

## 906th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE<sup>1</sup>

16th Reconnaissance Squadron (Medium) constituted, 20 Nov 1940

Activated, 15 Jan 1941

Redesignated 406th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 22 Apr 1942

Redesignated 406th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 1 Jun 1943

Redesignated 406th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 2 Nov 1943

Redesignated 406th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943

Redesignated 406th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 5 Aug 1945

Inactivated, 17 Oct 1945

906th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy constituted, 9 Mar 1959

Activated, 1 Jun 1959

406th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy Consolidated with 906th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 906th Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

#### STATIONS

Fort Douglas, Utah, 15 Jan 1941

Boise, Idaho, 4 Jun 1941 (air echelon operated from Paine Field, Washington, from 8 Dec 1941)

Paine Field, Washington, 21 Jan 1942

Portland AAB, Oregon, 20 Jul–1 Nov 1942 (air echelon operated from Elmendorf Field, Alaska,

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<sup>1</sup> Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

from 7 Jun 1942)  
Elmendorf Field, Alaska, 15 Nov 1942–18 Oct 1943 (operated from Adak, 25 Jul–13 Aug 1943  
and from Amchitka, 13 Aug–Oct 1943)  
Portland AAB, Oregon, 23 Oct–2 Nov 1943  
Alconbury, England, 11 Nov 1943  
Watton, England, 7 Feb 1944  
Harrington, England, 1 Apr 1944  
Cheddington, England, 10 Aug 1944  
Harrington, England, 16 Mar–6 Aug 1945  
Sioux Falls, AAFld, South Dakota, 14 Aug 1945  
Kirtland Field, New Mexico, 17 Aug–17 Oct 1945  
Minot AFB, North Dakota, 1 Jun 1959  
Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, 30 Jan 1994  
Scott AFB, Illinois, 1 Oct 2009

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

3d Wing, 15 Jan 1941  
42d Bombardment Group, 25 Feb 1942  
41st Bombardment Group, 12 Feb 1943  
Fourth Air Force, 11 Oct 1943  
Eighth Air Force, 2 Nov 1943  
1 Bombardment Division, 21 Nov 1943  
VIII Air Force Composite Command, 26 Feb 1944  
VIII Fighter Command, 1 Oct 1944  
1st Air Division, 30 Dec 1944  
492d Bombardment Group, 5 Aug–17 Oct 1945  
4136th Strategic Wing, 1 Jun 1959  
450th Bombardment Wing, 1 Feb 1963  
5th Bombardment Wing, 25 Jul 1968  
5th Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991  
43d Operations Group, 1 Jun 1992  
319th Operations Group, 30 Jan 1994  
375th Operations Group, 1 Oct 2009

### **ATTACHMENTS**

42d Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941–24 Feb 1942  
28th Composite Group, 6 Jun 1942–10 Oct 1943  
482d Bombardment Group, 4 Dec 1943–21 Feb 1944  
801st Bombardment Group [Provisional], 28 Mar–5 Aug 1944

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B–18, 1941–1943  
B–26, 1941–1942  
A–29, 1942–1943

