

190th AIR REFUELING WING



LINEAGE

190th Air Refueling Group
190th Air Refueling Wing

STATIONS

Topeka, KS

ASSIGNMENTS

WEAPON SYSTEMS

KC-135E

ASSIGNED TAIL/BASE CODES

COMMANDERS

Col Carl L. Boggs, 1957-1976
LTC William S. Mahler, 23 May 1976
LTC Jerold F. Johnson 3 Oct, 1981
Col Charles M. Baier, Jr.
Col Duane H. Ellingson, 7 Dec 1991
Col Keith I. Lang
Col Ron Krueger, #2012

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

EMBLEM

Sgt. Zerger, who had drawn up the old insignia, felt that a new one was necessary. This time, it

ought to be something all the 190th's own, and reflecting the mission and the state. There were, of course, difficulties. The 190th sought by rights to have the motto "Semper Canberras," but the aircraft could not be part of the insignia by the Air Force Regulations. Similarly, the state could not be mentioned explicitly, though a state symbol might be used. By the same set of regulations, the predominant colors had to be blue and yellow. Within these restrictions, Sgt. Zerger set work, with his own ideas and those of other members of the 190th. There ought to be something to represent Kansas, they felt, and various symbols were considered. Wheatstalks, Sun Flowers, and Tornados seemed the best bets. There ought to be something for the fighting capacity of the unit too; a miniature TAC insignia? A minuteman, to represent both fighting capacity and our heritage as an Air Guard unit? Sgt. Zerger, inspired in part by a design on his own family crest, favored a helmet. After a few preliminary sketches, it was clear that it would have to be a closed helmet if there was not to be the further complication of drawing the man within. Literally dozens of sketches were drawn at this stage, as the interested parties tried to combine those elements, and to choose between them. Among the final contenders, a shield divided into three parts, with a minuteman, a sunflower, and a TAC winged sword: a helmet with a plum running down the back, with a wheat stalk overhead, a similar helmet on a shield quartered blue and yellow, and a similar background with a helmet with wings. It wasn't until late 1970 or early 1971 that a pattern was at last finalized; a winged helmet (gold) superimposed on a dark blue tornado, passing through a light blue sky. Then a description had to be drawn up, with explanations of the symbolism in both the objects shown and the color chosen. (The most awkward part of this was explaining the red outline of the tornado. It was done to liven up a flat background, but that's not the sort of explanation the Air Force wants). What with all that, the design wasn't submitted to the Air Force for final approval until about April of 1971, and the wheels of officialdom grinding rather slowly – not approved until about six or eight months later. In fact, while the preliminary sketches were all marked "190 TAC RECON GP," the first approved insignia were marked "190 BOMB GP TAC."

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 12 Oct 2010

Updated: 3 Jul 2012

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.