

71st AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

471st Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 9 Jul 1942

Activated, 16 Jul 1942

Disbanded, 1 May 1944

71st Air Refueling Squadron, Strategic Fighter constituted, 4 Nov 1954

Activated, 24 Jan 1955

Redesignated 71st Air Refueling Squadron, Medium, 15 Dec 1957

Redesignated 71st Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 1 Mar 1964

471st Bombardment Squadron (Medium) reconstituted and consolidated with 71st Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 71st Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1994

STATIONS

Greenville AAB, SC 16 Jul 1942-1 May 1944

Dow AFB, ME, 24 Jan 1955

Barksdale AFB, LA, 15 Apr 1968-1 Apr 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Thule AB, Greenland, 29 Dec 1955-27 Mar 1956

ASSIGNMENTS

334th Bombardment Group (Medium), 16 Jul 1942-1 May 1944
Eighth Air Force, 24 Jan 1955
4060th Air Refueling Wing, Medium, 8 Mar 1955
4038th Strategic Wing, 1 Feb 1960
397th Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 1 Feb 1983
2nd Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 15 Apr 1963
2nd Operations Group, I Sep 1991
458th Operations Group, 1 Oct 1993-1 Apr 1994

ATTACHMENTS

506th Strategic Fighter Wing, 24 Jan-7 Mar 1955

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-25, 1942-1944
B-25C
B-25D
B-25G
B-25J
KC-97, 1955-1984
KC-135, 1964

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 18 Jul 1942-1 May 1944
Unkn, 24 Jan 1955-unkn
Maj Larry S. Hatfield, Feb 1955
Maj Raymond Gottner 1 May 1955
LTC James Otis, Jr., 30 Jun 1958
Maj Harold K. Dorgan, 31 May 1959
Maj Vyrle W. Darnold, 17 Nov 1960
LTC Charles K. Moran, 1 Feb 1963
LTC John D. Cheek, 24 Jan 1964
LTC William R. Wilson, Jr., 1 Jul 1967
LTC Robert W. Harden, 31 Dec 1968
LTC James J. Crumbliss, 30 Sep 1969
LTC Bobby P. West, 31 Dec 1971
LTC Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr., 20 Feb 1972
LTC George J. Schmidt, 15 Jun 1973
LTC Samuel H. Shoekey, Jr., 1 Mar 1974
LTC Richard H. Kittler, 2 Jul 1975
LTC Edward H. Riebesehl, 1 Jan 1977
LTC Clyde E. Bodenhemser, 8 Sep 1978
LTC James W. Evatt, 26 Nov 1979

LTC Kenneth E. Cromwell, 28 May 1980
LTC Thadis W. Crooks, 29 Sep 1981
LTC Jimmie R. Campbell, 1 Nov 1981
LTC Gary R. Ebert, 4 Jun 1982
LTC Paul F. Gill, 21 Jan 1984

HONORS

Service Streamers

WWII American Theater

Campaign Streamers

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1973-30 Jun 1975

1 Jul 1979-30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1982-30 Jun 1984

1 Jul 1986-30 Jun 1987

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

EMBLEM



In front of a yellow-orange disc, "Bomby" bear wearing a red aviator's helmet and white goggles, standing on a white cloud formation in base and pitching an orange and white aerial bomb with his right forepaw. (Approved, 5 Feb 1943)

One famous design created by Brooke B. Todd, Jr., and named by Robert D. Ewin, both of the Insignia and Design Branch of the Special Service Division of the Air Forces, has won world-wide acclaim within the Air Forces. This particular creation is "Bomby-The-Bear," a playful young black bear going through successive antics, including the juggling of aerial bombs in each of the

respective insignia in which he appears. He runs through four squadron insignia of the 334th Bombardment Group.



71st Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a light blue disc, a white cloud issuing from sinister (left) chief, outlined Air Force blue; issuing from the cloud, bend sinister-wise, three red refueling booms pointing to three stylized red aircraft in dexter (right); all above the top of a white globe issuing from base, outlines, details, and grid lines Air Force blue; over all, bendwise arched, an Air Force blue ribbon spattered with white stars. **SIGNIFICANCE:** The emblem symbolizes the squadron's support to SAC through air refueling of the bombers that provide the war deterrent force of the United States, through its direct support, the squadron helps to further peace throughout the world. The emblem represents a refueling operation. The dark blue band with stars identifies the operation with the Strategic Air Command and represents the night refueling capability. The background represents the unit's daylight capability and the globe is symbolic of global operations. (Approved, 31 Dec 1959)

MOTTO

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OPERATIONS

Provided B-25 aircrew replacement training, September 1942-April 1944.

Regularly supported the European, Alaskan, and Pacific Tanker Task Forces, Frequently refueled units deploying to or redeploying from the European and Pacific areas. Participated in a steady stream of actual and simulated exercises, operational readiness inspections, and special operations as directed by SAC, while maintaining a high level of operational and combat readiness.

Performed rotational duty at Thule AB for 68 days. 1957

It received its first of fifteen KC-135s on 22 Jun 1964. From late 1966, the Wing's 71st Air Refueling Squadron supported combat operations in Southeast Asia by furnishing aircraft and crews to other units involved in that action.

71 Air Refueling Squadron deployed to Lajes, Azores in support of Desert Shield. Contingent deployed to Moron Air Base, Spain in support of Moron Tanker Task Force and Desert Shield, 1990. Supported European Tanker Task Force and Icelandic Tanker Task Force. 1993

Air Force Order of Battle
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Sources
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.