

## 63 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

### LINEAGE

63 Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 7 Dec 1942  
Activated, 12 Dec 1942  
Inactivated, 15 May 1946  
Activated in the Reserve, 21 Jun 1947  
Redesignated 63 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 27 Jun 1949  
Ordered to active service, 1 Apr 1951  
Inactivated, 1 Jan 1953  
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jan 1953  
Ordered to active service, 28 Oct 1962  
Relieved from active duty, 28 Nov 1962  
Redesignated 63 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1967  
Redesignated 63 Tactical Air Support Squadron, 26 Jun 1969  
Redesignated 63 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 29 Jun 1971  
Redesignated 63 Airlift Squadron, 1 Feb 1992  
Redesignated 63 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Oct 1992

### STATIONS

Bowman Field, KY, 12 Dec 1942  
Alliance, NE, 18 Dec 1942  
Pope Field, NC, 3 May 1943  
Baer Field, IN, 20 Jun-18 Jul 1943  
Espiritu Santo, 6 Aug 1943  
Los Negros, 13 Aug 1944

Biak, 1 Oct 1944 (air echelon operated from Wakde, 4-19 Oct 1944, and from Noemfoor, 29 Oct-31 Dec 1944)

Dulag, Leyte, 3 May 1945

Clark Field, Luzon, 23 Jan-15 May 1946

Andrews Field, MD, 21 Jun 1947

Portland Muni Aprt, OR, 27 Jun 1949-29 Mar 1952

Ashiya AB, Japan, 14 Apr 1952-1 Jan 1953

Portland Intl Aprt, OR, 1 Jan 1953

Selfridge AFB (later, ANGB), MI, 16 Nov 1957

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

403 Troop Carrier Group, 12 Dec 1942-15 May 1946

419 Troop Carrier Group, 21 Jun 1947

403 Troop Carrier Group, 27 Jun 1949-1 Jan 1953

403 Troop Carrier Group, 1 Jan 1953

403 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959

927 Troop Carrier (later, 927 Tactical Air Support; 927 Tactical Airlift; 927 Airlift; 927 Air Refueling) Group, 11 Feb 1963

927 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

### **ATTACHMENTS**

South Pacific Combat Air Transport Command, 10 Oct 1943-3 Jul 1944

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1943-1946

C-46, 1945-1946

C-54, 1946

C-46, 1951-1952

C-119, 1952

C-46, 1953-1957

C-119, 1957-1969

U-3, 1969-1971

C-130, 1971-1992

KC-135, 1992

### **COMMANDERS**

Capt John W. Christner, 23 Dec 1942

Capt Eugene F. Kinnaird, Jr, 7 Jun 1943

Maj Raymond M. Smith, 9 Oct 1943

Lt Col Lester C. Messenger, 9 Nov 1944

Capt John M. Cook, Jr, 3 May 1945

Capt Jesse A. Ray, 12 Jul 1945

Capt William P. Mercer, 30 Aug 1945

Maj Elmer F. Hauser, Dec 1945

Capt Ralph E. Tankersley, Mar 1946  
Unkn, 3 May 1946-Oct 1952  
Maj E. D. Barclay, Oct-Dec 1952  
Unkn, Jan 1953-1955  
Lt Col Vernon Acker, Jun 1955  
Maj John A. Forsythe, Dec 1955  
Lt Col George L. Kittle, Dec 1958  
Maj Robert F. Jagitsch, Jun 1963  
Lt Col Dragi C. Lazin, Dec 1963  
Lt Col Roy M. Marshall, Dec 1965  
Col John H. Lynn, Jun 1968  
Lt Col Steven Mikinka, 26 Jun 1969  
Lt Col Charles E. Williams, 30 Oct 1970  
Lt Col Robert C. Metzger, Jan 1974  
Lt Col John J. Desjardine, 13 Jul 1974  
Lt Col Theodore D. Johnson, 17 Jun 1979  
Lt Col James B. Grove II, May 1983  
Lt Col Richard J. Busboom, 11 Sep 1987  
Lt Col Richard L. Sipp, 7 Feb 1989  
Lt Col Michael B. Shannon, 1 Dec 1989  
Lt Col William Shields, 9 Aug 1992  
Lt Col Michael J. Bundshuh, 23 Oct 1993  
Lt Col Shane Rogers, Aug 2017  
Lt Col Marc R. McAllister, 4 May 2019

