

## 351<sup>st</sup> AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 28 Jan 1942  
Activated, 1 Jun 1942  
Redesignated 351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 15 Dec 1945  
Redesignated 351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 3 Jul 1947  
Activated in the Reserve, 17 Jul 1947  
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949  
Redesignated 351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 1 Aug 1955  
Activated, 1 Jan 1956  
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1966  
Redesignated 351<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, 26 Mar 1992  
Activated, 31 Mar 1992

### STATIONS

Orlando AB, FL, 1 Jun 1942  
Barksdale Field, LA, 18 Jun 1942  
Pendleton Field, OR, 26 Jun 1942  
Gowen Field, ID, 28 Aug 1942  
Walla Walla, WA, 31 Oct 1942  
Wendover Field, UT, 30 Nov 1942  
Sioux City AAB, IA, 6 Jan 1943  
Kearney AAFld, NE, 4 Feb–1 May 1943  
Thorpe Abbots, England, 2 Jun 1943–9 Dec 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 14–15 Dec 1945

Orlando AAB (later, AFB), FL, 17 Jul 1947–27 Jun 1949  
Portsmouth (later, Pease) AFB, NH, 1 Jan 1956–25 Jun 1966  
RAF Mildenhall, England, 31 Mar 1992

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Brize Norton RAF Stn, England, 7 Jan–4 Apr 1958

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

100<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Jun 1942–15 Dec 1945  
100<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 17 Jul 1947–27 Jun 1949  
100<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 1 Jan 1956–25 Jun 1966  
100<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 31 Mar 1992

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B–17, 1942–1945  
B-17F  
B-17G  
Unkn, 1947–1949  
B–47, 1956–1966  
KC–135, 1992  
KC-135R

### **COMMANDERS**

Unkn, 1 Jun 1942  
Maj John B. Kidd, 27 Oct 1942  
LTC Ollen Turner, 10 Jun 1943  
LTC Channing B. Emberson, 14 Jun 1944  
LTC Harry F. Craver, 28 Dec 1944  
Maj John B. Milling, 19 Jun 1945  
Unkn, unkn-15 Dec 1945  
Unkn, 17 Jul 1947-27 Jun 1949  
Unkn, 1 Jan 1956  
Cpt Milton L. Spencer (Acting), Jan 1956  
LTC Walter A. Hardzog, 21 Feb 1956  
LTC Edward A. Crouchley, 1 Feb 1956  
LTC Thomas H. McGuigan, 24 Jan 1958  
LTC Edward G. Merrill, 1 Feb 1960  
LTC Donald P. Kirkpatrick, 12 Nov 1960  
LTC Robert J. Craig, 1 Jan 1963  
LTC Philip O. Works Jr., 6 Oct 1965  
LTC Perry P. Wells, 1 Jan 1966  
Maj John J. Tobin, 10 Jan 1966  
Unkn, unkn-25 Jun 1966  
LTC James K. McKinley, 31 Mar 1992

LTC Douglas G. Webb, 8 Dec 1992  
LTC Ernest E. Felts, 11 Jan 1994  
LTC Scott R. Phillips, 11 Jul 1995  
LTC Linda M. Phillips, 25 Jun 1997  
LTC Robert M. Lyles, 30 Jun 1998  
LTC James J. Norrix, 16 May 2001  
LTC Chevalier Cleaves, 2 Apr 2002  
LTC Bartholomew W. Weiss, 18 Dec 2003  
LTC Martin Hertz, 27 Jun 2005  
LTC Matthew Molineaux, 4 Jan 2007  
LTC Brett D. Pennington, 12 Jun 2008

## **HONORS**

### **Honors**

None

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Southwest Asia

Cease Fire, 12 Apr 1991-30 Nov 1995

Kosovo

Kosovo Air: 24 Mar-10 Jun 1999

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Germany, 17 Aug 1943

Berlin, Germany, 4, 6, 8 Mar 1944

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

25 Jun–31 Dec 1944

## **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Germany, 17 Aug 1943

Berlin, Germany, 4, 6, 8 Mar 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr 1993-31 Jul 1994

1 Aug 1994-31 Jul 1995

1 Aug 1995-31 Jul 1997

24 Mar-10 Jun 1999

11 Jun 1999-10 Jun 2001

1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005

1 Oct 2005-31 Dec 2006

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

25 Jun-31 Dec 1944

## **EMBLEM**





351<sup>st</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium emblem: on a Blue disc bordered White edged Blue and bearing in base a Green wreath of olive branches, a Yellow Roman style helmet in profile with Red plume above a shield blazoned: Or two lightning flashes saltirewise Azure surmounted by a bomb palewise point to base Gules. (Approved, 16 Sep 1958)



