

## 4060 AIR REFUELING WING



### **MISSION**

4060 Air Refueling Wing mission is to organize and train a force capable of immediate and sustained air-to-air refueling operations in any part of the world.11 utilizing the latest technical knowledge and advanced procedures.

Be prepared to perform those tasks assigned in current emergency plans and related operations orders.

Participate in the Reserve training program to the maximum extent by training and administering assigned Reserve personnel and units.

Be prepared to supervise the participation of assigned units in disaster relief and other domestic emergencies.

### **LINEAGE**

4060 Air Refueling Wing, Medium organized, 8 Mar 1955  
Discontinued, 1 Feb 1960

### **STATIONS**

Dow AFB, ME

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

820 Air Division

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

### **COMMANDERS**

Col Orië O. Schurter, 1955

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

## **EMBLEM**

Per pale light blue sky and midnight sky proper a funnel bendwise or, shaded detail and outline golden brown, winged argent, a cloud formation argent issuing from the dexter chief, with rays radiating to the funnel, proper; all within a diminutive border gules. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Emblem symbolically portrays the Air Refueling mission. The light and dark blue colors of the field of the shield signify the day and night refueling mission of our wing. The gold funnel and silver wings allude to a flying funnel. The cloud and golden rays signify the ability to refuel under all weather conditions. (Approved, 4 Jun 1957)

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

The 4060th Air Refueling Wing, Medium was organized at Dow Air Force Base on March 8, 1955, thus becoming the first Air Refueling Wing in the history of the United States Air Force. The 4060th went about its job without any firm policies or operating procedures, The mission was basically carried out on a "trial and error" basis and soon proved "experience is the best teacher." Prior to 1955, the majority of air refueling squadrons were collocated with and assigned to bomber and fighter wings. A few squadrons were physically separated from their parent wings and located on non-SAC bases. In 1955, SAC departed from these practices and organized two air refueling wings, the 4060th at Dow and the 4050th at Westover, and assigned two KC-97 squadrons to each of them. Establishment of these two wings signaled the beginning of a program to concentrate air refueling strength in the Northeast. The buildup would continue well into the sixties and would provide SAC with increased B-47 deployment mobility over the North Atlantic. 1955

The Wing was first comprised of the 506th Air Refueling Squadron. This Squadron was equipped with the KB-29 and was combat ready in March of 1955. Another unit assigned was the 71st Air Refueling Squadron. This Squadron was equipped with the KC-97G, the first of which arrived at Dow Air Force base on April 9, 1955. Other units included the 4060th Armament and Electronic Maintenance Squadron; the 4060th Periodic Maintenance Squadron; and the 4060th Field Maintenance Squadron; the 4060th Air Base Group; the 4033rd USAF Hospital; and the 33rd

Crash Boat Rescue Flight at Southwest Harbor, Maine. Eventually all of the KB-29 were replaced by the KC-97. Another KC-97 unit, the 341st Air Refueling Squadron, replaced the 506th Air Refueling Squadron. On February 1, 1960, SAC phased out the 4060th in favor of SAC's new dispersal program. With this phase out, the two refueling squadrons, the 71st and 341st, remained at Dow. The 341st Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) moved from Blytheville, Arkansas, to Dow.

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USAF Unit Histories

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Sources

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

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Base welcome guide. *Dow AFB, ME. 1955*