

303rd AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

303rd Transport Squadron constituted, 4 Jun 1943

Activated, 21 Jun 1943

Disbanded, 1 Dec 1943

483rd Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy constituted, 28 Feb 1944

Activated, 11 Mar 1944

Inactivated, 30 Jun 1946

303rd Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 4 Apr 1951

Activated, 4 Sep 1951

Inactivated, 8 Apr 1952

Activated, 18 Feb 1953

Inactivated, 15 Jun 1963

303rd Transport Squadron reconstituted, 19 Sep 1985

303rd Transport Squadron, 483rd Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 303rd Air Refueling Squadron, medium consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated unit designated 303rd Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy and remains inactive.

STATIONS

Mohanbari Airport, Assam, India, 21 Jun 1943–1 Dec 1943

Dalhart AAFld, TX, 11 Mar 1944

Harvard AAFld, NE, 12 Mar-6 Nov 1944

North Field, Tinian, 24 Dec 1944-5 Mar 1946

Clark Field, Luzon, 14 Mar-30 Jun 1946

Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, 4 Sep 1951-8 Apr 1952

Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, 18 Feb 1953-6 Feb 1956
Kindley AFB, Bermuda, 1956

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Greenham Common, England, 17 Mar 1954-28 Apr 1954

Fairford, England, 28 Apr 1954-5 Jun 1954

Mildenhall, England, 17 Mar 1954-5 Jun 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

30th Transport Group, 21 Jun 1943–1 Dec 1943

505th Bombardment Group, 11 Mar 1944–30 Jun 1946

303rd Bombardment Group, 4 April 1951–8 Apr 1952

303rd Bombardment Wing, 18 Feb 1953

Second Air Force, 1 Feb 1956

38th Air Division, 1 Jan 1959

823rd Air Division, 1 Oct 1959

19th Bombardment Wing, 1 Nov 1959

4050th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Apr 1961

499th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jan–15 Jun 1963

WEAPON SYSTEMS

C-46A, 1943

B-17, 1944

B-17F

B-29, 1944-1946

KB-29M, 1951–1952

KC-97F, 1953-1956

KC-97G, 1956–1959; 1959–1963

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES

UNIT COLORS

COMMANDERS

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

India-China

Air Offensive, Japan

Eastern Mandates

Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Ota, Japan, 10 Feb 1945

Japan, 17 Jun-1 Jul 1945

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OPERATIONS

Combat in Western Pacific, 30 Dec 1944-14 Aug 1945

The 303rd Transport Squadron was activated in India in late spring 1943. It operated C-47 and C-46 in the China-Burma-India theater. It flew supplies, equipment and personnel over the Hump from the Assam Valley of India to airfields in southeast China, primarily to support Fourteenth Air Force combat operations. It was disbanded in December 1943 and replaced, along with other elements of the 30th Transport Group, by Station 9, India-China Wing, Air Transport Command.

The 483rd Bombardment Squadron was activated in March 1944 as a B-29 squadron. The squadron trained at airfields in the midwest. When training was completed the unit moved to North Field, Tinian in the Mariana Islands of the Central Pacific. Its mission was the strategic bombardment of the Japanese Home Islands and the destruction of Japan's war-making

capability.

Upon arrival in the Pacific, the unit flew missions against Japanese targets on Moen Island, Truk, and other points in the Carolines and Marianas. The squadron began missions over Japan on 25 February 1945 with a firebombing mission over Northeast Tokyo. The squadron continued attacking urban areas with incendiary raids until the end of the against strategic objectives, bombing aircraft factories, chemical plants, oil refineries, and other targets in Japan. The squadron flew its last combat missions on 14 August. Afterwards, its B-29s carried relief supplies to Allied prisoner of war camps in Japan and Manchuria.

The 303rd Air Refueling Squadron was activated in 1951 at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, but was inactivated seven months later. It was activated again in 1953. In February 1956, the squadron moved from Davis-Monthan to Kindley Air Force Base, Bermuda where it was positioned to support B-47s deploying to Europe and Morocco on Operation Reflex and to provide forward refueling in the event of war.

In January 1955 the 303rd Air Refueling Squadron went to full operational status with KC-97's and crews on alert status at all times.

Participated in Operation Buckhorn in support of 91 Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron 1956

303 Squadron's last operational commitment was terminated 15 May 63.

1963 303 AREFS Began to phase out its operations on 15 Apr 63.

Air Force Order of Battle

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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.