

927 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

927 Troop Carrier Group, Medium established and activated, 15 Jan 1963
Organized in the Reserve, 11 Feb 1963
Redesignated 927 Tactical Airlift Group, 1 Jul 1967
Redesignated 927 Tactical Air Support Group, 18 Jun 1969
Redesignated 927 Tactical Airlift Group, 29 Jun 1971
Redesignated 927 Airlift Group, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 927 Air Refueling Group, 1 Jun 1992
Redesignated 927 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Selfridge AFB (later, ANGB), MI, 11 Feb 1963
MacDill AFB, FL, 27 Apr 2008

ASSIGNMENTS

Continental Air Command, 15 Jan 1963
403 Troop Carrier Wing, 11 Feb 1963
Central Air Force Reserve Region, 31 Dec 1969
403 Composite (later, 403rd Tactical Airlift) Wing, 1 Jun 1970
459 Tactical Airlift Wing, 15 Mar 1976
440 Tactical Airlift (later, 440th Airlift) Wing, 1 Jul 1981
434 Wing (later, 434 Air Refueling) Wing, 1 Aug 1992
Twenty-Second Air Force, 1 Oct 1994
Fourth Air Force, 1 Apr 1997

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-119, 1963-1969
U-3, 1969-1971
C-130, 1971
KC-135, 1992

COMMANDERS

Col George L. Kittle, 11 Feb 1963
Col Roy M. Marshall, 1 Apr 1968
Lt Col Charles E. Williams, 30 Jul 1972
Col John H. Lynn, 9 Mar 1973
Lt Col Robert C. Metzger, 21 Jun 1974
Col Robert E. Dotson, 9 May 1976
Col John G. Sullivan, 2 Oct 1977
Col John J. Desjardine, 17 Jun 1979
Col Peter T. Pomonis, 9 Sep 1979
Col Dale R. Baumler, 1 Aug 1980
Lt Col William R. Scott (acting), 27 Feb 1982
Col Warren D. Snyder, 4 Jul 1982
Lt Col Clayton T. Gadd, 27 Mar 1988
Lt Col Frank W. Waid, 24 Sep 1989
Col Thomas R. Brown, 21 Mar 1993
Col Kenneth D. Suggs, 2005
Col Gary E. Beebe
Col David P. Pavey, 11 Apr 2010
Col Douglas J. Schwartz, 13 Jan 2013
Col Randall Bright, 13 Jul 2014
Col Frank L. Amodeo, 11 Sep 2016
Col Michael J. Remualdo, 14 Jul 2017
Col Douglas A. Stouffer, 18 Feb 2018

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Southwest Asia
Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award
1 Nov 1978-31 Oct 1980

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
14 Feb 1968-6 Nov 1972

EMBLEM



Per bend azure and argent, a lightning bolt bendwise throughout or between a parabundle fesswise vert and of the second suspended by two parachutes gules and of the second to sinister and of the last to dexter above, and a cross coupé gules with wings elevated of the third garnished of the first below; a chief of the last; all within a diminished bordure argent. Across the top a band of gold symbolizes the richness of tradition of the 927 Tactical Airlift Group. The shield is diagonally "struck" from top-right to lower-left by a golden bolt of lightning (lightning-fast response time when needed), dividing the shield into a blue field (upper-left, symbolizing the "endless skies travelled") and white field (lower-right, symbolizing a "firm commitment to peace"). Against the blue field an olive drab colored parabundle symbolizes "The men in fatigues and flight suits performing the combat delivery function." The red, white, and blue combination of colors symbolize our national colors to which all 927 TAG functions are dedicated. Across the white field flies a red cross on golden wings to symbolize the aeromedical evacuation and mercy functions performed by the 927 TAG and its aeromedical evacuation flight personnel. The entire shield (not including the scroll) has a border of white, symbolizing the commitment to peace which yields tradition and function. The final element is the olive drab colored border around the entire shield and scroll. This matches the fatigues and flight suits on which the emblem will be worn, but also symbolizes the personnel in fatigues and flight suits whose past, present, and future efforts make possible all other symbolism inherent in the emblem.



Per bend Gules and Azure, a lightning bolt throughout bendwise or overall winged horse Argent detailed Sable; all within a diminished bordure of the third. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed II 927th AIR REFUELING WING II 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 winged horse reflects the Wing's functions of air refueling and connotes the unit's capacity to extend itself to meet the needs of the job. The lightning represents the energy of the unit personnel who provide the strength of purpose to perform any air refueling task under any conditions. The shield is divided Red and Blue denoting the courage and valor of those who perform their services to the Air Force and the nation. (Approved, 5 Jun 1995)

The emblem of the 927th Air Refueling Wing is a proud and distinctive symbol of the organization's mission. The four major parts of the emblem represent the defining criteria through which the unit contributes to the Air Force mission. The main symbol, the winged white horse, pulls from mythology that character of strength beyond its capacity. It also represents an extension of range beyond creatures' limits, the service provided to the Air Force by the organization. The lightning bolt depicts courage and loyalty as it acts in concert to provide energy that serves to propel the proud workhorse upward. It is this synergy that gives the winged horse, and those people represented by it, the strength to perform any task under any condition. The red field depicts the courage and valor of those who perform the mission. White reflects the pure and clean qualities found in strength and simplicity. Air force yellow depicts the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel, and ultramarine blue suggests the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations.

