

8384th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

584th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 15 Feb 1943

Activated, 5 Mar 1943

Redesignated 584th Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 9 Oct 1944

Redesignated 584th Bombardment Squadron, Light, 3 Dec 1945

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946

384th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 3 Mar 1955

Activated, 1 Apr 1955

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1966

Redesignated 384th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 19 Jun 1973

Activated, 30 Sep 1973

584th Bombardment Squadron, Light and 384th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated, 19 Sep 1985. Consolidated unit designated 384th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy.

Redesignated 384th Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

MacDill Field, FL, 5 Mar 1943

Ardmore AAFld, OK, 12 Jul 1943

Kellogg Field, MI, 24 Aug 1943

Atterbury AAFld, IN, 11 Sep 1943

Kellogg Field, MI, 13 Oct 1943–15 Feb 1944

Boreham, England, 11 Mar 1944

Holmsley, England, 24 Jul 1944

Tour-en-Bassin, France, 22 Aug 1944

Bricy, France, 21 Sep 1944

Cambrai-Niergnies, France, 8 Oct 1944
Venlo, Holland, 5 May 1945
Kitzingen, Germany, Sep 1945–15 Feb 1946
Bolling Field, DC, 15 Feb–31 Mar 1946
Westover AFB, MA, 1 Apr 1955–25 Jun 1966
McConnell AFB, KS, 30 Sep 1973

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, 27 Apr–27 Jun 1956 and 21 May–25 Jun 1957
Lajes AB, Azores, 28 Sep–28 Dec 1963

ASSIGNMENTS

394th Bombardment Group, 5 Mar 1943–31 Mar 1946
4050th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Apr 1955
499th Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jan 1963–25 Jun 1966
384th Air Refueling (later, 384th Bombardment) Wing, 30 Sep 1973
384th Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
19th Operations Group, 1 Jun 1992
22nd Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994

ATTACHMENTS

HQ Eighth Air Force, 27 Apr–27 Jun 1956 and 21 May–25 Jun 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-26, 1943–1945
A-26, 1945–1946
B-26B
B-26C
B-26F
B-26G
KC-97G, 1955–1965
KC-135, 1973–1977, 1978
A-26B 41-39265
A-26C 43-22487
KC-97G

COMMANDERS

None (unmanned), 5-17 Mar 1943
Cpt Robert M. McLeod, 18 Mar 1943
LTC Kenneth T. Wilhite, 12 Apr 1943
LTC Francis J. McGlynn, Jun 1945
Maj Robert J. Conde, Nov 1945-15 Feb 1946
Cpt Thomas F. Buckley, 1 Apr 1955
Maj Frank R. Hodges, 19 Apr 1955

LTC William E. Yeates, Mar 1956
LTC John A. Nolan, Jul 1956
LTC Silas J. Minton, 28 Mar 1958
Maj Robert C. Baldwin, Jul 1960
LTC James M. MacDonald, 3 Oct 1960
LTC Robert C. Baldwin, Jul 1963-Feb 1966
None (unmanned), Feb-25 Jun 1966
Col Carl L. Denny Jr., 30 Sep 1973
Col David A. Oldroyd, 2 Jul 1974
LTC Charles R. Preston, 10 Dec 1976
LTC Michael G. Dakes, 20 Sep 1977
None (unmanned), 1 Jan-26 Feb 1978
LTC Michael G. Dakes, 27 Feb 1978
LTC Benny O. Thome, 17 Jul 1978
LTC Donald C. Brace, 10 Nov 1980
LTC Frank V. Sherman, 22 Jan 1982
LTC James A. Newton Jr., 1 Jun 1983
LTC Dean W. Chapman, 8 Mar 1985
LTC Michael J. Cook, 2 Feb 1987
LTC Joseph E. Hutfles, 2 Feb 1988
LTC John R. Dockery, 4 Aug 1989
LTC Yoshio Smith, 31 Jul 1991
LTC Patrick A. McVay, 16 Jul 1993
LTC Alfred Steward, 16 Feb 1995
LTC Nancy Lee Peterson, 8 Jul 1996
LTC Anthony M. Mauer, 27 Jun 1997
LTC Michael R. Hindes, 7 Aug 1998
LTC David M. Callis, 11 May 2000
LTC Jacqueline Van Ovost, 28 Jan 2002
LTC Timothy E. Bush Jul 2003

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Air Offensive, Europe

Normandy

Northern France

Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

France, 7–9 Aug 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

8 Feb 1956–1 Dec 1959

1 Jul 1974–30 Jun 1976

1 Jul 1976–30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1980–30 Jun 1981

1 Jul 1987–30 Jun 1989

30 May 1990–29 May 1992

1 Jun 1994–31 May 1996

1 Aug 1999–31 Jul 2000

1 Aug 2000–31 Jul 2001

1 Aug 2002–31 Jul 2004

1 Aug 2004–31 Jul 2005

1 Aug 2005–31 Jul 2006

1 Aug 2011–31 Jul 2012

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

6 Jun–14 Sep 1944

EMBLEM



584th Bombardment Squadron (Medium) emblem: Over and through a golden orange disc, a stylized falcon white, outlined black, with wing outspread fan-wise red, tan, and brown, perched on a light turquoise blue aerial bomb falling to base; in sinister chief three red stars arranged circumferentially. (Approved, 31 Dec 1943)



