

117 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

The 117 Air Refueling Wing flies the Boeing KC-135R Stratotanker. We train and equip combat ready aircrews and support personnel to perform worldwide aerial refueling and airlift missions. Our unit supports state and local contingencies when directed by the Governor of Alabama.

LINEAGE

117 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, activated, 1 Sep 1950
Redesignated 117 Tactical Reconnaissance Wing, 12 May 1952
Federally recognized, 10 Jul 1952
Redesignated 117 Reconnaissance Wing 15 Mar 1992
Redesignated 117 Air Refueling Wing, 16 Oct 1994
Redesignated 117 Air Refueling Wing, Jun 1994

STATIONS

Sumpter Smith ANGB, Birmingham, AL

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

Mission Aircraft

RB-26 Feb 1951
RF-84 May 1957
RF-4 Feb 1971
KC-135, Jun 1994

Support Aircraft

COMMANDERS

BG James F. Brown, #1993
Col Steven Berryhill, #2012
Col Cliff James, 4 Apr 2012
Col Scott Grant

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1979
1 Apr 1983-31 Mar 1985
1 Apr 1985-31 Mar 1987
1 Jan 1989-1 Jan 1991
24 Mar 1999-10 Jun 1999

EMBLEM



The saltire is from the Confederate flag and symbolizes the “heart of Dixie.” The globe with the comet is indicative of the striking power of the squadron ready to serve and defend against an aggressor. (Approved, 30 Nov 1953)

MOTTO

DEFEND AND SERVE

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Air Force announced yesterday that three Air National Guard KC-135 wings will become active associate units beginning next summer, and are expected to assume full operations under the new construct by Sep 2011. Under this Total Force initiative, active duty airmen will be assigned to the 117th Air Refueling Wing in Birmingham, Ala., the 126 ARW at Scott AFB, IL, and the 157 ARW at Pease ANGB, N.H. These airmen will start reporting in Jul 2009. The Guard units will act as the host organization. The active duty aircrews and maintenance and support personnel will work side-by-side with their Guard counterparts in operating the ANG tankers at home and on overseas deployments. The Air Force says the associate unit construct provides greater day-to-day mission capability by increasing full-time manning, while reducing duplication of effort. "Partnering with regular Air Force counterparts is a win-win for the Air Force," said ANG Acting Director MG Emmett Titshaw. He added, "It allows our highly experienced citizen-airmen to share their knowledge and experience with their regular Air Force teammates, and it provides the regular Air Force KC-135 force with additional opportunities for training and deployments."

2005 28 Aug

The 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama ANG, evacuated one of its nine assigned KC-135R to MacDill AFB, Florida. Three non-flyable aircraft remained at Birmingham International Airport (IAP). The units' five remaining aircraft were overseas.

11 SEP Six Services Flight personnel from the 117th Air Refueling Wing, Alabama ANG, returned to their home station at Birmingham Airport. The members had deployed in Title 32 status to Gulfport CRTS.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated:

Sources

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