

9 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

9 Photographic Squadron constituted, 19 Jan 1942

Activated, 1 Feb 1942

Redesignated 9 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 9 Jun 1942

Redesignated 9 Photographic Squadron (Light), 6 Feb 1943

Redesignated 9 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 13 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 4 Dec 1945

9 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 24 Jul 1951

Activated, 1 Aug 1951

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Dec 1965

Redesignated 9 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 12 Dec 1969

Activated, 1 Jan 1970

Inactivated, 27 Jan 1982

Activated, 1 Aug 1982

9 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron and 9 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated unit designated 9 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy

Redesignated 9 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Feb 1942

Bradley Field, CT, 10 Mar 1942
Felts Field, WA, 16 Apr–18 May 1942
Karachi, India, 24 Jul 1942 (flight at Kunming, China, Nov 1942–12 Jul 1943, with detachment thereof operating from Kweilin, China, Feb–12 Jul 1943)
Chakulia, India, 30 Nov 1942 (detachment operated from Dinjan, India, 18 Mar–Jul 1943)
Pandaveswar, India, 3 Jan 1943 (detachment operated from Dinjan, India, Sep 1943–20 May 1944)
Barrackpore, India, 29 Oct 1943 (detachment operated from Tingkawk Sakan, Burma, 16 Aug–30 Nov 1944, and from Myitkyina, Burma, 27 Nov–5 Dec 1944 another detachment operated from Chittagong, India, 9 Oct–21 Dec 1944)
Myitkyina, Burma, 5 Dec 1944
Piardoba, India, 1 May 1945
Malir, India, Oct–14 Nov 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 3–4 Dec 1945
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Aug 1951
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1 May 1953–15 Dec 1965
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1970–27 Jan 1982
March AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1982
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Sep 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Benguerir AB, French Morocco, 18 Apr–16 Jul 1955
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 2 May–1 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

First Air Force, 1 Feb 1942
Tenth Air Force, 29 Mar 1942
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, 30 Oct 1943
Tenth Air Force, 7 Mar 1944
8 Photographic (later, 8 Reconnaissance) Group, 25 Apr 1944
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, Oct–4 Dec 1945
9 Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1951
9 Bombardment (later, 9 Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 16 Jun 1952–15 Dec 1965
456 Strategic Aerospace (later, 456 Bombardment) Wing, 1 Jan 1970
17 Bombardment Wing, 30 Sep 1975
100 Air Refueling Wing, 30 Sep 1976–27 Jan 1982
22 Bombardment (later, 22 Air Refueling) Wing, 1 Aug 1982
22 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
722 Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994
60 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1994

ATTACHMENTS

Flight attached to Fourteenth Air Force, 10 Mar–12 Jul 1943
5306 Photographic and Reconnaissance Group [Provisional], 30 Oct 1943–17 Jan 1944, and to

Tenth Air Force, 17 Jan–6 Mar 1944
43 Bombardment Wing, 1 Aug–3 Sep 1951
36 Air Division, 4 Sep 1951–14 Jan 1952
303 Bombardment Wing, 15 Jan 1952–30 Apr 1953
5 Air Division, 18 Apr–16 Jul 1955
SAC Liaison Team, 2 May–1 Jul 1956

WEAPON SYSTEMS

F-4, 1942–1944
F-5A, 1943–1945
F-5B
F-5E
P-38F
B-25C, 1943–1945
F-7B
F-13A
KB-29, 1951–1954
KC-97, 1954–1965
KC-135, 1970–1982
KC-10, 1982

COMMANDERS

2nd Lt Vincent P. Keenan (Acting), 20 Jan 1942
Capt Edwin Kessler, 28 Feb 1942
Capt Dale L. Swartz, 10 Mar 1942
Capt Edwin Kessler (Acting), 12 Apr 1942
Capt Dale L. Swartz, 16 Apr 1942
Capt Edwin Kessler, 18 May 1942
Col Jerald W. McCoy, 1 Aug 1942
Maj Dale L. Swartz, 4 Jan 1943
Maj Henry E. Miller Jr., 7 Dec 1943
Capt John E. Buffin, 17 Jun 1944
Maj Paul Turner Jr., 27 Jun 1944
Maj Macarthur Gorton Jr., 25 Jan 1945
Capt Walter R. Thompson, 21 Mar 1945
Maj Macarthur Gorton Jr., 31 Mar 1945
Maj Paul H. Ponder Jr., 15 May 1945
Cpt Joseph P. Lezon Jr., 25 Aug–4 Dec 1945
Lt Col Russell F. Ireland, 1 Aug 1951
Maj Jack N. Fancher, 11 Oct 1951
Lt Col John B. Stokes, 2 Nov 1951
Maj C. C. Gifford, May 1953
Maj Edward H. Dvorak, Sep 1953
Lt Col Max W. Rogers, 19 Mar 1954

