

77 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

77 Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 30 Jan 1943

Activated, 25 Feb 1943

Inactivated, 10 Jun 1946

Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jul 1947

Redesignated 77 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 26 Jul 1949

Ordered to Active Service, 1 Mar 1951

Inactivated, 1 Dec 1952

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Dec 1952

Redesignated 77 Troop Carrier Squadron, Heavy, 8 May 1961

Ordered to Active Service, 1 Oct 1961

Relieved from active duty, 27 Aug 1962

Redesignated 77 Air Transport Squadron, Heavy, 1 Dec 1965

Redesignated 77 Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Jan 1966

Inactivated, 8 Jul 1972

Redesignated 77 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy (Associate), 14 Aug 1985

Activated in the Reserve, 1 Oct 1985

Redesignated 77 Air Refueling Squadron (Associate), 1 Feb 1992

Redesignated 77 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Bowman Field, KY, 25 Feb 1943

Sedalia AAFld, MO, 4 May 1943

Pope Field, NC, 2 Jul 1943
Baer Field, IN, 9-13 Oct 1943
Langer, England, 3 Nov 1943
Welford Park, England, 23 Jan 1944
Bretigny, France, 16 Feb-24 Jul 1945
Baer Field, IN, 5 Aug 1945
Kellogg Field, MI, 23 Aug 1945
Pope Field, NC, 29 Oct 1945-10 Jun 1946
Miami IAP, FL, 15 Jul 1947-1 Dec 1952
Miami IAP, FL, 1 Dec 1952
Pinellas County IAP, FL, 18 Aug 1956
Alvin Callender Field, LA, 16 Nov 1957
Donaldson AFB, SC, 25 Mar 1958
Carswell AFB, TX, 1 Apr 1963-8 Jul 1972
Seymour Johnson AFB, NC, 1 Oct 1985

ASSIGNMENTS

435 Troop Carrier Group, 25 Feb 1943
IX Troop Carrier Command, 15 Nov 1945
316 Troop Carrier Group, 11 Dec 1945-10 Jun 1946
435 Troop Carrier Group, 15 Jul 1947-1 Dec 1952
435 Troop Carrier Group, 1 Dec 1952
435 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
916 Troop Carrier (later, 916 Air Transport; 916 Military Airlift) Group, 17 Jan 1963-8 Jul 1972
452 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1985
916 Air Refueling Group, 1 Oct 1986
916 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1943-1946
C-47A
Horsa Gliders, 1943-1944
C-53, 1943-1945
CG-4 Gliders, 1943-1946
CG-4A
C-46, 1945-1946
C-82, 1946
T-6
T-7
T-11, 1947-1951
C-46, 1951
C-119, 1951-1952
C-46, 1952-1957

C-119, 1957-1961
C-124, 1961-1972
KC-10, 1985-1995
KC-135, 1995
KC-46, 2020

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Henry H. Osmer, 25 Feb 1943
Maj Phillip C. Rawlins, 27 Oct 1944
Unkn, Jun 1945-10 Jun 1946
Unkn, 15 Jul 1947-Feb 1951
Maj Arthur A. Rosewall, by Mar 1951
Maj Ned M. Letts, 2 Mar 1951
Unkn, Jul-1 Dec 1952
Unkn, 1 Dec 1952-Oct 1955
Col Ben J. Mangina, Nov 1955
Lt Col Walter S. Blythe Jr., Feb 1963
Lt Col Homer B. Dewesse, Jun 1965
Unkn, 1967-1971
Lt Col Thomas N. Boothe, Jan 1972-8 Jul 1972
Lt Col Russel T. Olson, 1 Oct 1985
Lt Col Bobby V. Beanblossom, 1 Oct 1986
Lt Col Michael L. Tyler, 14 Nov 1989
Lt Col Dean W. Sedlacek, 17 Oct 1992
Lt Col Joseph D. Powell, 1 Oct 1994
Lt Col Philip S. Fallin, 3 Oct 2003
Lt Col Jeff Naviaux, 1 Oct 2006
Lt Col Scheid P. Hodges, 13 Apr 2008
Lt Col Dial

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

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

Southwest Asia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers
Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Aug 1967-25 Oct 1968

