

72 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

72 Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 30 Jan 1943
Activated, 9 Feb 1943
Inactivated, 31 Jul 1946
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1947
Redesignated 72 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Jul 1949
Ordered to Active Service, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 1 Feb 1953
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Feb 1953
Ordered to Active Service, 28 Oct 1962
Relieved from Active Duty, 28 Nov 1962
Redesignated 72 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1967
Redesignated 72 Tactical Air Support Squadron, 25 Jun 1969
Redesignated 72 Special Operations Squadron, 1 Mar 1971
Inactivated, 1 Oct 1973
Redesignated 72 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 18 May 1977
Activated in the Reserve, on 1 Jul 1978
Redesignated 72 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Feb 1992

STATIONS

Alliance AAFld, NE, 9 Feb 1943
Baer Field, IN, 3-24 Sep 1943
Fulbeck, England, 7 Oct 1943
Welford Park, England, 10 Dec 1943
Fulbeck, England, 10 Jan 1944

Aldermaston, England, 3 Mar 1944-Feb 1945
Mourmelon-le-Grand, France, Feb-Jun 1945
Baer Field, IN, 5 Aug 1945
Alliance AAFld, NE, 15 Sep 1945
George Field, IL, 11 Oct 1945
Greenville AAB, SC, 2 Feb-31 Jul 1946
Baer Field, IN, 1 Aug 1947
Atterbury AFB, IN, 1 Jul 1949
Lawson AFB, GA, 23 Jan 1952-1 Feb 1953
Atterbury (later, Bakalar) AFB, IN, 1 Feb 1953
Grissom AFB, IN 15 Jan 1970-1 Oct 1973
Grissom AFB (later, ARB), IN, 1 Jul 1978

ASSIGNMENTS

434 Troop Carrier Group, 9 Feb 1943-31 Jul 1946
434 Troop Carrier Group, 1 Aug 1947-1 Feb 1953
434 Troop Carrier Group, 1 Feb 1953
434 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
931 Troop Carrier (later, 931st Tactical Airlift; 931st Tactical Air Support; 931st Special Operations) Group, 11 Feb 1963-1 Oct 1973
931 Air Refueling Group, 1 Jul 1978
434 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jul 1987
434 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-47, 1943-1946
Horsa gliders, 1944-1945
CG-4 gliders, 1944-1945
C-46, 1945-1946
Unkn, 1947-1948
T-7, 1949-1951
T-11, 1949-1952
C-47, 1949
C-46, 1949-1953
T-6, 1953
T-11, 1953
C-45, 1953-1957
C-46, 1953-1957
C-119, 1957-1969
O-2, 1969-1971
U-3, 1969-1971
A-37, 1971-1973
KC-135, 1978

COMMANDERS

Capt Stephen R. Parkinson, 15 Feb 1943
Unkn, 11 Jul 1943-Apr 1944
Lt Col Frank W. Hansley, Apr 1944
Maj Richard H. Ross, 1 Apr 1945
Lt Col Frank W. Hansley, 10 Apr 1945
Maj Richard H. Ross, 18 Sep 1945
Lt Col Frank W. Hansley, 2 Oct 1945
Unkn, Apr 1946-Jun 1951
Lt Col Robert D. Kalb, Jun 1951
Capt Robert J. Zehring, Dec 1951
Capt Verlon D. Cash, Jun 1952
Maj Robert J. Zehring, Dec 1952
Unkn, Mar 1953-Jun 1959
Maj William D. Murchie, Jun 1959
Lt Col John H. Alderson, Jan 1963
Lt Col Joseph A. Thomas, Jun 1971
Maj Herman A. Heuss, Jun 1972-1 Oct 1973
Unkn, 1 Jul 1978-1979
Lt Col Thomas E. Alsip, Dec 1980
Lt Col David J. Stanley, Sep 1983
Lt Col Thomas E. Alsip, Sep 1984
Lt Col William A. McLoughlin, 10 Jan 1987
Lt Col Stephen J. Hale, 5 Aug 1989
Lt Col Douglas W. Moser, 7 Jan 1991
Lt Col Stephen J. Hale, Mar 1991
Lt Col Martin D. Carpenter, 1 Feb 1992
Lt Col Edward A. Bowmar, 1 Jun 1992
Lt Col Jerald H. Beaty, 18 Oct 1993
Lt Col Wayne B. Enmark, 1 Jun 1995

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Southwest Asia

Defense of Saudi Arabia
Liberation and Defense of Kuwait

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1978-31 Dec 1979

1 May 1985-31 Aug 1986

1 Sep 1988-31 Aug 1990

1 Jun 1992-31 Aug 1993

1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1996

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

6-7 Jun 1944

20-28 Aug 1944

French Fourragere

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

14 Feb-14 Jun 1968

Conferred Honors

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

[5 May]-10 Jun 1999

EMBLEM



On a blue disc, a knight in armor grasping a torch in his right hand riding a rampant Pegasus, all

yellow detailed gold brown and on a white demiglobe grid lined blue issuing from base all between seven yellow stars arcing in dexter and two stars arcing in sinister; all within a narrow yellow border. Attached below the disc a blue scroll edged with a narrow yellow border. **SIGNIFICANCE:** the winged horse is representative of the flying mission of the unit. The knight, a device used by the previous, inactivated, parent unit, symbolizes the support function of the unit. The torch of knowledge indicates the importance of training to serve. The nine stars, seven left and two right, indicate the squadron's numerical designation. The globe acknowledges the unit's worldwide mission. Ultramarine blue and air force yellow are the air force colors. The blue of the field, lines of latitude and longitude on the globe, and lettering on the scroll, represent the sky, the primary theatre of air force operations. The yellow of the stars, narrow border, edge of scroll, horse, knight and torch refers to the sun and the excellence required of air force personnel. Gold brown is used to outline the central figure and to provide detail to the horse, knight and torch. White provides the background for the scroll and globe. (Approved, 26 Feb 1960; modified, 1 Feb 1989)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

Airborne assaults on Normandy, Holland, and Germany; relief of Bastogne; aerial transportation of passengers and cargo in ETO during World War II.

Troop carrier and transport duties, 1947-1969; forward air control training, 1969-1971; special operations training, 1971-1973; and worldwide air refueling missions since 1973.

Personnel and aircraft deployed to Saudi Arabia during the Gulf War, performing air refueling duties for allied forces, Aug 1990-Mar 1991 and periodically deployed since late 1993 to Italy and other western European locations in support of NATO operations over Bosnia.

USAF Unit Histories
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Sources

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