

305 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

The mission of the 305 Air Refueling Squadron is to locate, identify and refuel assigned aircraft, day or night, under various weather conditions.

LINEAGE

605 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 15 Feb 1943

Activated, 1 Mar 1943

Disbanded, 31 Mar 1944

305 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted

Activated, 2 Jul 1951

Redesignated 305 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 25 Mar 1965

605 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) Reconstituted and consolidated with 305 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated organization designated 305 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy

Redesignated 305 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 20 Aug 1993

STATIONS

Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 1 Mar 1943

Gowen Field, ID, 10 Apr 1943

Wendover Field, UT, 27 Apr 1943

March Field, CA, 1 Dec 1943-31 Mar 1944

MacDill AFB, Florida, 2 Jul 1951-15 Jan 1960

McGuire AFB, NJ, 15 Jan 1960-25 Mar 1965

Bunker Hill AFB, Later, Grissom AFB, IN, 25 Mar 1965

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Mildenhall England, 6 Sep 1953-4 Dec 1953

ASSIGNMENTS

399 Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1943-31 Mar 1944

305 Bombardment Group, 2 Jul 1951

305 Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952

306 Bombardment Wing, 1 May 1959

4050 Air Refueling Wing, 15 Jan 1960

499 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jan 1963

810 Air Division, 1 Jul 1964

305 Bombardment Wing (later 305 Air Refueling Wing), 25 Mar 1965

305 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991-20 Aug 1993

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1944

KC-97

KC-135

COMMANDERS

Maj Scribner C. Dailey

LTC James M. Smith, 2 Mar 1952

LTC Carlton L. Lee, #1954

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

None

EMBLEM



MOTTO

We Will Be There

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Operational training unit until Aug 1943; replacement training, Aug 1943-Mar 1944

Activated at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, on 2 July 1951, the 305th Air Refueling Squadron, last squadron in the Wing to be activated, has been under the command of Lt. Colonel Carlton L. Lee since 2 September 1952. In November 1952, two months after Colonel Lee assumed command of the Squadron, the organization's first actual air refueling hookup was accomplished; one month later the Squadron became the first of the 305th Bomb Wing's tactical squadrons to be declared combat-ready. At that time the Squadron became the first unit of the Wing to be included in the Strategic Air Command's Emergency War Plan.

As of 31 May 1954, the Squadron had performed a grand total of 15,669 inflight hookups. On that same date tankers of the Squadron had transferred a total of 19,280,180 pounds of fuel

(approximately 3,119,000 gallons) to B-47, B-50 and F-84 receivers. Transport of passengers and cargo is considered to be the secondary mission of the Squadron. This capability was put to a genuine mobility test in early September 1953 when the Squadron was called upon to transport a large part of the personnel and equipment of the 305th Bomb Wing from MacDill AFB, Florida, to two different RAF Stations (Mildenhall and Brize Norton) in England. After a highly successful TDY to England, including several special missions and a "max effort" mission to North Africa, the Squadron airlifted the personnel and equipment back to the US. As of 31 May 1954, statistics on this secondary mission revealed that in two and one half years of transporting passengers and cargo the Squadron had amassed some 25,098,295 passenger-miles and 4,509,628 ton-miles.

1953 Operation Longstride and the Fourth Mackay Trophy - Swift deployment of F-84Gs across the Atlantic became equally important to SAC operations, particularly since the F-84 had been converted to a fighter-bomber with a nuclear bombing capability. Appropriately nicknamed Operation Longstride, the first mass nonstop fighter flight over the Atlantic was a dual mission conducted by the 31st and 508th Strategic Fighter Wings, located at Turner Air Force Base, Georgia. These wings were assigned to the 40th Air Division. The first phase of Operation Longstride began at 0743 ZULU time, on 20 August, when Colonel David C. Schilling, 31st Wing Commander, led a flight of nine F-84s off the runway at Turner Air Force Base. One Thunderjet spare accompanied the flight as far as Savannah, Georgia, and then returned home, while the main flight of eight continued on its way to North Africa. Three in-flight refuelings by KC-97 aircraft were required to get the fighters across the Atlantic.

Operating out of Kindley Air Force Base, Bermuda, KC-97s of the 305th Air Refueling Squadron furnished the first two refuelings, while KC-97s of the 26th Air Refueling Squadron positioned at Lajes Air Force Base, Azores, provided the third refueling. The formation of eight landed at Nouasseur Air Base, French Morocco, approximately 10 hours and 20 minutes after leaving Turner. After spending a few days at Lakenheath RAF Station, England, the flight returned to Turner on 2 September. Within a few minutes after Colonel Schilling's flight was on its way to North Africa, the second phase of Operation Longstride began. This flight of 20 Thunderjets was led by Colonel Thayer S. Olds, 40th Air Division Commander, and Colonel Cy Wilson, 508th Wing Commander.

Using the North Atlantic route, the 508th's fighters were also refueled three times, once over Boston by KB-29 tankers of the 100th Air Refueling Squadron, once near Labrador by KC-97s of the 26th Air Refueling Squadron, and once near Iceland by KC-97s of the 306th Air Refueling Squadron, which was TDY to England. The main flight of 17 landed at Lakenheath RAF Station, England, approximately 11 hours and 20 minutes after leaving Turner. Three Thunderjets were held over one day at Keflavik before completing the flight. The flight returned to Turner on 12 September.

306 BW and 305 AREFS began extended temporary duty at Benguerir on 4 Jan 55, marking the first time rotational wing was hosted by the base.

1956 operation blue cross; unit simulated combat mission, deployment by 305 AREFS to Ernest Harmon air force base Newfoundland and operation theme song.

305 AREFS kc-97 supported operation hour hand unit simulated combat mission. Participated in joint 305 bombardment wing/306 bombardment wing night mass refueling operation combination. 1957

305 AREFS commenced new and separate participation in operation reflex action. 1959

1963 305 AREFS, McGuire AFB, NJ KC97 participated in short punt rotation of aircraft and aircrew to Lajes AB, Azores. Air refueling support of B-47 in 16 air force area.

1963 AREFS had maintained alert at Torrejon, Zaragoza and Moron in Spain and Nouasseur, Ben Guerir and Sidi Slimane in Morocco.

305 AREFS KC-97 supported operation hour hand unit simulated combat mission. Participated in joint 305 BW/306 BW night mass refueling operation combination.

Air Force Lineage and Honors

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *305 Bombardment Wing, M, Can Do! 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co., Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.