

507 WING



MISSION

507 consists of four subordinate groups, 10 squadrons and eight flights, and employs approximately 1,500 men and women. Approximately 300 members of the 507 and 931st are traditional civilian employees or Air Reserve Technicians (ARTs) who serve as a full-time support cadre. Both units operate and maintain the KC-135R providing worldwide aerial refueling to U.S. Military and NATO aircraft. Wing full and part time reservists fly the British Aerospace BAE 125/800 "Hawker" in concert with the Federal Aviation Administration inspecting and certifying military NAVAIDS around the world. The Wing's newest unit is a rapid deployment, combat communications squadron.

LINEAGE

507 Fighter Group established, 5 Oct 1944

Activated, 12 Oct 1944

Inactivated, 27 May 1946

Redesignated 507 Fighter Group (Air Defense), 20 Jun 1955

Activated on 18 Aug 1955

Discontinued and inactivated, 1 Feb 1961

Redesignated 507 Tactical Fighter Group, 4 May 1972

Activated in the Reserve, 20 May 1972

Inactivated, 25 Mar 1973

Activated in the Reserve, 17 Oct 1975

507 Fighter Wing (Air Defense) established and activated, 28 Dec 1960

Organized on 1 Feb 1961

Inactivated on 30 Sep 1968

507 Tactical Fighter Group and 507 Fighter Wing (Air Defense) consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Consolidated organization retained designation 507 Tactical Fighter Group

Redesignated 507 Fighter Group, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 507 Air Refueling Group, 1 Apr 1994
Redesignated 507 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1994
Redesignated 507 Wing, 15 Mar 1996
Redesignated 507 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Aug 1997
Redesignated 507 Wing

STATIONS

Peterson Field, CO, 12 Oct 1944
Bruning AAFld, NE, 20 Oct 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 15 Dec 1944-24 Apr 1945
Ie Shima, Ryukyu Islands, 24 Jun 1945
Yontan, Okinawa, 29 Jan-27 May 1946
Kinross (later, Kincheloe) AFB, MI, 18 Aug 1955-30 Sep 1968
Tinker AFB, OK, 20 May 1972-25 Mar 1973
Tinker AFB, OK, 17 Oct 1975

ASSIGNMENTS

72 Fighter Wing, 12 Oct 1944
301 Fighter Wing, 24 Jun 1945-27 May 1946
4706 Air Defense Wing, 18 Aug 1955
37 Air Division, 8 Jul 1956
30 Air Division, 1 Apr 1959
Sault Sainte Marie Air Defense Sector, 1 Apr 1960
Duluth Air Defense Sector, 1 Oct 1963
29 Air Division, 1 Apr 1966-30 Sep 1968
442 Tactical Airlift Wing, 20 May 1972
301 Tactical Fighter Wing, 25 Jul 1972-25 Mar 1973
301 Tactical Fighter Wing, 17 Oct 1975
419 Tactical Fighter (later, 419 Fighter) Wing, 1 Oct 1982
452 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Apr 1994
Fourth Air Force, 15 Apr 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

P-47, 1944-1946
F-89, 1955-1957
F-102, 1957-1960
F-106, 1960-1968
F-105, 1972-1973
F-105, 1975-1980
F-4, 1980-1988
F-16, 1988-1994

KC-135, 1994
E-3, 1996-1997

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 12-27 Oct 1944
Col Loring F. Stetson Jr., 27 Oct 1944
Lt Col Woodrow W. Korges, 12 Sep 1945
Maj Byron W. Foreman, 2 Nov 1945
Capt Franklin L. Fisher, 20 Nov 1945-unkn
Col John L. Locke, 18 Aug 1955
Col Robert W. Holmes, Jun 1956
Lt Col Claud E. Ford, 20 Jun 1959
Col Dean W. Dutrack, 27 Jul 1959
Col Thomas W. Hornsby, 12 Sep 1960
Col Ward W. Martindale, 5 Aug 1963
Col Robert L. Hinchee, 1 Jul 1967
Col William P. Brierty, 31 Aug 1967
Col Howard C. Johnson, 10 Jun 1968
Col Robert L. Hinchee, 1 Jul 1968
Col Howard C. Johnson, 12 Aug 1968
Col Robert L. Hinchee, 19 Aug-30 Sep 1968
Col John E. Taylor Jr., c. 20 May 1972
Maj Roger P. Scheer, Jan-25 Mar 1973
Col Roger P. Scheer, 17 Oct 1975
Unkn, 15 May-1 Jul 1978
Col Jervis W. McEntee, 2 Jul 1978
Lt Col Jerry A. Wrucha, 9 Sep 1984
Col James L. Turner, 5 Jan 1986
Col Robert E. Lytle, 1 Dec 1990
Col Martin M. Mazick, 13 Aug 1995
Brig Gen Dean J. Despinoy, Feb 2002
Col Timothy J. Wrighton
Col Jeffery R. Glass, 8 Jul 2006
Col Russell A. Muncy, 2 Oct 2011