B-25, 1943  
B-24, 1943-1945  
B-17, 1944-1945  
KC-135, 1959

#### **COMMANDERS**

Capt David H. Motherwell, 15 Jan 1941  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Roy R. Buschetto, 8 Jun 1941 (Temporary)  
Maj Harry E. Wilson, 12 Aug 1941  
Capt Roy R. Buschetto, 14 Mar 1942  
Maj Harold D. Courtenay, 27 May 1942  
Lt Col Clifford J. Heflin, 11 Nov 1943  
Maj Robert L. Boone, 11 Dec 1943  
Lt Col Earle J. Aber Jr., 10 Aug 1944  
Maj Robert H. Gaddy, 7 Mar-Aug 1945  
None (Unmanned), 17 Aug-17 Oct 1945  
Capt Rex D. Crenshaw, 1 Jun 1959  
Col Robert D. Cummings, 31 Jun 1960  
Lt Col Richard A. Hargarten, 22 Jun 1961  
Lt Col Curtis E. Hopkins, 31 Jan 1962  
Lt Col Norman C. Boomgaard, 1 Aug 1963  
Lt Col William D. Hatcher, 18 Feb 1966  
Lt Col Bruce G. Keltz, Jun 1968  
Lt Col Vernon R. Huber, Jan 1970  
Lt Col John R. Hamm, Jan 1971  
Lt Col James W. Lee, Sep 1972  
Lt Col Donald G. Krause, Jun 1974  
Lt Col Richard M. Tooke, 25 May 1977  
Lt Col Thomas S. Bennett, 5 Jul 1978  
Lt Col Theodore G. Alexander, 3 Apr 1980  
Lt Col James E. Chapman, 28 Jul 1981  
Lt Col Francis X. Deignan, 29 Aug 1983  
Lt Col Raymond A. Malinovsky, 22 Apr 1985  
Lt Col Arthur E. Cole, 13 Jul 1986  
Lt Col Randolph P. Vranish, 1 Jan 1988  
Lt Col Lawrence Stevenson, 4 Dec 1989  
Lt Col Cary Walgamott, 13 Feb 1991  
Lt Col Robert Atkins Jr., 1 Jun 1992  
Lt Col Robert W. Barrier, By Jul 1993  
Lt Col Mark D. Perodeau, 1 Feb 1994  
Lt Col Stephen Spence, 7 Jul 1995  
Lt Col Peter F. N. Szabo, 21 Jul 1997  
Lt Col Robert Mahoney, 25 May 1999  
Lt Col Thomas H. Smith, 6 Jul 2000

Lt Col Glenn G. Rousseau, 13 Jun 2002  
Lt Col Sean K. Carey, 11 Jul 200  
Lt Col Kip Turain, 27 Dec 2004  
Lt Col Tim Riney, 28 Jun 2006  
Lt Col Will Snyder, 14 Jan 2008  
Lt Col Joe Santos, 1 Oct 2009  
Lt Col Douglas Edwards, 10 May 2011

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
Aleutian Islands  
Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater  
Air Offensive, Europe  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1979  
1 Jul 1983–30 Jun 1984  
1 Jul 1984–30 Jun 1985  
1 Jul 1985–30 Jun 1986  
1 Jul 1991–31 May 1992  
1 Jun 1992–30 Jun 1993  
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 2007–19 Jun 2009  
1 Oct 2009–31 Aug 2011

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

## EMBLEM



On a light blue disc, INDIAN BOY red, wearing a large feather headdress white, red, and black, banded at the head light blue and yellow, yellow trousers, white sash about the waist, trimmed red and yellow, red moccasins, trimmed black, white, and blue, peering through telescope held in left hand, and throwing a black aerial bomb held aloft in right hand. (Approved, 12 Jul 1943)<sup>2</sup>

When the 16th Reconnaissance Squadron was stationed at Fort Douglas, Utah, a crystallization of morale was felt to be so vital that one of its members journeyed to Burbank, California and the Disney studios to expedite at first hand the creation of a suitable design for an insignia. A rough sketch of little Hiawatha in a militant pose had already been prepared as a preliminary suggestion, and Disney artists completed the character by placing bomb held at ready in a throwing posture against a lacinate background of Indian color. In little Hiawatha's left hand a pair of field glasses brings the enemy objective into clearer range.



<sup>2</sup> War Insignia Stamp Album, Vol. 2, Postamp Publishing Co., 1942.