Lt Col William B. Becklund, 1 Sep 1958
Lt Col Donald S. Seeley, 27 Apr 1959
Lt Col William B. Becklund, Sep 1960
Lt Col Roy J. Sousley Jr., Jul 1962
Lt Col Carl E. Rice, Sep 1964-15 Dec 1965
Lt Col Clarence W. Thomas, 1 Jan 1970
Lt Col Richard D. Jenkins, 4 Jan 1971
Lt Col Allan J. Surridge, 1 Apr 1971
Lt Col William C. Walker, 15 Aug 1971
Lt Col Louis C. Wagner, 9 Oct 1971
Lt Col James G. Dunham, 6 Jun 1972
Lt Col Joe H. Snow, 3 Mar 1973
Lt Col Douglas A. Jewett, 1 Feb 1974
Lt Col William R. Borlowski, 1 Sep 1976
Lt Col Melvin U. Edens, 20 Sep 1977
Lt Col Curtis R. Archer Jr., 8 Oct 1978
Lt Col Larry D. Sykes, 30 Nov 1979
Lt Col Donald E. Brice, 1 Aug 1980
Lt Col Charles P. Rushforth lii, 13 Mar 1981- 27 Jan 1982
Lt Col Donald E. Bruce, 1 Aug 1982
Lt Col Joseph M. Hudson, 19 Nov 1982
Lt Col Stephen L. Toles, 12 Aug 1984
Lt Col Arthur J. Lichte, 26 Jun 1986
Lt Col Thomas Dooley, 1 Jul 1988
Lt Col James N. Christian, 23 Mar 1990
Lt Col Leo A. Brownyard, 28 Mar 1991
Lt Col Bernard H. Fullenkamp, 27 May 1992
Lt Col Ronald D. Jones, 2 Jun 1993
Lt Col Paul J. Selva, 1 Sep 1994
Lt Col Daniel A. Hale, 24 Apr 1995
Lt Col Michelle D. Johnson, 18 Jun 1996
Lt Col Richard Trasker, 18 Jun 1998
Lt Col Martin J. Wojtysiak, 11 Jun 1999
Lt Col Mark Simon, 21 Jun 2000
Lt Col Bruce A. Van Skiver, 21 Jun 2001
Lt Col Marshall T. Morrison, 30 Jun 2003
Lt Col Kurt W. Meidel, 16 Jun 2005
Lt Col Matt J. Lloyd, 7 Jun 2007
Lt Col Johnny L. Barnes li, 10 Apr 2009

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II
New Guinea
Central Pacific
India-Burma
Central Burma
China Defensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1957–31 Jan 1958

1 Aug 1982–30 Jun 1983

1 Jul 1987–30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 2010–30 Jun 2012

EMBLEM



9 Photographic Squadron



9 Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron emblems



9 Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a light blue disc with narrow black border a cartooned obese Indian, proper, standing on a white cloud and peering with eyes shielded by right hand, wearing a headdress and neckband of red and white design, a yellow arm band, buckskin trousers with red "apron" and buckskin moccasins with red tops. He is grasping the black spout and hose of a red gasoline pump, with white markings, which stands behind him on the cloud. The Indian is an amusing reminder of the unit's location of activation; Tucson, Arizona. The gas tank and hose is indicative of this unit's primary mission. The blue sky and cloud symbolize the fact that the squadron's mission is airborne. The "hand-on-brow" represents the searching of the rendezvous equipment, and the overall blue background coincides with the squadron colors. (Approved, 2 Dec 1954)



9 Air Refueling Squadron second emblem: On a disc Azure, an inner border Gules, an elliptical globe of the last, fimbriated and gridlined Argent, issuing from the sinister base of the globe a contrail environing the globe terminating beneath a delta ascending to dexter of the third, delta detailed of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "UNIVERSAL" in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "9 AIR REFUELING SQ" in Yellow letters. 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 symbolizes the world-wide capability of the unit. The aircraft is representative of the entire Squadron--its crews and aircraft accomplishing the unit's mission. The motto is "Universal," indicative of the world-wide mission.