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Western Pacific
Ryukyus
Air Offensive, Japan
China Offensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
Korea, 13 Aug 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1966-1 Jun 1968

1 Jan-31 Dec 1978

1 Jul 1985-1 Jul 1986

1 Jul 1987-31 Aug 1989

1 Jan 1992-31 Dec 1993

1 Jan 1994-31 Dec 1995

1 Aug 1996-31 Jul 1998

1 Jan 2009-1 Aug 2010

EMBLEM



507 Fighter Group (Air Defense) emblem: Azure, edged argent, over a point pointed in point bendwise and arched gules, fimbriated of the second, a falcon flying downward per bend argent; between two planets and a star in sinister chief, and the Great Dipper in dexter base all proper. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The colors blue and silver are symbolical of the Air Force. The blue of the field is the sky - our theater of operation. The silvery stars and planets portray the spice and the unlimited scope of our future military pursuits in peace and war. Our knowledge of rockets and guided missiles will prepare us to defend even to the stars. The silver falcon, a fierce and relentless hunter, known for speed and vigilance, portrays our fighter mission. The red path across the blue sky indicates our speed and power is ever in readiness to defend and protect peace. (Approved, 17 Aug 1956)

507 Air Refueling Wing emblem: Azure, a pile issuant from dexter chief arcing and terminating to sinister base Gules fimbriated Argent, surmounted by a stylized falcon descending bendwise head to base of the same, eyed of the second, in sinister chief a ringed planet of the third, shaded Silver Gray, garnished Dark Gray, and in dexter base six mullets Proper bendwise five and two, all within a diminished bordure Or. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "507 AIR REFUELING WING" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 ringed planet and stars denote space and reflect the unit's effort to be prepared for the future arena. The falcon, a fierce bird of prey, represents speed, vigilance and the Wing's history of flight. The pile symbolizes a fast and powerful defense of peace and protection of the unit's heritage. (Approved, 13 Mar 1995)

While there wasn't much fanfare, the 507 Air Refueling Wing patch changed recently (2006). The wing patch design was changed in the mid 1990s during a CSAF emblem review process which streamlined many Air Force patch designs by reducing the number of elements present. The review process at that time was intended to simplify patches and reduce production costs. Prior to that time, the Wing patch could be traced back to its original design from WWII era. For most Air Force wing patches very minor changes were made. In the case of the 507 ARW emblem, the patch drawing became corrupted with its sleek falcon design distorted to what became commonly referred to as a "dead pigeon." Additionally, the star pattern across the bottom lost all resemblance to the Big Dipper constellation. Because there were no readily available electronic file images at that time, the design changes were not discovered and became permanent. 2006



MOTTO

DEFENDIMUS USQUE AD ASTRA - We Defend Even to the Stars

OPERATIONS

Trained for overseas combat from late 1944 to late April 1945, when it departed for the Pacific. On 1 Jul 1945, began flying airstrikes from the Ryukyu Islands, targeting enemy ships, railroad

bridges, airfields, factories, and barracks in Japan, Korea, and China. On 8 Aug 1945, escorted B-29 on a raid, shooting down several Japanese fighters. Earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for outstanding performance in engaging and destroying Japanese interceptor aircraft during a long-range fighter sweep to Korea on 13 Aug 1945. Inactivated in Okinawa in May 1946.

During fiscal year 2002, both activated reservists and volunteers, flew 3 to 4 missions daily and off-loaded millions of pounds of fuel in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and NOBEL EAGLE, our country's response to the terrorist attacks. In addition the 507 ARW flew more than 3,000 hours supporting other operations.

7/27/2007 The Air Force Reserve Command's 507 Air Refueling Wing begins a new partnership in August when members of the Oklahoma Air National Guard team up for the drill weekend. Approximately eight Oklahoma Air National Guard aircrew members are part of an initial cadre working side-by-side with their Reserve hosts to stand up associate operations. As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, the 137th Airlift Wing at Will Rogers World Airport was identified to lose their C-130 and convert to a KC-135 associate unit with the 507 ARW. Under this associate organization, the 507 ARW is the host wing with all 12 aircraft owned by AFRC.

The Oklahoma Air National Guard will maintain separate administrative and operational control, but be associated with the 507 ARW, working together to fly and maintain all aircraft. For deployable tasking, both the 507 ARW and 137th AW will function with six primary aircraft assigned. Operationally, the 507 will receive 2,500 annual flying hours and the 137th will receive 1,800 flying hours. To support this allocation flying is anticipated to rise to six sorties a day, three-turn three, by late 2007. Of immediate concern as additional personnel arrive at the wing is where to put them.

