

319th RECONNAISSANCE WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

319th Bombardment Wing, Light established, 10 May 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 27 Jun 1949
Inactivated, 2 Sep 1949
Activated in the Reserve, 10 Oct 1949
Ordered to active service, 10 Mar 1951
Inactivated, 28 Mar 1951
Redesignated 319th Fighter-Bomber Wing, 12 Apr 1955
Activated in the Reserve, 18 May 1955
Inactivated, 16 Nov 1957
Redesignated 319th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, and activated, 15 Nov 1962
Organized, 1 Feb 1963
Redesignated 319th Wing on 1 Sep 1991
Redesignated 319th Bomb Wing on 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 319th Air Refueling Wing on 1 Oct 1993
Redesignated 319th Air Base Wing, 1 Mar 2011
Redesignated 319th Reconnaissance Wing

STATIONS

Reading Muni Aprt, PA, 27 Jun-2 Sep 1949
Birmingham Muni Aprt, AL, 10 Oct 1949-28 Mar 1951
Memphis Muni Aprt, TN, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
Grand Forks AFB, ND, 1 Feb 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

Ninth Air Force, 27 Jun-2 Sep 1949
Fourteenth Air Force, 10 Oct 1949- 28 Mar 1951

Fourteenth Air Force, 18 May 1955-16 Nov 1957
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962
810th Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Feb 1963
4th Strategic Aerospace Division, 1 Sep 1964
47th Air Division, 30 Jun 1971
4th Strategic Missile (later, 4th Air) Division, 15 Jan 1973
57th Air Division, 22 Jan 1975
4th Air Division, 1 May 1982
57th Air Division, 23 Jan 1987
42nd Air Division, 16 Jun 1988
Eighth Air Force, 9 Jul 1991
Twenty-First Air Force, 1 Oct 1993
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Apr 1997
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2003
United States Air Force Expeditionary Center, 7 Jan 2011

WEAPON SYSTEMS

T-6, 1949-1951
T-7, 1949-1951
T-11, 1949-1951
B-26, 1949-1951
T-33, 1955-1957
F-84, 1955-1957
F-86, 1957
B-52H, 1963-1986
B-1, 1987-1993
KC-135, 1963-1992, 1993

COMMANDERS

None (not manned), 27 Jun-2 Sep 1949
BG Henry L. Badham Jr., 10 Oct 1949
Col Wilson R. Wood, 14-28 Mar 1951
BG William F. Fry, 18 May 1955
LTC Van D. Dowda, 2 Apr 1956
Col William J. Johnson Jr., 5 Jul 1956-1957
None (not manned), 15 Nov 1962-31 Jan 1963
Col Allen B. Rowlett, 1 Feb 1963
Col Pete C. Sianus, 23 Sep 1963
Col Robert J. Ray, 2 Mar 1965
Col George H. McKee, 14 Apr 1965
Col William H. Cooper, 18 May 1966
Col Keith A. Whitaker, 1 Jun 1967
Col Lawrence W. Steinkraus, 20 Jan 1968
Col Samuel G. Taylor Jr., 4 Aug 1968

Col Robert C. Glenn, 4 Aug 1970
Col Lee R. Senter, 17 Jun 1971
Col George D. Moore Jr., 9 May 1973
Col Burr V. Miller Jr., 24 May 1974
Col Donald D. Johnson Jr., 6 May 1975
Col John A. Brashear, 4 Apr 1977
BG Walter H. Poore, 23 Aug 1978
Col Wayne O. Jefferson Jr., 20 May 1980
Col Paul A. Maye, 12 Aug 1981
Col John S. Fairfield, 8 Jul 1982
Col Charles G. Kucera, 16 Feb 1984
Col John T. Jaeckle, 29 May 1985
Col Jerrold P. Allen, 22 Jan 1987
Col Robert Muldrow, 10 May 1988
Col Harvard L. Lomax, 31 May 1989
Col Joseph C. Kinego, 20 Nov 1990
BG David W. McIlvoy, 25 Nov 1991
Col Douglas K. Mang, 14 Jul 1993
BG James E. Andrews, 1 Oct 1993
BG Kenneth W. Hess, 20 Nov 1995
BG James A. Hawkins, 8 Jul 1997
Col Vern M. Findley II, 5 Jan 1999
Col David S. Gray, 13 Mar 2000
Col Marshall K. Sabol, 18 Sep 2001
Col Mark F. Ramsay, 3 Sep 2003
Col William Bender, 30 Mar 2005
Col Diane Hull, 12 Jul 2006
Col John Michel, 9 Jul 2008
Col Donald L. Shaffer, 13 Nov 2009
Col Timothy E. Bush, 13 Jul 2011
Col Christopher Mann, 20 Mar 2013
Col Paul Bauman, 20 May 2013
Col Rodney Lewis, 01 July 2015