MOTTO

STRENGTH, HONOR, AND MERCY

OPERATIONS

Organized, equipped, and trained for tactical airlift from 1963-1969, participating in exercises with the 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions to prepare them for missions to the Dominican

Republic in 1965 and to Vietnam. The group ferried personnel and equipment to various locations around the country and sometimes to overseas theaters. Between 1969 and 1971, it used small aircraft and jeeps to train ground and airborne forward air controllers and air liaison personnel to support ground forces in a theater of operations. In 1971, the group returned to its tactical airlift mission, training for intratheater air movements of troops, equipment, and supplies. Between 1971 and 1990, it participated in various training exercises, humanitarian airlift operations, and rotational deployments to Panama. Group elements deployed to Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991 to provide tactical airlift of troops and military materiel. In 1992, the group began flying air refueling missions. It continued taking part in training exercises, but also supported some overseas movements.

In 1995 the wing refueled transports pulling U.S. troops out of Somalia. It also refueled fighters participating in NATO's Operation Deny Flight in Bosnia. Using its tankers as transports, the wing supported Operation Joint Endeavor by airlifting cargo from the United States to Germany. In 1996, it provided air refueling support for NATO units operating in and around Bosnia-Herzegovina in Operation Decisive Endeavor.

From 1995 through 1997 they took part in the Somalia Pullout, Atlantic Express, Operation Deny Flight, Joint Endeavor Express, Airlift to Soto Cano, Honduras, AWACS support to Geilenkirchen, GE, Red Flag at Nellis AFB, Snowbird Support to Kelly AFBG, Puerto Rico ANG Support, Airlift Rhein Main to Duke, Airlift to Ramstein, Germany, Decisive Endeavor, Pitch Black, Pacific Express to Kadena AB, Japan, Phoenix Tusk to Bangor, Maine and more recently they deployed to Pisa, Italy to support the no fly zone over the former Yugoslavia.

The 927ARW responded within one hour after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. The wing supported Homeland Defense as part of Operation Noble Eagle. The 927th Security Forces Squadron was initially activated for 12 months and extended for an additional 12 months in support of Operation Noble Eagle. The wing remains actively engaged in Operations Noble Eagle (Homeland Defense) and Enduring Freedom (Global War on Terrorism).

With the move, the wing went from owning its own KC-135 aircraft to flying and maintaining aircraft owned by the 6th Air Mobility Wing.

KC-135 Wing Moves from Michigan to Florida The 927th Air Refueling Wing has a new home. Formerly located at Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Mich., the 927th officially transferred to MacDill Air Force Base, Fla., April 27. With the move, the wing went from owning its own KC-135 aircraft to flying and maintaining aircraft owned by the regular Air Force's 6th Air Mobility Wing. "We are going to build the premier KC-135 associate wing," said Col. Kenneth Lewis, who took command of the 927th ARW on the same day as the transfer. "When I ask you to integrate with active duty everywhere, it makes sense to do so. "Or, when I tell our Airmen (they) need to conceive, devise and implement better ways of utilizing resources in order to maximize our efficiency and productivity, it is because the better we do our jobs as individuals and

collectively, as a wing, the more we contribute to the destruction of our enemies.” It has been about three years since the Base Realignment and Closure Commission directed the wing to relocate to MacDill AFB to become an associate wing. Aircraft formerly managed by the 927th ARW went to Air National Guard units.

Wing Airmen and civilian employees continue to find employment through the Air Force Reserve Command clearinghouse and with Air Force Reserve units that are within commuting distance. Some went to work for other federal agencies or joined the Michigan ANG. Others returned to the regular Air Force or chose to serve with another military service. Despite these changes, “morale remains high, and the remaining people realize there is a big job to do,” wing officials said. “The men and women of the 927th have a unique opportunity to build something great here, and I know that you will,” said Col. Gary Beebe, who passed the wing leadership flag to Colonel Lewis. Colonel Beebe now commands 4th Air Force, Detachment 2 at Selfridge, an organization that will close out Air Force Reserve business there in 2009. The wing conducted its first unit training assembly the same weekend of the transfer.

More than 150 Reservists participated in the UTA, with 142 in formation, beneath the nose cone of a KC-135 that bears the numeric designation of the Reserve and active-duty wings, for the transfer ceremony. “We have a long and exciting future, and I’m thrilled about us being able to do this,” said Maj. Gen. Robert E. Duignan, 4th AF commander, referring to the Total Force Integration at MacDill. “There have been a lot of people who have worked very hard for this to come about, and we are ready for this relationship to begin. “There are processes in place (at MacDill) to take care of our personnel, and they are ready for us to start flying operations. It will be here, as at other places, where you won’t be able to tell the difference between the forces, whether they are active duty or Reserve.” 2008

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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