

## 44 EXPEDITIONARY AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

44 Transport Squadron constituted, 30 May 1942

Activated, on 15 Jun 1942

Redesignated 44 Troop Carrier Squadron, on 4 Jul 1942

Inactivated, on 25 Mar 1946

44 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 13 Feb 1953

Activated on 20 Apr 1953

Discontinued and inactivated, on 15 Dec 1964

44 Troop Carrier Squadron and 44 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium consolidated and redesignated 44 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 44 Air Refueling Squadron on 9 Sep 1994

Redesignated 44 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, and converted to provisional status, on 25 Jan 2002

#### STATIONS

Patterson Field, OH, 15 Jun 1942

Bowman Field, KY, 16 Jun 1942

Lawson Field, GA, 9 Aug 1942

Del Valle, TX, 29 Sep-10 Nov 1942

Egypt, 25 Nov 1942  
Nouvion, Algeria, 10 May 1943  
Guercif, French Morocco, 28 May 1943  
Enfidaville, Tunisia, 24 Jun 1943  
Mazara, Sicily, 1 Sep 1943  
Borizzo, Sicily, 18 Oct 1943-16 Feb 1944  
Cottesmore, England, Feb 1944-May 1945  
Pope Field, NC, May 1945  
Baer Field, IN, 20 Jun-15 Jul 1945  
Bellows Field, TH, 3 Aug 1945  
Wheeler Field, TH, 29 Sep 1945-25 Mar 1946  
Lake Charles (later Chennault) AFB, LA, 20 Apr 1953  
Selfridge AFB, MI, 1 Jun 1960-15 Dec 1964

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Sidi Slimane, French Morocco, 12 Apr-22 Jun 1954  
Goose AB, Labrador, 21 Feb-7 Apr  
and 28 Oct-28 Dec 1955; 28 Jun-29 Aug 1956

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

316 Transport (later, 316 Troop Carrier) Group, 15 Jun 1942  
I Troop Carrier Command, May 1945  
VI Air Service Area Command, attached 3 Aug 1945-25 Mar 1946  
44 Bombardment Wing, 20 Apr 1953  
4045 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jun 1960  
500 Air Refueling Wing, 1 Jan 1963-15 Dec 1964  
Air Combat Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 25 Jan 2002

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1942-1945  
C-46, 1945-1946  
KC-97, 1953-1964

### **COMMANDERS**

Lt Col Buron R. Fleet, Jun 1942  
Lt Col Benjamin F. Kendig, Aug 1943  
Unkn, Apr 1945-25 Mar 1946  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt Kenneth W. Halgren, 20 Apr 1953  
Lt Col William K. Brooks, Jun 1953  
Maj Edward O. Martin, Jul 1954  
Lt Col William M. Shewbart, 6 Sep 1955  
Lt Col Ralph O. Sensenbrenner, Jun 1956  
Lt Col Ira D. Hassler, 8 May 1957  
Lt Col Paul Handy, 1 Jul 1958

Maj Arthur P. Bertanzetti, 10 Jun 1959  
Lt Col Wayne B. Tweten, Feb 1962  
Lt Col Howard M. Dallman, Jul 1963  
Lt Col Robert B. Burns, Sep 1964  
Maj Walter C. Kohlman Jr., Nov-15 Dec 1964

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II Asiatic-Pacific Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

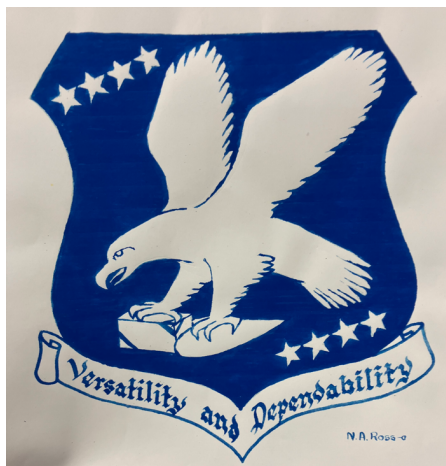
World War II  
Egypt-Libya  
Tunisia  
Sicily  
Naples-Foggia  
Rome-Arno  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Central Europe

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citations  
Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sicily, 25 Nov 1942-25 Aug 1943  
Sicily, 11 Jul 1943  
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

## **EMBLEM**



44 Air Refueling Squadron emblem



On a shield azure, a silhouetted American bald eagle volant, carrying in his right talons a cargo box and in his left talons a fueling tank, between eight stars, four in dexter chief and four in sinister base, placed sinister bendwise, all argent. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Emblem is symbolic of the squadron's mission of refueling and support. The Eagle, the national bird, is a symbol of might and courage, capable of soaring to great heights and enduring severe hardships. Here, his white color stands for purity and justice as opposed to the forces of evil and malefaction. The blue field of the shield represents the sky, both the abode of the eagle and the environment in which the mission is performed. The refueling tank and cargo box, carried in the talons of the Eagle, are specifically symbolic of the mission of providing refueling and support capabilities for a strategic bombardment force. The two clusters of four stars are part of the Wing emblem and represent the numerical designation of the 44th Air Refueling Squadron. (Approved, 27 Jul 1956)



#### **MOTTO**

VERSATILITY and DEPENDABILITY.

#### **OPERATIONS**

Included airborne assaults on Sicily, Normandy, Holland, and Germany, and aerial transportation in MTO and ETO, during World War II. Conducted aerial refueling operations, 1953-1964.

First KC-97 aircraft arrived for use of 44 Air Refueling Squadron At Lake Charles AFB as of 7 Jul 53.

44 Air Refueling Squadron deployed 18 aircraft to Goose Ab for 60 days rotational temporary duty. 1956

44 Air Refueling Squadron Deployed 18 KC-97 aircraft to Goose Air Base, Labrador for Operation Full Moon (temporary duty assignment of 60 days). 1956

On 6 Jul 56, A KC-97 from 44 Air Refueling Squadron exploded in midair near Goose Air Base, killing six crew members.

The 44 Air Refueling Squadron was directed to redeploy KC-97G from Lajes Field, Azores, To Selfridge Air Force Base (AFB) MI under Operation Short Punt.

On 7 Jan 59, 44 Air Refueling Squadron assumed reflex posture at Goose Air Base, Labrador.

The 44 Air Refueling Squadron began deploying tanker aircraft to Lajes Field, Azores on 1 Jul 1963 For Operation Short Punt.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORIES

Created: 25 Jan 2025

Updated:

#### Sources

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

Unit yearbook. *44 Bombardment Wing (M), 1954*. Army and Navy Publishing Co, Inc. Baton Rouge, LA. 1954.