

## 499<sup>th</sup> AIR REFUELING WING, HEAVY



### MISSION

Mission was to organize and train force capable of sustained global air to air refueling operations utilizing latest technical knowledge and advanced procedures; prepare to perform tasks assigned in current emergency plans and related operational orders; train and administer assigned reserves; participate in disaster relief and other domestic emergencies as required; perform such special missions and assignments as directed. Area of responsibility described as from the arctic to Bermuda and from the Mississippi River to Europe.

### LINEAGE

499<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Very Heavy established, 19 Nov 1943

Activated, 20 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 16 Feb 1946

499<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Heavy established and activated, 15 Nov 1962

Organized, 1 Jan 1963

Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jun 1966

499<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and 499<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, Heavy consolidated, 31 Jan 1984

Consolidated organization remains inactive.

### STATIONS

Westover AFB, MA, 15 Nov 1962-25 Jun 1966

### ASSIGNMENTS

73<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy, 20 Nov 1943-16 Feb 1946  
Strategic Air Command, 15 Nov 1962  
57<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 1 Jan 1963-25 Jun 1966

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-17, 1944  
B-29, 1944-1945  
KC-97, 1963-1965  
KC-135, 1963-1965  
EC-135, 1965

C-54D  
C-54M  
T-29  
VT-29A  
T-39A  
U-3A  
T-34A  
C-97K  
VC-97D 1964

### **COMMANDERS**

Maj Jack F. Bozung, Dec 1943  
Lt Lester A. Luecke, 1 Dec 1943  
Maj Arnold R. Johnson, 18 Jan 1944  
Maj Douglas C. Northrop, 22, Jan 1944  
Col Samuel R. Harris, 4 Apr 1944  
Col Morris J. Lee, 21 Mar 1945  
LTC Walter E. Chambers, 13 Aug 1945-unkn  
None (not manned), 15 Nov-31 Dec 1962  
Col William R. Brown, 1 Jan 1963  
Col Therwin S. Walters, 1 Jul 1965  
Col Edward D. Wooten, 30 Nov 1965-25 Jun 1966 (additional duty)

### **HONORS**

#### **Service Streamers**

None

#### **Campaign Streamers**

Air Offensive, Japan  
Western Pacific

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

## **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations

Nagoya, Japan, 23 Jan 1945

Japan, 22-28 Apr 1945

## **EMBLEM**

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Trained for combat with B-17s and B-29s. Moved to Saipan, Jul-Nov 1944, and became part of Twentieth Air Force. Took part on 24 Nov 1944 in the first strike against Japan by AAF planes stationed in the Marianas. Flew numerous missions in daylight, operating from high altitude to bomb strategic targets in Japan. Received a Distinguished Unit Citation for striking the Mitsubishi aircraft engine plant in Nagoya on 23 Jan 1945. In Mar 1945, began to conduct night attacks, flying at low altitude to drop incendiaries on area targets in Japan. Completed a series of attacks against enemy airfields on Kyushu to aid the Allied assault on Okinawa in Apr 1945 and received a second DUC for this action. Also dropped propaganda leaflets on Japan, and after the war dropped food and supplies to Allied prisoners of war. Returned to the US, Oct-Nov 1945. Inactivated on 16 Feb 1946. Replaced the 4050th Air Refueling Wing in Jan 1963. Supported SAC bombardment and TAC fighter aircraft with air-to-air refueling and occasionally deployed segments of its tanker force overseas to support unit movements and special operations. Also flew EC-135s on a post attack command control system airborne command post mission in support of Eighth Air Force.

Manning shortages in deputy commander for maintenance staff, 499<sup>th</sup> Field Maintenance Squadron propeller shop and fabric, leather and rubber products repairman. Discusses proposal to combine inflight refueling and fuel cell shops to reduce manpower requirements. Problems in maintaining base flight aircraft discussed. Shortage in airborne radio communications repairman career field threatened to jeopardize wing's looking glass mission. 1964

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Air Force Order of Battle

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### Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *499<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, Very Heavy*. Historical Aviation Album. Temple City, AZ. 1981.