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

#### **Campaign Streamer**

World War II  
New Guinea  
Northern Solomons  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific  
Leyte  
Luzon  
Southern Philippines

Korean War  
Korean Summer-Fall, 1952  
Third Korean Winter  
Southwest Asia  
Defense of Saudi Arabia

Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

#### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Philippine Islands, 17 Apr-30 Jun 1945

Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation  
[10 Oct 1943-3 Jul 1944]

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

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation  
19 May-31 Dec 1952

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

#### **EMBLEM**



63 Troop Carrier Squadron



Against a blue background, from an upright horseshoe white markings blue, outlined black, a caricatured jenny (member of the horse family); the jenny tan, with a "horse-laugh" expression, teeth white and yellow, tongue red, eyeballs white, all detail and outlines black, wearing a sailor-style hat, yellow, banded white and red, jauntily tipped on the head with elongated ears protruding from the brim, tan, shaded red, a ribbon red caught under the chin and tied in a bowknot. "Flying Jennies" symbolizes the primary mission of the organization transportation. The jenny is not one of the more beautiful members of the horse family, nor is it comparable in speed and sleekness to the thoroughbred race horse, however, its dependability, workload accomplishments, long work life, and its ability to travel and complete the mission assigned under all conditions, adversities notwithstanding, is unquestionable. While the thoroughbreds gain fame and glory with their great speed, the jenny though less Glamourous fieraided by the working man as the champion. The jauntily tipped hat atop the queen's head depicts the high esprit de corps of the squadron. The hatband, eyecatch and "touch" of all hats is representative of the squadron colors red and white stripes. The joviality of the jenny characterizes the manner in which the organization undertakes and completes its mission, realizing all the time that newspaper headlines will be few, but the necessity of their "behind the scene accomplishments toward the overall "job well done". The flowing ears give the impression of complete airworthiness. Finally, the upright jenny shoes, against the Air Force blue background, is a good-luck charm, characteristic of the past accomplishments and the "knowing hope" of the continued success in the future of all tasks undertaken by this organization.



On a disc Azure, issuing out of and over an upright horseshoe Argent, detailed of the field fimbriated Sable, the caricatured head of a "Jenny" bay with "horse-laugh" expression langued Gules, teeth alternating White and Yellow, wearing white spectacles detailed Black and a sailor-style hat Or, banded Red and White, tipped on the head with elongated ears protruding from the brim Proper shaped of the fifth and a ribbon caught under the chin and tied in a bow knot of the last, all within a diminished bordure Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "63D AIR REFUELING SQ" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "FLYING JENNIES" 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 "Flying Jennies" represent transportation, the primary mission of the unit. The hat stands for the high esprit de corps of the squadron. The hatband is for the red and white colors of the unit. The horseshoe is a good-luck charm, characteristic of past accomplishments and continued future success. (Approved, 20 Oct 1952)



## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Aerial transportation and casualty evacuation in the South and Southwest Pacific, 6 Aug 1943-Aug 1945, and between Japan and Korea, 19 May-31 Dec 1952.

Tactical airlift operations, 1953-1969 and 1971-1992.

Trained for tactical air support missions, 1969-1971.

Deployed personnel to southwest Asia in 1990 and 1991 during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Conducted training for and flew air refueling missions, 1992

Participated in Tanker Task Force rotation at Keflavik Naval Air Station, Iceland. 1992

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USAF Unit Histories  
Created: 28 Aug 2010  
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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.