MOTTO

UNIVERSAL

OPERATIONS

Combat photo reconnaissance in CBI Theater, 1 Dec 1942–14 Apr 1945. Worldwide air refueling.

The move of the 9 AREFS to Mountain Home AFB was accomplished in three phases in order to maintain the unit in operational status. The three phases consisted of: the advanced echelon which departed Davis-Monthan on April 6, 1953 and consisted of fourteen airman and two officers; the main body moved in two groups on the 17th and 27th of April; and the rear echelon moved so as to arrive not later than May 31, 1953 and consisting of five officers and fifteen enlisted men. During the move, Major Charles C. Gifford, squadron commander, was in command of the main body; Major Robert E. Wolf was in command of the advanced echelon;

and Major Cecil M. Peacock was in command of the rear echelon. There were many problems associated with the move to Mountain Home, but during the next year the 9 received the good news of being selected to receive the KC-97G. On September 15, 1954, the first KC-97G air refueling tankers were received to replace the older KB-29Ms.

From September 26, 1957 to January 15, 1958, fifteen tankers flew to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska in Operation REFLEX ACTION and five to Andersen AFB, Guam for Operation AIR MAIL.

From February 7, 1958 through March 14 of the same year the squadron deployed to the Fairchild Tanker Task Force. In July 1958 the KC-97Gs were refitted with new propellers and in the midst of the retrofit were configured for Emergency War Order (EWO) operations due to the Lebanon Crisis. In March 1959, PROJECT HOOKUP, heavyweight refueling, training began for the unit in preparation for B-47 refueling.

REFLEX ACTION deployments to Namao Royal Canadian Air Force Station were flown from August 1960 through June 1964. On August 24, 1960 the squadron was named the best KC-97 outfit in Fifteenth Air Force.

On 24 Jan 63, KC-97G assigned to 9 AREFS ran off runway after landing gear collapsed at Cold Lake, Canada.

On May 3, 1963 a 9 Bomb Wing B-47 collided with a squadron KC-97G during air refueling operations killing three crew members.

When the final days of 1964 threatened the west coast of the United States with massive flooding, the squadron conducted flood damage aerial surveys and transported fuel for flood rescue and recovery operations.

On 10 Nov 1965, the last KC-97 was removed from ground alert. It belonged to the 9 Air Refueling Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

On January 1, 1970 the squadron was again activated. Assigned to the 456th Strategic Aerospace Wing (later Bombardment Wing), the squadron flew KC-135Q in air-to-air refueling operations with SR-71, both from Beale AFB, California.

During Jan 87, 9 AREFS began qualifying KC-10 crews to perform SR-71 refueling.

The 9 was called upon to protect our national interests in Operations EL DORADO CANYON, JUST CAUSE, DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, and PROUD RETURN. Since 1992, the 9 has been vital to enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq during Operation SOUTHERN WATCH by flying air refueling missions out of Al Dhafra Airbase, United Arab Emirates.

In December 1992, the 9 demonstrated another Air Force mission - humanitarian relief-by delivering desperately needed food and supplies to Somalia in Operation RESTORE HOPE. Then

with the reorganization of March AFB, California the 9 Air Refueling Squadron transferred to Travis AFB, California and was activated on 1 Sep 94.

KC-10 assigned to 9 air refueling squadron deployed to the UAE in support of operation southern watch/deny flight. 1995

The unit initially operated out of temporary trailers until the construction of its new squadron building was completed. In 1995, the 9 played a critical role in Operation DENY FLIGHT by providing refueling support for NATO aircraft. In 1997 and 1998, it played a crucial role in Operation PHOENIX SCORPION I and II, the rapid movement of forces into Southwest Asia.

The 9 deployed to Diego Garcia and flew refueling missions over the Persian Gulf. Its latest conflict took them to Ramstein AB Germany to refuel coalition aircraft during the Bosnian War. And the 9 deploys four aircraft to Al Dhafra Airbase, United Arab Emirates to refuel US Navy and Marine aircraft supporting Operation Southern Watch.

Following the 11 Sep 2001 terrorist strikes on New York City and the Pentagon, the 9 Air Refueling Squadron flew several missions orbiting over San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Denver refueling F-16As and F/A-18Cs.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 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.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.