

## 91 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

91 Air Refueling Squadron Global engagement through air refueling and airlift support of our national interests and resident Combatant Commanders.

### LINEAGE

1 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 20 Nov 1940  
Activated, 15 Jan 1941  
Redesignated 391 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22 Apr 1942  
Redesignated 391 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943  
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945

91 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 1 Mar 1950  
Activated, 16 Apr 1950  
Redesignated 91 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, on 1 Jan 1963

391 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy and 91 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated, 19 Sep 1985

Inactivated, 1 Oct 1987  
Activated, 5 Jan 1988  
Redesignated 91 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

### STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 15 Jan 1941  
Westover Field, MA, 29 May 1941  
Pendleton, OR, 25 Jan 1942  
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 13 May 1942  
Geiger Field (later, AAB), WA, 1 Jul 1942  
Ephrata AAB, WA, 1 Dec 1942  
Blythe AAB, CA, 11 Dec 1942–3 Apr 1944  
Mendelsham, England, 23 Apr 1944–24 Jul 1945  
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, 13–28 Aug 1945  
Barksdale AFB, LA, 16 Apr 1950  
Lockbourne AFB, OH, 11 Sep 1951  
McConnell AFB, KS, 30 Jun 1971–1 Oct 1987  
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 5 Jan 1988  
MacDill AFB, FL

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Salinas AAB, CA, 29 May–13 Jul 1943  
French Morocco, 12 Jan–26 Feb 1954  
Goose AB, Labrador, 6 Oct–12 Nov 1954  
Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, 10 Jul–Oct 1955

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

General Headquarters Air Force (later, Air Force Combat Command), 15 Jan 1941  
1 Bomber Command, 5 Sep 1941  
II Bomber Command, 25 Jan 1942  
34 Bombardment Group, 25 Feb 1942–28 Aug 1945  
91 Strategic Reconnaissance Group, 16 Apr 1950  
91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 28 May 1952  
801 Air Division, 8 Nov 1957  
376 Bombardment Wing, 1 Dec 1957  
301 Air Refueling Wing, 15 Jun 1964  
47 Air Division, 1 Jul 1971  
14 Air Division, 1 Apr 1972  
12 Strategic Missile Division, 1 Aug 1972  
384 Air Refueling (later, 384 Bombardment) Wing, 1 Dec 1972–1 Oct 1987  
301 Air Refueling Wing, 5 Jan 1988  
301 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991  
43 Operations Group, 1 Jun 1992  
43 Air Refueling Group, 1 Jul 1994

### **ATTACHMENTS**

34 Bombardment Group, 15 Jan 1941–24 Feb 1942  
91 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 10 Feb 1951–27 May 1952

5 Air Division, 12 Jan–26 Feb 1954  
Northeast Air Command, 6 Oct–12 Nov 1954 and 10 Jul–Oct 1955  
301 Air Refueling Wing, 4 May–14 Jun 1964

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

PT-17, 1941  
B-17, 1941–1943, 1944–1945  
B-18, 1941–1942  
B-24, 1942–1943, 1944  
KB-29, 1950–1953  
KC-97, 1953  
KC-135, 1963–1987  
UH-1, 1971–1972  
KC-135, 1988

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col William B. Matheny, 15 Jan 1941  
Maj Arthur Y. Snell, 8 Apr 1942  
Maj Thomas J. Jeffrey, Nov 1942  
Maj John W. Norvell, 2 Apr 1943  
Capt Allen W. Schroeder, 1 May 1943  
Maj J. J. Easton, 1 Jun 1943  
Maj William A. Heath, 1 Jul 1943  
Maj Robert W. Zant, Sep 1943  
None (Unmanned), 30 Nov 1943-Jan 1944  
Maj William H. Fandel, 22 Jan 1944  
Lt Col Edmund F. Freeman, 9 Oct 1944-Aug 1945  
Capt Elmer J. Erwin, Apr 1950  
Maj Richard M. Ragland, Apr 1950  
Lt Col Kent J. Prim, 8 Jan 1951  
Lt Col Clifford S. Hovik, 3 Jan 1952  
Maj William O. Ross, Feb 1953  
Lt Col Laurence R. Gordon, Apr 1953  
Lt Col Clifford S. Hovik, May 1953  
Maj Ivon F. Klohe, Feb 1956  
Lt Col William V. Strait, Jr., 1 Jan 1957  
Maj Kenneth D. Webster, 10 Aug 1957  
Lt Col Robert L. Bennett, 1 Sep 1957  
Lt Col Howard P. McClain, 11 Aug 1958  
Lt Col Ira H. Schick, 4 Nov 1960  
Lt Col Arnold W. Vincent, 1 Nov 1962  
Lt Col Donovan Kimbrough, 17 Nov 1966  
Lt Col Homer B. Wells, 7 Aug 1967  
Lt Col Donald Deafenbaugh, 20 Oct 1967

