

6 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

6 Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) constituted, 22 Dec 1939
Activated, 1 Feb 1940
Redesignated 6 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 28 Mar 1944
Inactivated, 1 Apr 1944
Activated, 1 Apr 1944
Inactivated, 20 May 1946
Activated in the Reserve, 15 Jun 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

6 Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 6 Apr 1951
Activated, 10 Apr 1951
Inactivated, 1 Aug 1951
Redesignated 6 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 1 Apr 1957
Activated, 1 Nov 1957
Discontinued and inactivated, 25 Jan 1967

6 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy and 6 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated,
19 Sep 1985. Consolidated squadron retains 6 Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy.

Activated, 3 Jan 1989
Redesignated 6 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Langley Field, VA, 1 Feb 1940
MacDill Field, FL, 21 May 1940
Gowen Field, ID, 25 Jun 1942–1 Apr 1944
Pratt AAFld, KS, 1 Apr 1944
Dalhart AAFld, TX, 25 May 1944
Pratt AAFld, KS, 17 Jul–6 Dec 1944
North Field, Guam, 17 Jan 1945–20 May 1946
Barksdale Field (later, AFB), LA, 15 Jun 1947–27 Jun 1949
Walker AFB, NM, 10 Apr–1 Aug 1951
Bergstrom AFB, TX, 1 Nov 1957
Walker AFB, NM, 3 Jan 1958–25 Jan 1967
March AFB, CA, 3 Jan 1989
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1995

ASSIGNMENTS

29 Bombardment Group, 1 Feb 1940–1 Apr 1944
29 Bombardment Group, 1 Apr 1944–20 May 1946
Tenth Air Force, 15 Jun 1947
482 Bombardment Group, 30 Sep 1947–27 Jun 1949
6 Bombardment Group, 10 Apr–1 Aug 1951
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Nov 1957
6 Bombardment (later, 6 Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 3 Jan 1958–25 Jan 1967
22 Air Refueling Wing, 3 Jan 1989
22 Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
722 Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994
60 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1995

WEAPON SYSTEMS

YB-17, 1940
B-17, 1940–1943
B-18, 1940–1941
B-24, 1943–1944
B-17, 1944
B-29, 1944–1946
AT-6, 1947–1949
AT-11, 1947–1949
KC-135, 1958–1967
KC-10, 1989

COMMANDERS

Maj Hugo P. Rush 1 Feb 1940
Maj Edwin L. Tucker 15 May 1941-Aug 1941
Maj James S. Sutton, Unkn
Maj Wray, Unkn

2Lt Col William B. David, 7 Dec 1941
Capt Robert B. Sutterwhite, Unkn-31 Dec 1942
Capt Thomas E. Fenton, 1 Jan 1943
Capt Benjamin Kelly, 24 May 1943
Maj Robert B. Sullivan, 2 Jun 1943
Capt James A. Anderson, 22 Jul-31 Dec 1943
Unkn, Jan-Mar 1944
None (Not Manned), 1 Apr-3 May 1944
Capt Samuel W. Bright, 4 May 1944
Maj James D. Baird, 30 Jun 1944
Maj Gerald R. Jorgensen, By 1 Aug 1945-Unkn
None (Not Manned), 15 Feb-20 May 1946
Lt Col James E. Bailey, 15 Jun 1947-Unkn
None (Not Manned) 10 Apr-1 Aug 1951
Maj Gover E. Sims. 1 Nov 1957
Lt Col Rowland H. Worrel, Jr., 7 Jan 1958
Lt Col Donald W. Brookie, Mar 1960
Lt Col Joseph R. Hanley, Nov 1961
Lt Col Keith L. Gillespie, 1 Sep 1964-25 Jan 1967
Lt Col Robert D. Glass, 3 Jan 1989
Lt Col Andrew S. Miller, 8 Jun 1990
Lt Col Ronald M. Varely, 1 Sep 1991
Lt Col Richard P. Packard, 2 Sep 1992
Lt Col Brooks L. Bash, 1 Aug 1995
Lt Col Raymond Torres, 10 Jun 1997
Lt Col Mark A. Stank, 12 Jul 1999
Lt Col Michael R. Mendonca, 6 Apr 2001
Lt Col Kevin J. Kilb, 4 Apr 2003
Lt Col Shaun B. Turner, 6 Jan 2005
Lt Col James H. Craft, 26 Jan 2007
Lt Col Joel D. Jackson, 16 May 2008

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Air Offensive, Japan

Western Pacific

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Japan, 31 Mar 1945
Japan, 19–26 Jun 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 May 1960–31 May 1962
1 Feb–30 Jun 1989
1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991
1 Jul 2010–30 Jun 2012

EMBLEM



6 Bombardment Squadron emblem on a blue disc flying across a yellow crescent moon a white pelican, bill and feet proper, holding in his beak a black bomb sparked at the fuse. (Approved, 6 Apr 1942)



6 Air Refueling Squadron (Heavy) the emblem is symbolic of the squadron and its mission.

Against a light blue background with stars, to represent the sky, and a compass rose, to represent the four cardinal headings and world refueling capability; a wheel of life, divided white and deep blue to indicate day and night, bears an armored hand grasping a refueling receptacle to indicate the squadron's primary mission. The two aircraft flying above the hand indicate the aircraft that the squadron supports, and the olive wreath symbolizes SAC's mission of maintaining peace. The six stars represents the unit's numerical designation. (Approved, 12 Oct 1960)

6 Air Refueling Squadron: on a disk Celeste, a Taeguk Or, and Azure fimbriated of the last, surmounted by a Pegasus soaring toward dexter Argent, detailed Sable, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached above the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "VIS EXTENSA" in Blue letters. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "6 AIR REFUELING SQ" in Blue letters. Ultramarine blue and Air Force yellow are the Air Force colors. Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of Air Force operations. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. The Taeguk represents the earth and the unit's dual mission of worldwide refueling and airlift capabilities. The yellow and blue colors of the Taeguk suggest day and night operations. The Pegasus symbolizes the Squadron's personnel and their mission functions. (Approved, 9 Dec 1994)

MOTTO

VIS EXTENSA—Strength Extended

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrol missions in the Caribbean, Jan–Jun 1942. Operational and later replacement training, 1942–1944.

Combat in the Western Pacific, 16 Feb–15 Aug 1945. Air refueling training, 1959–1962.

Worldwide air refueling, 1963–1967, including support of tactical aircraft flying in Southeast Asia.



Lt Col Donald W. Brookie

Worldwide air refueling, 1989, including support of deployments to Southwest Asia, 1990–1991.

Humanitarian airlift to Somalia, 1992–1993.

Aircrews and aircraft of 6 AREFS deployed to Christopher Columbus International Airport, Geneva, Italy in support of operation deliberate force, 1995.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

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Sources

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