

459 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

459 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium established, 30 Dec 1954
Activated in the Reserve, 26 Jan 1955
Redesignated 459 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1966
Redesignated 459 Tactical Airlift Wing, 29 Jun 1971
Redesignated 459 Military Airlift Wing, 1 Jul 1986
Redesignated 459 Airlift Wing, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 459 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 2003

STATIONS

Andrews AFB, MD, 26 Jan 1955

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force, 26 Jan 1955
Fourteenth Air Force, 25 Mar 1958
Second Air Force Reserve Region, 15 Aug 1960
First Air Force Reserve Region, 24 Jun 1966
Eastern Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
Fourteenth Air Force, 8 Oct 1976
Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Jul 1993
Fourth Air Force, 1 Apr 2003

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-45, 1955
C-46, 1955
C-119, 1957
C-124, 1966
RC-130, 1971
C-130, 1971
C-7, 1972
C-141, 1986
KC-135, 2003

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 26 Jan-13 Apr 1955
Brig Gen Ramsey D. Potts, Jr., 14 Apr 1955
Brig Gen Charles D. Briggs, Jr., 19 Jun 1960
Col George A. Amsler, 1 Jan 1970
Brig Gen William J. Crandall, 1 Jun 1970
Brig Gen Edward Dillon, 14 Jun 1973
Col Joseph W. Bourassa, 1 Jul 1975
Brig Gen Donald E. Haugen, 16 Jul 1975
Brig Gen Charles E. Jones III, 15 Jun 1978
Brig Gen Larrie C. Bates, 2 Aug 1986
Brig Gen James E. Sehorn, 2 Dec 1990
Col Clayton T. Gadd, 4 Oct 1992
Brig Gen Jon S. Gingerich, 15 Jan 1995
Col Louis C. Cusimano, 7 Mar 1999
Brig Gen Richard R. Severson, 2 Jun 2000
Col Staycee D. Harris, 29 May 2005
Col William T. Cahoon, #2010
Col James M. Allman, Jun 2010
Col William H. Mason, Jul 2012
Col Russell A. Muncy

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Grenada, 1983

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr 1971-31 Mar 1973

1 Nov 1978-31 Oct 1980

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983
1 Jan 1984-31 Dec 1985
1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1995
1 May 2002-30 Apr 2004
1 Jan 2005-31 Dec 2006

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
1 Apr 1966-29 Jun 1971

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 459 Bombardment Group prior to 26 Jan 1955.

Service Streamers

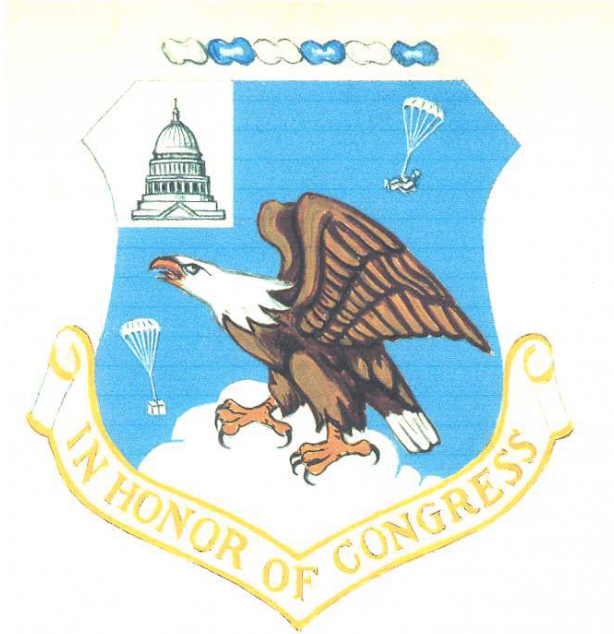
Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Rome-Arno
Normandy
Northern France
Southern France
North Apennines
Rhineland
Central Europe
Po Valley
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Decoration

Distinguished Unit Citation
Bad Voslau, Austria, 23 Apr 1944

EMBLEM



459 Troop Carrier Wing, Medium emblem, On a shield azure an American eagle proper flying over clouds in the base argent between two parachutes, one in chief transporting an airman, one in base transporting supplies all of the last; In chief a canton argent charged with the Capitol dome of the second. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The eagle, flying above the clouds in a blue sky, relates to the Air Force mission. The two parachutes with supplies and airman signify the troop carrier mission. The canton, in the dexter chief, of the shield, is an heraldic symbol. It symbolizes an honorable addition to the significance of the emblem. The canton is charged with the Capitol dome and implies this unit is called the "Congressional Wing", and the motto is "In Honor of Congress." (Approved, 1956)



459 Military Airlift Wing emblem



5 Jun 1995



Azure, in chief an arched banner doubled checky Sable and Or fimbriated Argent surmounted in base by a dexter gauntlet bendwise sinister thumb down Proper grasping a bomb palewise nose to base Gules fimbriated and garnished White; all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed 459th AIRLIFT WING in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue and 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 gauntlet grasping a bomb, suggests the unit's past history as a bomb group. It also reflects its current airlift functions which offer a strong and solid support to the Air Force global mission. The checky banner was used by the unit's predecessor unit as a tail marking. It is used on the Wing's aircraft today to reflect the Wing's World War II history and lineage. (Approved, 24 Jun 1996)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained in the Reserve for troop carrier and airlift operations. Supported airlift requirements of the Tactical Air Command, 1955 to Jul 1966 and from Jun 1971 to Dec 1974, and of Military Airlift Command from Jul 1966 to Jun 1971 and again from Dec 1974 to June 1992.

In late 1977 began to rotate elements to Panama to fly airlift missions in support of Southern Command. Participated in contingency operations in Grenada, 1983.

Provided airlift support to the fire fighters in Yellowstone National Park and to Armenian humanitarian relief effort. 1988

C-141 crew from 459 AW airlifted planeload of medical supplies to La Paz, Bolivia, to provide humanitarian assistance. 1998

The wing also provided aeromedical evacuation service and air transportation for deployment of other units. Supported operations in ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM with intertheater airlift, Oct 2001- Sep 2003.

USAF Unit Histories
Created: 19 Feb 2021
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.
Unit yearbook. *Fourteenth Air Force, Robins AFB, GA, Flying Tigers 1959.*