HONORS

Service Streamers

Global War on Terrorism

Campaign Streamers

Global War on Terrorism

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jul 1977-30 Jun 1979

1 Oct 1993-30 Jun 1995

1 Jul 1995-30 Jun 1997

1 Jul 2000-30 Jun 2002

1 Jul 2002-30 Jun 2004

1 Jul 2004-30 Jun 2005

1 Jul 2005-30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2006-30 Jun 2007

1 Jul 2007-30 Jun 2009

1 Sep 2012-31 Aug 2014

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 319 Operations Group prior to 27 Jun 1949

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Algeria-French Morocco

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

Ryukyus

China Offensive

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Rome, Italy, 3 Mar 1944

Florence, Italy, 11 Mar 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

Apr, May and Jun 1944

EMBLEM



Blue and yellow are the colors of the Air Force. The mailed fist indicates the 319th Air Refueling Wing's part in "power for peace." The torch, held high with its brightly burning flame, signifies the readiness and ability of the wing to fulfill its mission in peace or war. The blue background alludes to the skies, the primary theater of operations (Approved, 6 Jan 1964)

MOTTO

Defensores Libertatis--Defenders of Freedom

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The 319th replaced the 514th Troop Carrier Wing in Oct 1949 and performed Reserve training until ordered to active service in Mar 1951, when wing personnel were used to fill other USAF units. In May of 1955 it replaced the 8710th Pilot Training Wing, and again performed Reserve training.

On July 1, 1956, upon the recommendation of the Air Staff Committee on Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Policy and with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Air Force, the wing's qualified aircrews began standing F-84E runway alert under operational control of the 20th Air Division, joining Air National Guard units as part of the Air Defense Command's defense network.

The 319th replaced the 4133d Strategic Wing in Feb 1963. During the following years, it conducted global bombardment training and air refueling operations to meet SAC commitments.

During the war in Southeast Asia, the 319th Bomb Wing's mission expanded to include sending bomber and tanker aircrews on temporary duty assignments to support B-52 and KC-135 operations from 1963 to 1974. Tanker crews participated in refueling operations for both bombers and fighters. The bomb crews flew B-52Ds from bases in Guam, Okinawa, and Thailand. Bomber crews participated in Operation ARC LIGHT in 1968 and Operations LINEBACKER I and II in 1972.

The wing converted from B-52 to B-1, 1986-1987 and flew training missions with conventional and nuclear configurations. Tanker crews assigned to the wing assisted in air refueling efforts during the invasion of Panama, Dec 1989. It deployed tankers to Oman, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia to provide air refueling and cargo missions in Southwest Asia, Aug 1990-Apr 1991. The wing briefly lost its refueling mission in Sep 1992, but in Oct 1993, having lost its bombardment squadron, regained the refueling mission.

The 319th supported worldwide Tanker Task Forces, as well as, combat operations in Southwest Asia, Central Europe, and antidrug operations in Central America by providing air refueling for combat aircraft, 1993-present.

319th Air Refueling Wing deployed KC-135Rs to support tanker activities in Operation PROVIDE COMFORT in Turkey, Operation SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia, Operation DENY FLIGHT in Italy, Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti, Operation VIGILANT WARRIOR in Saudi Arabia, and Operation CONSTANT VIGIL in Panama.

