

## 9<sup>th</sup> AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### LINEAGE

9<sup>th</sup> Photographic Squadron constituted, 19 Jan 1942

Activated, 1 Feb 1942

Redesignated 9<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 9 Jun 1942

Redesignated 9<sup>th</sup> Photographic Squadron (Light), 6 Feb 1943

Redesignated 9<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 13 Nov 1943

Inactivated, 4 Dec 1945

9<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 24 Jul 1951

Activated, 1 Aug 1951

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Dec 1965

Redesignated 9<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 12 Dec 1969

Activated, 1 Jan 1970

Inactivated, 27 Jan 1982

Activated, 1 Aug 1982

9<sup>th</sup> Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron and 9<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, consolidated, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 9<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

### STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Feb 1942

Bradley Field, CT, 10 Mar 1942

Felts Field, WA, 16 Apr–18 May 1942

Karachi, India, 24 Jul 1942 (flight at Kunming, China, Nov 1942–12 Jul 1943, with detachment thereof operating from Kweilin, China, Feb–12 Jul 1943)

Chakulia, India, 30 Nov 1942 (detachment operated from Dinjan, India, 18 Mar–Jul 1943)

Pandaveswar, India, 3 Jan 1943 (detachment operated from Dinjan, India, Sep 1943–20 May 1944)  
Barrackpore, India, 29 Oct 1943 (detachment operated from Tingkaw Sakan, Burma, 16 Aug–30 Nov 1944, and from Myitkyina, Burma, 27 Nov–5 Dec 1944 another detachment operated from Chittagong, India, 9 Oct–21 Dec 1944)  
Myitkyina, Burma, 5 Dec 1944  
Piardoba, India, 1 May 1945  
Malir, India, Oct–14 Nov 1945  
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 3–4 Dec 1945  
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Aug 1951  
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1 May 1953–15 Dec 1965  
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1970–27 Jan 1982  
March AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1982  
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Sep 1994

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Benguerir AB, French Morocco, 18 Apr–16 Jul 1955  
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 2 May–1 Jul 1956

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

First Air Force, 1 Feb 1942  
Tenth Air Force, 29 Mar 1942  
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, 30 Oct 1943  
Tenth Air Force, 7 Mar 1944  
8<sup>th</sup> Photographic (later, 8<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance) Group, 25 Apr 1944  
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, Oct–4 Dec 1945  
9<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1951  
9<sup>th</sup> Bombardment (later, 9<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 16 Jun 1952–15 Dec 1965  
456<sup>th</sup> Strategic Aerospace (later, 456<sup>th</sup> Bombardment) Wing, 1 Jan 1970  
17<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 30 Sep 1975  
100<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, 30 Sep 1976–27 Jan 1982  
22<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment (later, 22<sup>nd</sup> Air Refueling) Wing, 1 Aug 1982  
22<sup>nd</sup> Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991  
722<sup>nd</sup> Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994  
60<sup>th</sup> Operations Group, 1 Sep 1994

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Flight attached to Fourteenth Air Force, 10 Mar–12 Jul 1943  
5306<sup>th</sup> Photographic and Reconnaissance Group [Provisional], 30 Oct 1943–17 Jan 1944, and to Tenth Air Force, 17 Jan–6 Mar 1944  
43<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing, 1 Aug–3 Sep 1951  
36<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 4 Sep 1951–14 Jan 1952  
303<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing, 15 Jan 1952–30 Apr 1953  
5<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 18 Apr–16 Jul 1955  
SAC Liaison Team, 2 May–1 Jul 1956

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

F-4, 1942–1944  
F-5A, 1943–1945  
F-5B  
F-5E  
P-38F  
B-25C, 1943–1945  
F-7B  
F-13A  
KB-29M, 1951–1954  
KC-97G, 1954–1965  
KC-135Q, 1970–1982  
KC-10A, 1982

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT SERIAL NUMBERS**

B-25C  
42-32399

F-13A  
44-61817

F-4  
41-2163  
41-2204  
41-2153  
41-2160  
41-2138

F-5A  
42-13278  
42-13278

F-5B  
42-67375  
42-67376  
42-67394  
42-68246  
42-68291  
42-68281

F-5E  
41-2129  
43-28289  
43-28965  
43-28980  
43-28973

43-28602  
43-28288  
43-28977

F-7B  
44-41943

F-9  
44-83522

P-38F  
41-2178  
43-28580

KC-97				
53-0121	53-0126	53-0130	53-0354	53-0358
53-0122	53-0127	53-0351	53-0355	53-0359
53-0124	53-0128	53-0352	53-0356	53-0360
53-0125	53-0129	53-0353	53-0357	