Lt Col Robert B. Parker, 25 Jul 1969  
Col Harold R. Austin, 1 Jul 1971  
Lt Col George G. Prendergast, 1 Dec 1972  
Lt Col Charles H. Gibson, 1 Jul 1974  
Lt Col Gary G. Durkee, 1 Jul 1975  
Lt Col Edgar W. Winkelmann, 15 May 1976  
Lt Col Michael G. Dakes, 3 Jan 1978  
Lt Col Francis J. Ludwig, 27 Feb 1978  
Lt Col Dennis K. Bush, 7 Jul 1980  
Lt Col Robert S. Gaines, 21 Aug 1981  
Lt Col Mack L. Oldham, 3 Jan 1983  
Lt Col Leonard Sumpter Jr., 14 Mar 1984  
Lt Col Keith R. Wise, 21 Feb 1986-1 Oct 1987  
Lt Col James R. Pugh, 4 Jan 1990  
Lt Col Dane R. Martin, By Jan 1992  
Maj Daniel R. Simmons, 30 Jun 1993  
Lt Col Silvanus T. Gilbert, By Dec 1993-Unkn  
Lt Col Steve King, 1 Oct 1996  
Lt Col Timothy J. Feeley, 27 Oct 1998  
Lt Col John J. Shelpman, 27 May 1999  
Lt Col Donald J. Halpin, 16 Jun 2000  
Lt Col Roger Watkins, 15 Jun 2001  
Lt Col John Kafer, 16 Jun 2003  
Lt Col David M. Cohen, 13 Jun 2005  
Lt Col Wayne A. Cooper, 6 Apr 2007  
Lt Col Brian N. Smith, 3 Apr 2009  
Lt Col James B. Dermer, 3 May 2011  
Lt Col Lisa A. Nemeth, 8 Jun 2012  
Lt Col Gene A. Jacobus, 13 Jun 2014

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Central Europe

Air Combat, EAME Theater

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8 Sep 1953–8 Nov 1957

1 Oct 1966–1 Apr 1967

1 Jul 1974–30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1976–30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1980–30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1988–30 Jun 1990

1 Jul 1991–30 Jun 1993

1 Jul 1994–30 Jun 1996

1 Jul 1996–30 Jun 1998

1 Jul 1998–30 Jun 2000

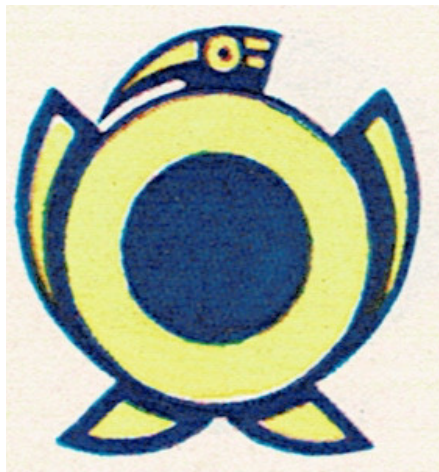
1 Jul 2004–30 Jun 2006

1 Jul 2007–30 Jun 2009

1 Jul 2009 – 30 Jun 2010

1 Jul 2013 – 30 Jun 2014

### EMBLEM



1 Reconnaissance Squadron (Heavy) emblem: a geometric owl; the owl being a bird of keen perception and perception and appropriate to represent an observation squadron. (Approved, 24 Sep 1941)



91 Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a disc as a globe Or, gridlined Sable, land masses Vert, overall a cloud formation Argent, fimbriated and detailed Azure, a flying refueling boom bendwise sinister throughout Gules, detailed of the second, all within a narrow border Black. Attached below the disk, a White scroll edged with a narrow Black border and inscribed "91ST AIR REFUELING SQ" in Black 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 sphere and its meridians represent the global mission of the Squadron. The cloud represents the sky where the unit performs its mission with skill and timeliness. The flying refueling boom represents the standard of excellence and high accomplishments of the Squadron. The continents represent the unit's readiness to defend freedom around the world. (Approved, 3 Jun 1952)

## **MOTTO**

## **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941–Oct 1942; combat in ETO, 24 May 1944–20 Apr 1945.

91 ARERFS crew sent to Yokota AB, Japan for temporary duty. 1951

KB-29B of 91 AREFS supported 31 Fighter Escort Wing to the far east by flying a simulated profile mission over San Angelo, TX and refueling over ocean station in operation nicknamed Fox Peter Dash One. 1952

Successful refueling of aircraft of 27 Fighter Escort Wing on Travis AFB, CA/Hickam AFB, HI leg of 27 wing's flight to Japan was conducted by 91 AREFS. 1952

Weight restrictions applied to KC-97F seriously affected operational capability of aircraft 1953

91 AREFS deployed to Goose AB, for exercise Full House. Squadron also deployed aircraft to Eielson AFB for air research and development command project 572, supported deployment of 68 Bombardment Wing to UK 1954

91 air refueling squadron assumed Short Punt responsibilities at Lajes AB, Azores. 1961

Crews and aircraft deployed to Southeast Asia to refuel tactical aircraft and B-52s involved in combat in Vietnam, Jan 1965–Dec 1975.

5 March 1974 A USAF Boeing KC-135A 57-1500, of the 91st Air Refueling Squadron, 384th Air Refueling Wing, crashed and burned shortly after take-off from McConnell AFB, Kansas, killing two of seven crew. Air Force spokesmen reported that the aircraft was carrying 136,000 pounds of fuel when it crashed 3,000 feet from the main runway, after it apparently lost power.

Refueled aircraft participating in the Grenada rescue mission, Oct–Nov 1983.

91 AREFS crews flew first higher headquarters directed mission on 4 Nov 88.

15 AF tasked 43 ARG to develop inexpensive method to produce palletized seats for KC-135. 91 AREFS personnel, SSGT Michael Brooks and SSGT Kerry Lacosta, engineered and produced palletized seating arrangement for \$3,300 for twelve seats attached to a 463L cargo pallet. 1994

Deployed to Pisa, Italy to support Operation Deny Flight and Deliberate Force. 1994/1995

Deployed five aircraft and seven crews to Incirlik AB, Turkey to support Operation Provide Comfort.

Participated in the hurricane evacuation from Lajes AB, Azores.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 26 Mar 2017

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.