

## 74 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

74 Troop Carrier Squadron constituted, 30 Jan 1943

Activated, 9 Feb 1943

Inactivated, 31 Jul 1946

Activated in the Reserve, 15 Mar 1947

Redesignated 74 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 1 Jul 1949

Ordered to Active Service, 1 May 1951

Inactivated, 2 May 1951

Redesignated 74 Air Refueling Squadron and activated in the Reserve, 1 Aug 1992

#### STATIONS

Alliance AAFld, NE, 9 Feb 1943

Baer Field, IN, 4-28 Sep 1943

Fulbeck, England, Oct 1943

Welford Park, England, Nov 1943

Fulbeck, England, 10 Jan 1944

Aldermaston, England, 3 Mar 1944

Mourmelon-le-Grand, France, Feb-Jun 1945

Baer Field, IN, 5 Aug 1945

Alliance AAFld, NE, 15 Sep 1945

George Field, IL, 11 Oct 1945

Greenville AAB, SC, 2 Feb-31 Jul 1946

Stout Field, IL, 15 Mar 1947

Atterbury AFB, IN, 1 Jul 1949-2 May 1951

Grissom AFB (later ARB), IN, 1 Aug 1992

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

434 Troop Carrier Group, 9 Feb 1943-31 Jul 1946  
434 Troop Carrier Group, 15 Mar 1947-2 May 1951  
434 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

## **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

C-47, 1943-1946  
Horsa gliders, 1944-1945  
CG-4 gliders, 1944-1945  
C-46, 1945-1946  
Unkn, 1947-1948  
T-7, 1949-1951  
T-11, 1949-1951  
C-47, 1949  
C-46, 1949-1951  
KC-135R, 1992

## **COMMANDERS**

Maj Frank R. Parker, Jr., Feb 1943  
Lt Col Ralph L. Strean, Jr., 27 Sep 1943  
Maj Edward J. Kominski, 15 Sep 1945  
Lt Col Robert G. Johns, 16 Oct 1945  
Lt Col Donald W. Morris, Jan 1946-unkn  
Unkn, 15 Mar 1947-2 May 1951  
Lt Col Mark A. Pillar, 1 Aug 1992  
Lt Col Wilburt J. Elliott, 1 Apr 1995  
Lt Col John M. Smiley, 3 Aug 1996  
Lt Col Paul Wietbrock  
Lt Col Brian Stopher

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

World War II American Theater

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Normandy  
Northern France  
Rhineland  
Ardennes-Alsace  
Central Europe

## Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation  
France, [6-7] Jun 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards  
1 Aug 1992-31 Aug 1993  
1 Sep 1994-31 Aug 1996

French Croix de Guerre with Palm  
6-7 Jun 1944  
20-28 Aug 1944

French Fourragere

### EMBLEM



On a red disk, a white eagle in flight, against a background of three yellow arrows and a yellow wing; red lightning bolt radiating from the air force disk and white star semi-imposed on the eagle. A black and white checker border surrounded by a narrow yellow border. Attached below the disc a white scroll edged with narrow black and narrow yellow borders. **SIGNIFICANCE** white eagle: symbolizes the power and might of the united states air force and the freedom of living as an American. Red lightning bolts: derived from the original strategic air command patch and representative of our original ties to that command. Yellow arrows and yellow wing: derived from the air mobility command and representative of our current ties to them. Blue air force disk w/ white star: derived from the official patch of the 434th wing indicating ties as a wing squadron. 7 yellow stars lower/4 yellow stars upper: celestial designation for the 74 air refueling squadron. Identical in concept to the 72nd air refueling squadron's patch (our collocated sister squadron). Black and white checker board border: our

wing ties with the "Indianapolis 500" and the state of Indiana. The 434th wing is, and has been for nearly 50 years, the "Hoosier Wing". Red disc: the color red denotes courage and bravery. Red is the adopted squadron color



Gules, three arrows points up one in pale over two in saltire winged Or, the dexter wing tip between an arc of eleven mullets in dexter of the like and surmounted in sinister by a stylized eagle stooping issuant from sinister Argent garnished Sable; all within an inner bordure chequy Azure and White and a diminished outer bordure Yellow. Attached below the disc a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed " 74 AIR REFUELING SQ" in Yellow letters. **SIGNIFICANCE** Blue and 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 eagle represents the Air Force and its defense of the nation's freedoms. The winged arrows reflect the unit's support to its parent command. The stars represent excellence and suggest the unit's numerical designation. The chequy border represents the squadron's long association as a Reserve component within the state of Indiana. (Approved, 15 May 1995)

On a red disk, a white eagle, highlighted in black, in flight, against a background of three Air Force yellow arrows and a yellow wing; an ultramarine blue and white checker border encircling, with a narrow yellow border. The white eagle symbolizes the power and might of the United States Air Force and the freedom of living as an American. The yellow arrows and wing represent ties with the gaining command. The eleven yellow stars refer to the celestial designation of the unit. The checkered border indicates the unit's long association with the "Hoosier" state. The red of the disk denotes courage and bravery. Red is also the adopted squadron color.

## MOTTO

## OPERATIONS

Airborne assaults on Normandy, Holland, and Germany; relief of Bastogne; aerial transportation of passengers and cargo in ETO during World War II. Trained in troop carrier duties, 1947-1951.

Performed air refueling missions worldwide since 1992. Since late 1993, periodically deployed to Italy and other western European location in support of NATO operations in the Balkans.

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USAF Unit Histories  
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Sources  
Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.