

11 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

5 Mapping Squadron constituted, 1 May 1942

Activated, 7 May 1942

Redesignated 11 Photographic Mapping Squadron, 9 Jun 1942

Redesignated 11 Photographic Squadron (Heavy), 6 Feb 1943

Redesignated 11 Combat Mapping Squadron, 11 Aug 1943

Disbanded, 1 May 1944

11 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy constituted, 10 Aug 1955

Activated, 1 Dec 1955

Redesignated 11 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium, 15 Sep 1958

Redesignated 11 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 25 Jun 1965

11 Combat Mapping Squadron and 11 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 11 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1994

STATIONS

Bradley Field, CT, 7 May 1942

Colorado Springs, CO, 13 May 1942

Will Rogers Field, OK, 14 Oct 1943-1 May 1944

Abilene AFB (Later Dyess AFB), TX, 1 Dec 1955
Dover AFB, DE, 1 Jun 1960
Altus AFB, OK, 25 Jun 1965

ASSIGNMENTS

2 Photographic (2 Photographic Reconnaissance and Mapping) Group, 7 May 1942-1 May 1944
341 Bombardment Wing, Medium
4050 Air Refueling Wing, 1 JUN 60
499 Air Refueling Wing
820 Strategic Aerospace Division, 1964
11 Strategic Aerospace (later, 11 Air Refueling) Wing
19 Air Division
17 Strategic Aerospace Division
47 Air Division
19 Air Division
340 Air Refueling Group, Heavy (later, 340 Air Refueling Wing, Heavy)
340 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
97 Operations Group, 1 Oct 1992
457 Operations Group, Jul 1993-1 Oct 1994

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17/F-7
B-24, 1942-1944
KC-97F, 1956
KC-97G, 1960
KC-135, 1965-1994

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Charles M. Hunter, 1955
Maj David F. Gray, 1958
Col Gilmer E Walker, 1960
Col Perry P. Menzies, 1962
Col Silas Minton, 1963-1965
Col Glen L. Pugmire, 25 Mar 1969

HONORS

Service Streamers

American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

1 Sep 1956-11 Apr 1957

1 Jan 1963-31 Dec 1974

1 Jul 1971-30 Jun 1973

1 Jul 1980-30 Jun 1982

EMBLEM



On a white right-angled triangle, edged green, its diagonal side turned toward sinister (left), spattered with eleven Air Force blue stars, a green globe issuing from chief, grid lines white and surmounted by five white cloud formations; issuing from base and over all, the bottom of an aircraft with extended boom silver gray, highlighted white, outlined black; all within a narrow Air Force blue border. The green globe with white grid lines and clouds signifies our global capabilities and our squadron colors. The aircraft with extended boom represents our air refueling mission. The white field with eleven Air Force blue stars symbolizes night and day capabilities, identifies us with the Strategic Air Command, and indicates the numerical designation of our squadron. (Approved, 9 May 1958)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Trained crews and technicians for photographic reconnaissance and mapping, 1942-1944.

The initial group of experienced Aircraft Commanders, came to the 11th from non-flying desk jobs. Co-pilots and Navigators, for the most part, were new 2LTs right out of flight training. Flight Engineers, highly experienced, came from B-50 and B-36s units. The Boom Operators were

experienced also.

Three experienced SAC KC-97 crews were sent in to conduct the check out program. They brought in three new Aircraft from Boeing-Renton. After a vigorous and expedited checkout was completed, they became the KC-97 Standardization Board.

Aircraft of 11 AREFS redeployed to Hickam AFB, HI to support deployment of Strategic Air Command rotational wing. The remainder of 11 AREFS redeployed to Dyess AFB, TX. 1957

11 AREFS KC-97 destroyed by fire on 18 Jan 59 while parked on ramp at Elmendorf AFB OK. Aircraft was part of reflex action force maintained at that base since beginning of 1959.

In 1972 the 11th supported two large-scale aircraft movements to Southeast Asia, 5-6 and 8-9 April, and on 12 May and the next three days deployed all available tankers and crews at Takhli AB, Thailand. About one-half of squadron personnel formed a rear echelon at Altus AFB. The forward echelon manned the 4101st Air Refueling Squadron, Provisional. Some 11th ARS personnel returning to Altus AFB on 4 Nov 1972, but some of the squadron remained on temporary duty in SEA. By January 1973 about half of the 11th's KC-135s had returned and in June 1973 all aircraft and crews had returned

Constant Guard III was the deployment of four squadrons of F-4Ds of the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing from Holloman AFB, New Mexico, to Takhli, starting on 3 May. In this case, the tanker task force accompanying them overseas redeployed back to CONUS, but 16 other KC-135s specially designated the Constant Guard III tanker force and made up largely from the 11th Air Refueling Squadron, Altus AFB, Oklahoma, proceeded to Takhli between 6 and 17 May. The force started to arrive on 15 May and remained there as Operating Location TC (OL-TC) of U-Tapao's 307th Strategic Wing, flying their first Young Tiger sortie three days later. Takhli had served as a USAF support base in May 1971 and had since fallen into a sad state of disrepair. It literally had to be reopened from the start for its new KC-135 force.

Squadron resources were divided effective 1 Jul 1977, part being retained by the 11th, and the remainder used to man the new 340th Air Refueling Group, Heavy, and the 340th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.