The BRAC process requires funding two facility projects—expanding the fuel hydrant systems and build a joint squadron operations and life support building — but construction has not begun on either project. In the meantime, portable buildings are slated to be located behind building 1043 to house non-maintenance sections currently located in building 1030 such as the Services and Communications Flight, and the Logistics Readiness Squadron. This will make room for ANG maintenance crews. Some renovations have already occurred to vacate offices within the 465th building 1048 to accommodate arriving ANG aircrew.

Ultimately, once the joint squadron operations building is complete estimated to occur in Fiscal Year 09—all operations functions will move to their new building and 1048 will be renovated as the future building for all mission support group functions. Additionally, a third maintenance hangar appears to be funded for construction beginning in FY 09.

The Air Force broke ground last week for a new \$8 million joint squadron operations facility that will serve as the nerve center for the Oklahoma Air National Guard's 137th Air Refueling Wing and Air Force Reserve Command's 507 ARW. The Air Guard unit converted from airlift to air refueling under BRAC 2005 and began helping to fly and maintain the 12 KC-135s of the 507 ARW earlier this year. The AFRC wing was slated to receive funding for a new ops building, but officials of both wings pushed to combine efforts into one larger structure. "By combining

funding sources and combining mutual joint use aspects such as the joint use auditorium, we are able to get a facility that will better satisfy the operational needs for both," said Joe Wade, 507 ARW facility program manager.

Air Force Reserve Command has announced the 507 Air Refueling Wing has been selected to receive the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. The award recognizes the 507 ARW for exceptionally meritorious service from January 1, 2009 through July 31, 2010. The 507 ARW was one of 14 AFRC wings receiving this award. During this period, the 507 accomplished its mission with a maximum degree of wartime capability. Wing aircrews and maintenance members achieved an all-time record of 4,492 hours flown, with a stellar safety record refueling 1,043 receivers with 6,922,900 pounds of fuel in support of the United Nations, as well as national objectives with Operations ENDURING FREEDOM, IRAQI FREEDOM, UNIFIED RESPONSE and NOBLE EAGLE.

The wing shattered flying hour records in 2010, spending 735 and 678 hours in the air in January and February, respectively; and providing 495 volunteers for Expeditionary Air Force deployments, including direct contact with the enemy. The 507 Maintenance Group achieved a deployed departure reliability rate of 96.77% and their annual aircraft mission capability rate repeatedly exceeded Air Force standards. Wing aircrew and maintenance members proudly participated in Rim of the Pacific exercise, the world's largest joint multi-national maritime exercise, providing more than 2.2 million pounds of fuel to 314 aircraft while fearlessly leading first-time attending C-17 on 56 missions. Beyond the wings flying mission, more than 500 wing members deployed worldwide during this period with their accomplishments contributing to the wing's success. During the rating period, the Wing's activated security forces squadron redeployed from Kirkuk Air Base, Iraq, where they were lauded for their exceptional air base ground defense, protecting and defending soldiers, Airmen and Iraqi local nationals with exacting precision.

Members of the 72nd Aerial Port Squadron repeatedly deployed assuring the successful shipment of tens of thousands of tons of equipment and thousands of personnel. 507 Medical Group personnel deployed in support of active duty backfill, humanitarian mission and combat support requirements. Likewise, 507 Civil Engineer Squadron personnel provided superior support while serving in locations across the country and in combat zones. Finally, the wing's 1st Aviation Standards Flight kept international airways safe through their inspection and certification of 100 navigation aids and more than \$2 million in precision radars, assuring all-weather combat operations.

The association between the Air Force Reserve's 507 Air Refueling Wing and the Air National Guard's 137th ARW has ended after eight years of operations at Tinker AFB, Okla., according to a July 21 release. An Oklahoma ANG crew flew the final training flight on an AFRC KC-135 in late June, marking the end of the "formal association. Col. Brian Davis, commander of the 507, said the ongoing relationship between the two organizations will continue.

Borne of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, the 507 ARW was selected to be one of the first AFRC units to serve as a host wing for an associated ANG wing, with aircrew and maintainers from the 137th ARW moving from Will Rogers Air National Guard Base and flying and maintaining KC-135s from Tinker beginning in 2007. Over the past eight years, the wings

have accumulated more than 13,500 combined flying hours, and served as a test model for integrating ANG and AFRC units.

The 507 ARW will continue to fly and maintain KC-135s, while the 137th ARW will transition to Air Force Special Operations Command to take on the MC-12 Liberty, once again operating from Will Rogers. In January 2014, a similar arrangement between the AFRC and ANG at Niagara Falls ARS, N.Y., came to an end, as the Air Guard transitioned from flying C-130s to a remotely piloted aircraft mission. 2015

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.