384th Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a disc per fess embattled Air Force Blue and Air Force Golden Yellow, within a narrow Red border, a stylized Silver-Gray eagle in chief, his wings displayed, details Air Force Blue, holding in his talons a Red refueling boom and in base an elongated globe fesswise, Air Force Blue, land area Silver-Gray, latitude and longitude lines Red, the line marking the equator extending to the border on either side. (Approved, 5 Feb 1960)

MOTTO

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The Ardmore facility was designated, July 12, 1943, as a B-26 Crew Training Base. The 394th Bombardment Group's four squadrons, the 584th, (Captain Kenneth T. Wilhite, Squadron Commander); 585th, (Captain Edward B. Saxon); 586th, (Captain Joseph M. Silk) and 587th, (Captain Robert E. Keating), under command of Lt. Colonel Thomas B. Hall, were here during a brief period of five weeks before they were transferred, August 19, 1943, to Kellogg Field, Battle Creek, Michigan. They had previously been stationed at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida since activation, March 3, 1943, and were involved with Phase Two crew training while at Ardmore. This involved local and distant training flights with simulated missions allowing all crew members to practice and improve their skills. Classroom instruction was also part of the program. At this time, no gunnery or bombing ranges were associated with the Ardmore field. It is reported that the 394th used a bombing range located in the Great Salt Plains area of northern Oklahoma as did other training units. The outlines of a German battleship, the Scharnhorst, and an oil refinery were used as simulated targets.

Combat in ETO, 23 Mar 1944–20 Apr 1945.

Aerial refueling for SAC bombers in N. Atlantic area, 1955–1965.

The 384th Air Refueling Squadron (AREFS) was activated at Westover on 01 Apr 55 with initial personnel drawn from other refueling squadrons and school pipelines. The squadron would continue to work up to full personnel and equipment strength over the next several months. The twenty-two Boeing KC-97s that equipped the 384th were assigned to the unit in a contiguous block, beginning with tail number 53-0218

Oct 55 The 384th AREFS rated more than 75% combat ready and added to Wing Emergency War Plan. Squadron has 20 combat-ready crews and 22 aircraft. 51 training flights totaling 587 flying hours accomplished during month. Base evacuation plan published. Dependent personnel were to evacuate in two groups. One group was to be sheltered in the small town of Montague, MA., and the other to shelter in the town of Orange, MA.

27 Apr 56-Twenty-two KC-97s of the 384th AREFS departed Westover for 60-day TDY to Harmon AFB, Newfoundland on operation "Daylight". Mission was to accomplish arctic and cold weather indoctrination and training. Upon landing at Harmon, all aircraft were EWP configured. Average turnaround time was 1 hr. 44 min.

22 Jan 57-All crewmen were lost when a KC-97G of the 384th AREFS flew into the ground approximately 28 miles northeast of Griffiss AFB, NY.

14 December 1959 KC-97G 53-0231, collides with a B-52 during a refueling mission at an altitude of 15,000 feet. The aircraft loses the whole left horizontal stabilizer and elevator, the rudder, and the upper quarter of the vertical stabilizer. Crew makes a no-flap, electrical power off landing at night at Dow AFB, Maine, seven crew okay. "Spokesmen at Dow Air Force, Bangor, said the B-52 apparently 'crowded too close' and rammed a fuel boom into the tail of a 4 engine KC-97 tanker plane." Aircraft stricken as beyond economical repair. Two crew on the B-52 eject, parachute safely, and are recovered by helicopters in a snow-covered wilderness area. The bomber and remaining eight crew members continue to Westover AFB, where a safe landing is made.

Worldwide aerial refueling, 1973

Supported operations in Panama, 18–20 Dec 1989 and Southwest Asia, Aug 1990–Mar 1991.

Deployed first contingent to Moron AB, Spain in support of Operation Restore Hope. 1992

A tanker crew saved an F-16 pilot from ejecting over ISIS-held territory during a recent strike sortie, officials revealed. The 384th Air Refueling Squadron KC-135 crew deployed to Al Udeid AB, Qatar, from McConnell AFB, Kan., broke-off refueling a pair of A-10s to respond to the inflight emergency last year. "The lead F-16 came up first and then had a pressure disconnect after about 500 pounds of fuel. We were expecting to offload about 2,500 pounds," 384th ARS pilot Capt. Nathaniel Beer said. The F-16 pilot attempted to troubleshoot the problem after a second refueling attempt failed. He deduced that roughly 80 percent the fighter's onboard fuel was trapped in the wing and external tanks and couldn't be transferred to the F-16's reservoir tanks and onward to the engine. The fighter could only take on 15 minutes of usable fuel at a time, so the KC-135 crew escorted the crippled jet, refueling at several minute intervals all the way to a safe landing back in friendly territory. Beer, fellow pilot Maj. Robert Bradley, and boom operator SrA. Jonathan Nigl knew "the risks to their own safety, [and] they put the life of the F-16 pilot first," 384th ARS commander Lt. Col. Eric Hallberg said. "What motivates them is a

higher calling to be the best at the mission and take care of their fellow soldiers, sailors and airmen," he added. 2016

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 21 Dec 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.