## **ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT TAIL/BASE CODES**

### **UNIT COLORS**

#### **COMMANDERS**

2Lt Vincent P. Keenan (Acting), 20 Jan 1942  
Cpt Edwin Kessler, 28 Feb 1942  
Cpt Dale L. Swartz, 10 Mar 1942  
Cpt Edwin Kessler (Acting), 12 Apr 1942  
Cpt Dale L. Swartz, 16 Apr 1942  
Cpt Edwin Kessler, 18 May 1942  
Col Jerald W. McCoy, 1 Aug 1942  
Maj Dale L. Swartz, 4 Jan 1943  
Maj Henry E. Miller Jr., 7 Dec 1943  
Cpt John E. Buffin, 17 Jun 1944  
Maj Paul Turner Jr., 27 Jun 1944  
Maj MacArthur Gorton Jr., 25 Jan 1945  
Cpt Walter R. Thompson, 21 Mar 1945  
Maj MacArthur Gorton Jr., 31 Mar 1945  
Maj Paul H. Ponder Jr., 15 May 1945  
Cpt Joseph P. Lezon Jr., 25 Aug-4 Dec 1945  
LTC Russell F. Ireland, 1 Aug 1951  
Maj Jack N. Fancher, 11 Oct 1951  
LTC John B. Stokes, 2 Nov 1951  
Maj C. C. Gifford, May 1953  
Maj Edward H. Dvorak, Sep 1953

LTC Max W. Rogers, 19 Mar 1954  
LTC William B. Becklund, 1 Sep 1958  
LTC Donald S. Seeley, 27 Apr 1959  
LTC William B. Becklund, Sep 1960  
LTC Roy J. Sousley Jr., Jul 1962  
LTC Carl E. Rice, Sep 1964-15 Dec 1965  
LTC Clarence W. Thomas, 1 Jan 1970  
LTC Richard D. Jenkins, 4 Jan 1971  
LTC Allan J. Surridge, 1 Apr 1971  
LTC William C. Walker, 15 Aug 1971  
LTC Louis C. Wagner, 9 Oct 1971  
LTC James G. Dunham, 6 Jun 1972  
LTC Joe H. Snow, 3 Mar 1973  
LTC Douglas A. Jewett, 1 Feb 1974  
LTC William R. Borlowski, 1 Sep 1976  
LTC Melvin U. Edens, 20 Sep 1977  
LTC Curtis R. Archer Jr., 8 Oct 1978  
LTC Larry D. Sykes, 30 Nov 1979  
LTC Donald E. Brice, 1 Aug 1980  
LTC Charles P. Rushforth III, 13 Mar 1981- 27 Jan 1982  
LTC Donald E. Bruce, 1 Aug 1982  
LTC Joseph M. Hudson, 19 Nov 1982  
LTC Stephen L. Toles, 12 Aug 1984  
LTC Arthur J. Lichte, 26 Jun 1986  
LTC Thomas Dooley, 1 Jul 1988  
LTC James N. Christian, 23 Mar 1990  
LTC Leo A. Brownyard, 28 Mar 1991  
LTC Bernard H. Fullenkamp, 27 May 1992  
LTC Ronald D. Jones, 2 Jun 1993  
LTC Paul J. Selva, 1 Sep 1994  
LTC Daniel A. Hale, 24 Apr 1995  
LTC Michelle D. Johnson, 18 Jun 1996  
LTC Richard Trasker, 18 Jun 1998  
LTC Martin J. Wojtysiak, 11 Jun 1999  
LTC Mark Simon, 21 Jun 2000  
LTC Bruce A. Van Skiver, 21 Jun 2001  
LTC Marshall T. Morrison, 30 Jun 2003  
LTC Kurt W. Meidel, 16 Jun 2005  
LTC Matt J. Lloyd, 7 Jun 2007  
LTC Johnny L. Barnes II, 10 Apr 2009

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
New Guinea  
Central Pacific  
India-Burma  
Central Burma  
China Defensive

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jan 1957–31 Jan 1958

1 Aug 1982–30 Jun 1983

1 Jul 1987–30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989–30 Jun 1991

1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2012

### **EMBLEM**

9<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a light blue disc with narrow black border a cartooned obese Indian, proper, standing on a white cloud and peering with eyes shielded by right hand, wearing a headdress and neckband of red and white design, a yellow arm band, buckskin trousers with red “apron” and buckskin moccasins with red tops. He is grasping the black spout and hose of a red gasoline pump, with white markings, which stands behind him on the cloud. The Indian is an amusing reminder of the unit’s location of activation; Tucson, Arizona. The gas tank and hose is indicative of this unit’s primary mission. The blue sky and cloud symbolize the fact that the squadron’s mission is airborne. The “hand-on-brow” represents the searching of the rendezvous equipment, and the overall blue background coincides with the squadron colors. (Approved, 2 Dec 1954)

9<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron second emblem: On a disc Azure, an inner border Gules, an elliptical globe of the last, fimbriated and gridlined Argent, issuing from the sinister base of the globe a contrail environing the globe terminating beneath a delta ascending to dexter of the third, delta detailed of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “UNIVERSAL” in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “9TH AIR REFUELING SQ” in Yellow 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 globe symbolizes the worldwide capability of the unit. The aircraft is representative of the entire Squadron--its crews and aircraft accomplishing the unit’s mission. The motto is “Universal,” indicative of the worldwide mission.

