indicate the squadron’s primary mission. The two aircraft flying above the hand indicate the aircraft that the squadron supports, and the olive wreath symbolizes SAC’s mission of maintaining peace. The six stars represents the unit’s numerical designation. (Approved, 12 Oct 1960)

Ultramarine blue and Air Force 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 Taeguk represents the earth and the unit’s dual mission of worldwide refueling and airlift capabilities. The yellow and blue colors of the Taeguk suggest day and night operations. The Pegasus symbolizes the Squadron’s personnel and their mission functions. The Latin motto, “VIS EXTENSA,” translates to “Force Extender” (or basically “Global Reach” in English).

MOTTO

VIS EXTENSA—Strength Extended

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrol missions in the Caribbean, Jan–Jun 1942. Operational and later replacement training, 1942–1944.

Combat in the Western Pacific, 16 Feb–15 Aug 1945. Air refueling training, 1959–1962.

Worldwide air refueling, 1963–1967, including support of tactical aircraft flying in Southeast Asia. Worldwide air refueling, 1989, including support of deployments to Southwest Asia, 1990–1991.

Humanitarian airlift to Somalia, 1992–1993.

Aircrews and aircraft of 6 AREFS deployed to Christopher Columbus International Airport, Geneva, Italy in support of operation deliberate force, 1995.

430813	B-24E	42-7203	6BS	29BG	Gowen Field, ID	LACMF	Bonds, Thomas W	Gowen Field, ID
430816	B-24E	41-28464	6BS	29BG	Boise, ID	KCRT	Erb, John W	2 Mi W Gowen Field, ID
440925	B-29	42-24556	6BS	29BG	Pratt AAF, Pratt, KS	LAC	Webber, Frederick D	Pratt AAF, Pratt, KS
450109	B-29	42-6428	6BS	29BG	Pratt AAF, KS	MIA	Ward, Irving H	MIA Gulf of Mexico
450323	B-29	42-65305	6BS	29BG	North Fld	MF	Watson, William W	
400315	B-18A	37-545	6BS	29BG	Langley Field, Hampton, VA	TAC	Rush, Hugo P.	Chicago Muni Airport, IL
410909	B-17B	38-217	6BS	29BG	MacDill Field, FL	TACMF	Bockman, Charles E	MacDill Field, FL
420221	B-18A	37-611	6BS	29BG	Ellington Field, TX	FLEF	Parks, Oattis E	Yoakum, TX
420317	B-17E	41-2579	6BS	29BG	MacDill Field, Tampa, FL	LAC	Beasley, Harold H	Drew Field, Tampa, FL
420429	B-17E	41-2566	6BS	29BG	MacDill Field, Tampa, FL	KMAC	Robertson, Ernest W	4 mi W of Orlando AB, FL
420908	B-17E	41-9191	6BS	29BG	Gowen Field, ID	GyACC	Fenton, Thomas E	Gowen Field, ID
421206	B-17E	41-2552	6BS	29BG	Gowen Field, Boise, ID	LACSF	Allen, Richard H	Gowen Field, ID
450514	B-29	42-94013	6BS	29BG		CRL	Bedford, Frederick J	North Fld

451023	L-4J	45-4980	6BS	29BG		TAC	Stroud, Jesse H	North Fld
451102	B-29	42-24917	6BS	29BG		CRL	Ellis, Norman L	North Fld



Air Force Order of Battle
 Created: 28 Aug 2010
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
 US Army Institute of Heraldry