1 Aug 1990-31 Jul 1992

2 Aug 1992-1 Aug 1994

1 Jun 2000-31 May 2002

1 Jun 2002-31 May 2003

10 Oct 2004-11 Oct 2006

1 Aug 2007-31 Jul 2009

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966-19 May 1972

EMBLEM

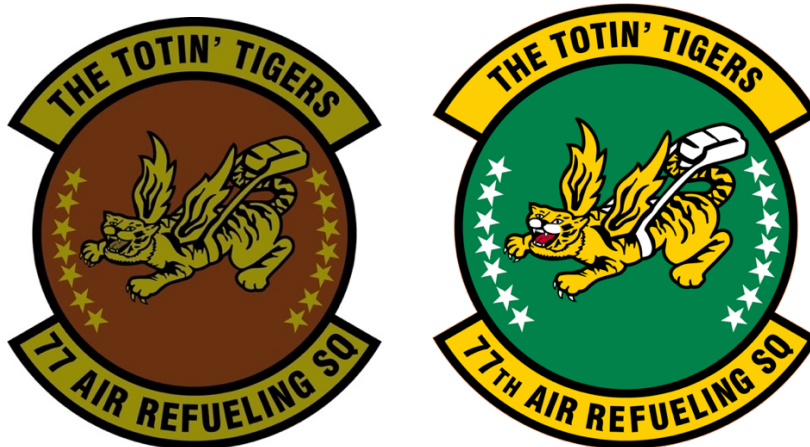
On a disc ultramarine blue, charged with heavy storm cloud formations of light and dark gray green in chief, border light red, a silhouette, stylized C-47 aircraft black, highlighted light yellow, flying in front of two yellow orange lightning flashes in pile, and emitting white speed lines to rear, as per record drawing. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The insignia depicts a standard C-47 airplane continuing valiantly on its mission despite weather conditions or any other possible hazard. It also portrays the vigorous, undaunted spirit of the I Troop Carrier Command.

Under provisions of paragraph 3, AR 900-3, 19 May 1958, (the 77 TCS) requests that the inclosed insignia be approved for the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium (Reserve), Donaldson Air Force Base, S.C. The presently authorized insignia, attached, was officially adopted in 1944. This insignia is not applicable to the present unit mission as it possibly did when first adopted. Neither does the insignia seem to conform to all the requirements of AFR 900-3. Example: The present design definitely portrays the C-47 type aircraft, which was utilized by the 435th Wing including the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron at that time. Sub paragraph (2)(b) of paragraph 4b to APR 900-3 states that the design must not "Portray specific types of aircraft or equipment in the over-all design composition". The proposed insignia pictures the tiger, the ready striking force of Reserve Troop Carrier unit. The sack on the tiger's back signifies the troop carrier transport capability. The overall insignia is patterned after the Fourteenth Air Force tiger under whose administration the 77th Troop Carrier Squadron operates. The two arcs of 7 stars each surrounding the basic insignia are arranged to denote the 77th. The motto

of the organization placed below the insignia and separate from it is "The Totin' Tigers". The identification of the unit insignia is in the area above the insignia and separate from it.



On a green disc within a wide white border edged green, the Fourteenth Air Force's "Flying Tiger," a winged Bengal tiger. Air Force golden yellow with black and white markings, a knapsack attached by straps to a belt around his waist, all white, outlines black; all between fourteen white stars arched, seven in dexter, seven in sinister. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission. The tiger is patterned after the tiger on the emblem of the Fourteenth Air Force, to indicate that this unit operates under its administration and has ready striking force capability. The sack which the tiger carries represents the troop carrier transport mission. The two arcs of seven stars each, indicate this unit's numerical designation, "77th (Approved, 4 May 1960)



On a disc Vert a winged Bengal tiger Or, detailed Sable and packed parachute Argent, armed the same, langued Gules, between seven mullets arcing to dexter and seven mullets arcing to sinister of the fourth; all within a narrow Black border. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "THE TOTIN' TIGERS" in Black letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "77 AIR

REFUELING SQ” in Black letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 flying tiger and the fourteen stars are symbolic to the pattern of the Fourteenth Air Force. The parachute represents the troop carrier transport mission. (Approved, 15 Mar 2021)

MOTTO

THE TOTIN’ TIGERS

OPERATIONS

Participated in airborne assaults on Normandy, Holland, and Germany; transported personnel and cargo, and evacuated casualties in ETO during World War II. Supported occupation forces and evacuated Allied troops who had been prisoners of war. Trained for and flew airlift missions in the Reserve for most of the period, 1947-1972, including airlift to Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict. Since Oct 1985, flew air refueling and air transport missions as needed worldwide, taking part in many contingency and humanitarian operations, including air refueling support during the U.S. incursion into Panama, Dec 1989-Jan 1990 and the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Deployed five times to participate in Operation Southern Watch over Iraq. 1993

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.
Unit yearbook. *Fourteenth Air Force, Robins AFB, GA, Flying Tigers 1959.*