### **MOTTO**

UNIVERSAL

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat photo reconnaissance in CBI Theater, 1 Dec 1942–14 Apr 1945. Worldwide air refueling.

The move of the 9th AREFS to Mountain Home AFB was accomplished in three phases in order to maintain the unit in operational status. The three phases consisted of: the advanced echelon which departed Davis-Monthan on April 6, 1953 and consisted of fourteen airman and two officers; the main body moved in two groups on the 17th and 27th of April; and the rear echelon moved so as to arrive not later than May 31, 1953 and consisting of five officers and fifteen enlisted men. During the move, Major Charles C. Gifford, squadron commander, was in command of the main body; Major Robert E. Wolf was in command of the advanced echelon; and Major Cecil M. Peacock was in command of the rear echelon. There were many problems associated with the move to Mountain Home, but during the next year the 9th received the good news of being selected to receive the KC-97G. On September 15, 1954, the first KC-97G air refueling tankers were received to replace the older KB-29Ms.

From September 26, 1957 to January 15, 1958, fifteen tankers flew to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska in Operation REFLEX ACTION and five to Andersen AFB, Guam for Operation AIR MAIL.

From February 7, 1958 through March 14 of the same year the squadron deployed to the Fairchild Tanker Task Force. In July 1958 the KC-97Gs were refitted with new propellers and in the midst of the retrofit were configured for Emergency War Order (EWO) operations due to the Lebanon Crisis. In March 1959, PROJECT HOOKUP, heavyweight refueling, training began for the unit in preparation for B-47 refueling.

REFLEX ACTION deployments to Namao Royal Canadian Air Force Station were flown from August 1960 through June 1964. On August 24, 1960 the squadron was named the best KC-97 outfit in Fifteenth Air Force.

On 24 Jan 63, KC-97G assigned to 9 AREFS ran off runway after landing gear collapsed at Cold Lake, Canada.

On May 3, 1963 a 9th Bomb Wing B-47 collided with a squadron KC-97G during air refueling operations killing three crew members.

When the final days of 1964 threatened the west coast of the United States with massive flooding, the squadron conducted flood damage aerial surveys and transported fuel for flood rescue and recovery operations.

On 10 Nov 1965, the last KC-97 was removed from ground alert. It belonged to the 9th Air Refueling Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

On January 1, 1970 the squadron was again activated. Assigned to the 456th Strategic Aerospace Wing (later Bombardment Wing), the squadron flew KC-135Q in air-to-air refueling operations

with SR-71, both from Beale AFB, California.

During Jan 87, 9 AREFS began qualifying KC-10 crews to perform SR-71 refueling.

The 9th was called upon to protect our national interests in Operations EL DORADO CANYON, JUST CAUSE, DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, and PROUD RETURN. Since 1992, the 9th has been vital to enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq during Operation SOUTHERN WATCH by flying air refueling missions out of Al Dhafra Airbase, United Arab Emirates.

In December 1992, the 9th demonstrated another Air Force mission - humanitarian relief-by delivering desperately needed food and supplies to Somalia in Operation RESTORE HOPE. Then with the reorganization of March AFB, California the 9th Air Refueling Squadron transferred to Travis AFB, California and was activated on 1 Sep 94.

KC-10 assigned to 9 air refueling squadron deployed to the UAE in support of operation southern watch/deny flight. 1995

The unit initially operated out of temporary trailers until the construction of its new squadron building was completed. In 1995, the 9th played a critical role in Operation DENY FLIGHT by providing refueling support for NATO aircraft. In 1997 and 1998, it played a crucial role in Operation PHOENIX SCORPION I and II, the rapid movement of forces into Southwest Asia.

The 9th deployed to Diego Garcia and flew refueling missions over the Persian Gulf. Its latest conflict took them to Ramstein AB Germany to refuel coalition aircraft during the Bosnian War. And the 9th deploys four aircraft to Al Dhafra Airbase, United Arab Emirates to refuel US Navy and Marine aircraft supporting Operation Southern Watch.

Following the 11 Sep 2001 terrorist strikes on New York City and the Pentagon, the 9th Air Refueling Squadron flew several missions orbiting over San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Denver refueling F-16As and F/A-18Cs.





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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.

The Institute of Heraldry. U.S. Army. Fort Belvoir, VA.

Air Force News. Air Force Public Affairs Agency.