On a disc per bend Light Blue and Air Force Blue within an Air Force Golden Yellow border, a White globe displaying the continents of North and South America, Light Blue outlined Air Force Blue, above two Air Force Golden Yellow olive branches, details Golden Brown, originating in base and arched, one to dexter and one to sinister; over all in downward flight palewise, a silhouetted stylized aircraft, Air Force Blue. **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 globe with the stylized aircraft represents the unit's ability and requirement to provide air refueling anytime, anyplace, under any conditions twenty-four hours day or night. The olive branches symbolize the unit's contribution to the Air Force mission of maintaining peace. (Approved, 10 Jul 1961)

## **MOTTO**

### **OPERATIONS<sup>3</sup>**

Antisubmarine patrols, 23 Dec 1941–4 May 1942. Combat in Northern Pacific, 16 Jun 1942–Aug 1943.

Antisubmarine patrols, 23 Dec 1941-4 May 1942. Combat in Northern Pacific, 16 Jun 1942-Aug 1943. Served in ETO as CARPETBAGGER unit, 5 Jan-Aug 1944, and afterwards flew leaflet missions until 9 May 1945.

Following the Dutch Harbor attack, the Japanese landed forces on the western Aleutian Islands of Attu and Kiska. Additional reinforcements consisting of the 21st and 404th Bombardment Squadrons, equipped with B-24s; the 406th Bombardment Squadron, A-29s; the 54th Fighter Group, P-39s; and 54th Fighter Squadron, P-38s were sent to Alaska. The Eleventh Air Force launched an air offensive against the Japanese on the two islands.

In January 1942, the 42nd Bombardment Group (Medium) moved its headquarters to McChord Field near Tacoma, Washington. Its 75th Bombardment Squadron flew antisubmarine patrols from Portland, Oregon, while the 76th flew similar missions from Jacksonville, Florida. The 76th, which became the 23d Antisubmarine Squadron (Heavy) on 3 March 1943, left the 42nd Bombardment Group (Medium) the previous month. The 16th Reconnaissance (later 406th Bombardment) Squadron was assigned to the group on 3 March 1942.

In preparation for its transfer to the South Pacific, the group picked up two new bombardment squadrons--the 69th and 70th--on 26 February 1943. Both units were already in the Pacific Theater equipped with the B-25 Mitchell. Then in March 1943, the 42nd moved from McChord Field to Camp Stoneman, California, for some additional training before heading to New Caledonia. The group gained another unit in February 1944--the 100th Bombardment Squadron. Five tactical squadrons were now assigned.

The 42nd entered combat in June 1943, while operating from Guadalcanal and, later, other bases in the Solomon Islands. Aircrews from the 42nd attacked Japanese airfields, personnel areas, gun positions, and shipping in the central Solomons. For the first six months of 1944, the group was primarily engaged in the neutralization of enemy airfields and harbor facilities on New Britain. However, the group also acted in support of ground forces on Bougainville Island and attacked shipping in the northern Solomons and the Bismarcks. In August the 42nd began to bomb airfields and installations on New Guinea, Celebes, and Halmahera in the Malay Archipelago, and flew reconnaissance missions.

Global aerial refueling operations, 1959

906 Air Refueling Squadron continued to provide KC-135 and crews for Chrome Dome Rotation to Eielson AFB, AK. 1962

906 AREFS provided crew and aircraft to support Texas Star Reflex Operations in United Kingdom. 1962

906 AREFS flew 50 Six KC-135 Great Lakes Tanker Task Force Sorties. 1965

Supported combat operations in Southeast Asia, 1968–1975

Southwest Asia, 1990–1991.

Jul - Nov 1994 - The 905 ARS and 906 ARS deployed to Riyadh Air Base (AB), Saudi Arabia, to support Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW), the United Nations coalition forces enforcement of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Nov - Dec 1994 - The 906 ARS deployed to Pisa, Italy, and Istres AB, France, to support Operation DENY FLIGHT.

Jan - Apr 1995 - The 906 ARS supported Operation CONSTANT VIGIL, an anti-drug trafficking operation, from Tucumen International Airport in Panama City, Panama.

1 Oct 2009 The 906th Air Refueling Squadron moved (without personnel and equipment) from the 319th Operations Group, Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, to the 375th Operations Group, Scott AFB. The 906th became an active associate unit flying the KC-135R of the 126th Air Refueling Wing, Illinois Air National Guard.