351<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a disc Azure, an escutcheon blazoned: Or, two lightning bolts in saltire abased Azure, surmounted by a bomb descending palewise Gules below a Roman helm of the first plumed of the third, all within a bordure Argent charged in base with an olive wreath Vert, all within a narrow bordure Blue. Attached above the disk, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "PAX OPUS NOSTRUM" in Blue letters. Attached below the disk, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "351ST AIR REFUELING SQ" in Blue letters. 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 golden yellow shield and helmet represent the Squadron. The bomb represents the unit's World War II bombardment mission; its red symbolizing the blood shed by veterans of that war. The lightning bolts signify the Squadron's quick response to emergency situations. The olive branch and the Latin motto, "PAX OPUS NOSTRUM," translated into English as "Peace is our Profession" indicate the unit's goal of preserving the peace.

**MOTTO**

PAX OPUS NOSTRUM—Peace is our Profession.

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Squadron saw little activity during the first months after activation on 1 Jun 1942. Began training at Walla Walla, WA, after receiving its first B-17s in early Nov 1942. In Jun 1943, moved to Thorpe Abbots, England, and began bombing targets in France and Germany, including ball-bearing plants, aircraft factories, submarine pens, airfields, surface transportation targets, oil production facilities, and V-1 launch sites until the end of the bombing campaign in Apr 1945. Inactivated in Dec 1945 after return to the United States. Activated in the Reserve from 17 Jul 1947 to 27 Jun 1949.

After reactivation on 1 Jan 1956 until Feb 1966, trained bombardment aircrews to conduct immediate and sustained global strategic bombing operations. Participated in various exercises and deployments in the United States and overseas.

As the sole aerial refueling squadron in Europe, conducted aerial refueling operations for US military, NATO and other allied aircraft for routine flight operations, training exercises, deployments, and humanitarian and contingency operations throughout Europe, including DENY FLIGHT and ALLIED FORCE, and Africa.

Requirements in on going contingency Operations Provide Comfort in Turkey and Deny Flight an Bosnia Herzegovina; Operating from Incirlik AB, Turkey; Sigonella in Sicily; and Malpenza International Air Port, Italy. Ongoing missions included Coronet movement of aircraft to and from united states or delivery of aircraft to foreign government. United States provides fuel to airborne forces of friendly governments under foreign military sales and foreign government support. Also Supported Burning Wind, Navy Forces, Provide Hope, Provide Promise, Restore Hope, Business Effort, Volant Boom/Phoenix Boom, Battle Griffin, Blue Harrier, Central Enterprise, Excalibur, Salty Nation, Juniper Falconry, and Salty Hammer Missions and Exercises. 1993

Supported deployed aircraft for contingency operations in Southwest Asia, including Operations PROVIDE COMFORT, RESTORE HOPE, NORTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM. Provided aircraft and aircrews to the European Tanker Task Force until its termination in Nov 1998.

In Oct 1995, squadron KC-135s began carrying cargo from Dover AFB, DE, to RAF Mildenhall, UK, to free up Air Mobility Command's C-141s for other airlift missions.

Conducted air refueling operations during brilliant invader, a UK strike command air defense exercise. European Tanker Task Force, flying from RAF Mildenhall, provided air refueling support for operation guardian assistance. 1996

Provided air refueling support to Dutch Air Force during exercise Falcon Nut. 1997/1998 tasked to provide additional air refueling support to Operation Northern Watch. 1997/1998

Provided U.S. Navy air refueling support during exercise Bright Star 98.

On 1 April 2003, at 1530 local time (1230 Zulu), a KC-135R, S/N 63-8025, experienced a nose landing gear collapse at RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus. The KC-135R, assigned to the 351st Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, 401st Air Expeditionary Wing, RAF Akrotiri, Cyprus, was to be part of a planned air refueling mission in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. Prior to flight, as the mishap pilot (MP) pressurized the aircraft's left hydraulic system, the nose gear inadvertently retracted thus, allowing the nose of the aircraft and the two inboard engine nacelles to come in contact with the ground. The MP, mishap copilot (MCP), and mishap boom operator, egressed safely from the aircraft without injury. The damage resulted in an estimated loss of \$2,100,437.86. There were no deaths, injuries, or property damage as the result of the mishap. The Guidance and Control Systems technician (MT1) failed to lower the landing gear lever in accordance with technical order guidance following routine maintenance. The MCP failed to verify that the landing gear lever was in the down, in detent, position as part of the copilot Interior Inspection checklist in accordance with technical order guidance. The AIB President found the mishap was a result of these two inactions.

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Air Force Order of Battle  
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#### Sources

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