1996 started with the men, women, and tankers of the 319 ARW deploying in support of Operation JOINT ENDEAVOR. In March 1996, members of the 319 ARW deployed to Istres, France in support of Operation DECISIVE ENDEAVOR in order to monitor flying in the airspace over Bosnia - Herzegovina. The second half of 1996 was just as busy as the first with deployments to Qatar as part of the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia, Riyadh Air Force Base, Saudi Arabia supporting the enforcement of the Iraqi no-fly zone, and Rwanda for humanitarian efforts.

Numerous deployment taskings continued throughout 1997. The wing deployed to England to support the European Tanker Task Force, Saudi Arabia to support the Southwest Asia Tanker Task Force, Panama to support Operation CONSTANT VIGIL, and Turkey in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH.

The most memorable event during 1997 for the wing was weather related. The 1996-97 winter was particularly harsh even by North Dakota standards. Record numbers of blizzards dumped record amounts of snow on Grand Forks Air Force Base and the surrounding communities culminating in the spring with the worst flood in recorded history for the region. 319 ARW members were instrumental in protecting the city from rising waters and sheltering victims when the rising river finally dominated.

12 Dec 1997 - Members of the 319 ARW participated in Operation PHOENIX SCORPION in response to renewed Iraqi aggression.

1998 - The 319th Air Refueling Wing supported Operations NORTHERN WATCH in Turkey, SOUTHERN WATCH and PHOENIX SCORPION II in Saudi Arabia, CONSTANT VIGIL in Panama, and PHOENIX DUKE in Sicily.

1999-The 319ARW supported Operations NORTHERN WATCH in Turkey, SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia, JOINT FORGE in France, and PHOENIX DUKE, PHOENIX DUKE II, and PHOENIX BANNER in Spain. It also supported Operations ALLIED FORCE and JOINT GUARDIAN in Spain, Italy and England.

2000 The 319th Air Refueling Wing supported Operations SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia, NORTHERN WATCH in Turkey, and JOINT FORGE in France.

Airmen at Grand Forks AFB, N.D., will come under the banner of the 319th Air Base Wing, which will replace the 319th Air Refueling Wing as the installation's host unit. This change is one of the remaining steps in the base's evolution from a KC-135 tanker operations hub to a center for remotely piloted aircraft and additional activities. Grand Forks hosted KC-135s for 50 years, but lost its tanker mission under BRAC 2005. "Our wing has not stopped moving forward since the tankers left in December," said Col. Don Shaffer, 319th ARW commander. He added, "Our mission has changed, yes, but that doesn't mean we don't have a mission." In fact, new personnel from Air Combat Command will begin arriving in July to operate the RQ-4 Global Hawks that are slated to start arriving this summer.

Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson announced the re-designation of the 319th Air Base Wing at Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, as the 319th Reconnaissance Wing, May 11. The re-designation, initiated by Gen. Mike Holmes, Air Combat Command commander, aligns Grand Forks AFB's host wing and the 69th Reconnaissance Group. The 69th RG, which flies the high-altitude, remotely-piloted RQ-4 Global Hawk aircraft, has been aligned under the 9th Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, California, since it initiated operations as a tenant at Grand Forks AFB in 2011.

Although there won't be any changes to aircraft or operations at Beale AFB, changes at Grand Forks AFB are expected to begin this summer. Wilson stated, "You know some people talk about these as being autonomous, or talk about them as drones, but they are not. It is our Airmen, always on watch with their ingenuity, pushing the limits for our joint warfighters around the world." When the 69th RG mission and personnel align under the 319th RW, the unit will be activated as the 319th Operations Group and the 69th Reconnaissance Group will inactivate. The 319th OG will continue to execute the Global Hawk's intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance mission in support of worldwide, full-spectrum operations. The official re-designation ceremony is scheduled for June 28, in conjunction with the Grand Forks AFB change of command between Col. Benjamin Spencer and Col. Cameron Pringle.

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated:

Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.