2009 As part of the Air Force's ongoing Total Force Integration (TFI) efforts, the 906th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) raised its flag today at Scott Air Force Base, Ill. The 906th ARS is an Active Association squadron with the Illinois National Guard's 126th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) serving as its host organization for all associated personnel. The 126th ARW will have operational direction and control of missions and assets, while the 375th Air Mobility Wing (AMW), specifically the 375<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, will be administratively responsible for the 906th's personnel. Lt. Col. Joe Santos took command of the 906th ARS today in a small, but significant ceremony at the base. "It is truly an honor to have been selected to command the 906th Air Refueling Squadron," said Santos.

"The 906th has a long and distinguished history of service in the Air Force and I am proud to be able to continue with that proud heritage as an Active Duty Associate Squadron, assigned the 375th Operations Group and working side-by-side with the professional men and women of the 126th Air Refueling Wing." A ceremony is being planned for a future date, to recognize and honor both the 906<sup>th</sup> ARS and the 375 AMW's redesignation. The 906th ARS underwent a "flag move" without personnel and equipment to Scott AFB from Grand Forks AFB, N.D.

The 906th has a notable history of service to the U.S. Air Force and will continue that service from its new home at Scott AFB. Active Duty Airmen comprised of air crew, maintenance and support personnel began assignment to the 906th ARS as early as July 2009. The squadron is expected to be fully staffed, with approximately 135 Airmen, and operational by the fall 2011. Under this Active Association, the Airmen assigned to the 906th will work side-by-side 126th Airmen flying and maintaining the Air Guard's fleet of aircraft to accomplish the wing's missions to include contingency deployments. "The legacy of the 126th Air Refueling Wing is proven with its nearly 60 years of service to the nation and over 80 years of flying with the 108th Air Refueling Squadron," said Col. Peter Nezamis, 126th Air Refueling Wing Commander.

"During the nation's most troubled times, the 126th has always answered the call. The Wing's decorated accomplishments reflect the dedication of its officers and Airmen. This association will provide increased efficiencies through a combination of factors coupled with greater aircraft availability, utilization and trained Airmen all increasing the command's capability to support world-wide aerial refueling requirements." This association is one of three Active Associate KC-135 units taking shape today.

The other Active Associate units are located at Birmingham Air National Guard Base, Ala., and Pease ANGB, N.H. These associated units will provide greater day-to-day mission capabilities and will help the Total Air Force more efficiently utilize its KC-135 force. Such associations also generate efficiencies by sharing resources and reducing duplication of effort, increasing overall air refueling capability and preserving a corporate body of knowledge. They



also help to improve aircrew and maintenance expertise levels, capitalizing on the long-term experience resident in Air National Guard units. General Craig McKinley, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said that this initiative is critical to the success of the Air Force.

“Total Force Integration builds on state and regional capabilities, thereby increasing economic efficiencies and enhancing the Air Force’s ability to defend the Homeland against emerging threats and respond to natural disasters,” he said. The 126th ARW is the oldest Air National Guard unit in Illinois and the first Air Refueling unit in the Air National Guard. “The Illinois Air National Guard’s 126<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing is an outstanding unit with a great history,” said Maj. Gen. William Enyart, Adjutant General of the Illinois National Guard. “Our Illinois Airmen have an incredible wealth of knowledge and experience that makes the 126th Air Refueling Wing ideal to become an associate unit with the Air Force.”

The 126th ARW has participated in nearly every major contingency of the 20th Century and continues to support today’s Global War on Terror. The Wing recently deployed nearly 50 members in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and since Sept. 11 has deployed more than 2,240 Airmen, off-loaded more than 14.6 million gallons of JP-8 jet fuel, and transported more than 675 tons of cargo. The unit traces its roots back to Midway Airport then to Orchard Place Airport, now Chicago O’Hare Airport, until a Base Realignment and Closure directed move brought the unit to Scott AFB in 1999.