

44 EXPEDITIONARY AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

44 Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942

Activated, on 15 Jun 1942

Redesignated 44 Troop Carrier Squadron, on 4 Jul 1942

Inactivated, on 25 Mar 1946

44 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 13 Feb 1953

Activated on 20 Apr 1953

Discontinued and inactivated, on 15 Dec 1964

44 Troop Carrier Squadron and 44 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium consolidated and redesignated 44 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 44 Air Refueling Squadron on 9 Sep 1994

Redesignated 44 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, and converted to provisional status, on 25 Jan 2002

STATIONS

Patterson Field, OH, 15 Jun 1942

Bowman Field, KY, 16 Jun 1942

Lawson Field, GA, 9 Aug 1942

Del Valle, TX, 29 Sep-10 Nov 1942

Egypt, 25 Nov 1942

Nouvion, Algeria, 10 May 1943

Guercif, French Morocco, 28 May 1943

Enfidaville, Tunisia, 24 Jun 1943
Mazara, Sicily, 1 Sep 1943
Borizzo, Sicily, 18 Oct 1943-16 Feb 1944
Cottesmore, England, Feb 1944-May 1945
Pope Field, NC, May 1945
Baer Field, IN, 20 Jun-15 Jul 1945
Bellows Field, TH, 3 Aug 1945
Wheeler Field, TH, 29 Sep 1945-25 Mar 1946
Lake Charles (later Chennault) AFB, LA, 20 Apr 1953
Selfridge AFB, MI, 1 Jun 1960-15 Dec 1964

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Sidi Slimane, French Morocco, 12 Apr-22 Jun 1954
Goose AB, Labrador, 21 Feb-7 Apr
and 28 Oct-28 Dec 1955; 28 Jun-29 Aug 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

316 Transport (later, 316 Troop Carrier) Group, 15 Jun 1942
I Troop Carrier Command, May 1945
VI Air Service Area Command, attached 3 Aug 1945-25 Mar 1946
44 Bombardment Wing, 20 Apr 1953
4045 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jun 1960
500 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 25 Jan 2002

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1942-1945
C-46, 1945-1946
KC-97, 1953-1964

COMMANDERS

Lt Col Buron R. Fleet, Jun 1942
Lt Col Benjamin F. Kendig, Aug 1943
Unkn, Apr 1945-25 Mar 1946
1st Lt Kenneth W. Halgren, 20 Apr 1953
Lt Col William K. Brooks, Jun 1953
Maj Edward O. Martin, Jul 1954
Lt Col William M. Shewbart, 6 Sep 1955
Lt Col Ralph O. Sensenbrenner, Jun 1956
Lt Col Ira D. Hassler, 8 May 1957
Lt Col Paul Handy, 1 Jul 1958
Maj Arthur P. Bertanzetti, 10 Jun 1959
Lt Col Wayne B. Tweten, Feb 1962
Lt Col Howard M. Dallman, Jul 1963

Lt Col Robert B. Burns, Sep 1964
Maj Walter C. Kohlman Jr., Nov-15 Dec 1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Egypt-Libya

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

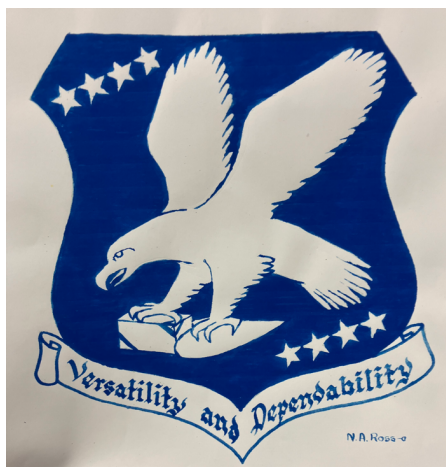
Distinguished Unit Citations

Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sicily, 25 Nov 1942-25 Aug 1943

Sicily, 11 Jul 1943

France, [6-7] Jun 1944

EMBLEM



44 Air Refueling Squadron emblem



On a shield azure, a silhouetted American bald eagle volant, carrying in his right talons a cargo box and in his left talons a fueling tank, between eight stars, four in dexter chief and four in sinister base, placed sinister bendwise, all argent. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Emblem is symbolic of the squadron's mission of refueling and support. The Eagle, the national bird, is a symbol of might and courage, capable of soaring to great heights and enduring severe hardships. Here, his white color stands for purity and justice as opposed to the forces of evil and malefaction. The blue field of the shield represents the sky, both the abode of the eagle and the environment in which the mission is performed. The refueling tank and cargo box, carried in the talons of the Eagle, are specifically symbolic of the mission of providing refueling and support capabilities for a strategic bombardment force. The two clusters of four stars are part of the Wing emblem and represent the numerical designation of the 44th Air Refueling Squadron. (Approved, 27 Jul 1956)



MOTTO

VERSATILITY and DEPENDABILITY.

OPERATIONS

Included airborne assaults on Sicily, Normandy, Holland, and Germany, and aerial transportation in MTO and ETO, during World War II. Conducted aerial refueling operations, 1953-1964.

First KC-97 aircraft arrived for use of 44 Air Refueling Squadron At Lake Charles AFB as of 7 Jul 53.

44 Air Refueling Squadron deployed 18 aircraft to Goose Ab for 60 days rotational temporary duty. 1956

44 Air Refueling Squadron Deployed 18 KC-97 aircraft to Goose Air Base, Labrador for Operation Full Moon (temporary duty assignment of 60 days). 1956

On 6 Jul 56, A KC-97 from 44 Air Refueling Squadron exploded in midair near Goose Air Base, killing six crew members.

The 44 Air Refueling Squadron was directed to redeploy KC-97G from Lajes Field, Azores, To Selfridge Air Force Base (AFB) MI under Operation Short Punt.

On 7 Jan 59, 44 Air Refueling Squadron assumed reflex posture at Goose Air Base, Labrador. chemical biological radiology section asked to monitor debris of B-47 that burned On 26 Nov 1958.

The 44 Air Refueling Squadron began deploying tanker aircraft to Lajes Field, Azores on 1 Jul 1963 For Operation Short Punt.

USAF UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 19 Feb 2011

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Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *44 Bombardment Wing (M)*, 1954. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.