

100 AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

100 Bombardment Group (Heavy) established, 28 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Jun 1942
Redesignated, 100 Bombardment Group, Heavy, 20 Aug 1943
Inactivated, 21 Dec 1945
Redesignated 100 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy, 13 May 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 29 May 1947
Inactivated, 27 Jun 1949

100 Bombardment Wing, Medium established, 23 Mar 1953
Activated, 1 Jan 1956
Redesignated 100 Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 25 Jun 1966
Redesignated 100 Air Refueling Wing, Heavy, 30 Sep 1976
Inactivated, 15 Mar 1983

100 Bombardment Group, Very Heavy and 100 Air Refueling Wing, Heavy consolidated, 31
Jan 1984

Redesignated 100 Air Division, 15 Jun 1990
Activated, 1 Jul 1990
Inactivated, 26 Jul 1991
Redesignated 100 Air Refueling Wing and activated, 1 Feb 1992

STATIONS

Orlando AAB, FL, 1 Jun 1942
Barksdale Field, LA, 18 Jun 1942
Pendleton Field, OR, 26 Jun 1942
Gowen Field, ID, 28 Aug 1942
Walla Walla AAB, WA, 1 Nov 1942
Wendover Field, UT, 30 Nov 1942
Sioux City AAB, IA, 1 Jan 1943
Kearney AAFld, NE, 3 Feb 1943
New York Port of Embarkation, 11-27 May 1943
Thorpe Abbots, England, 9 Jun 1943-12 Dec 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 20-21 Dec 1945
Miami AAFld, FL, 29 May 1947-27 Jun 1949
Portsmouth (later, Pease) AFB, NH, 1 Jan 1956
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 25 Jun 1966
Beale AFB, CA, 30 Sep 1976-15 Mar 1983
Whiteman AFB, MO, 1 Jul 1990-26 Jul 1991
RAF Mildenhall, UK, 1 Feb 1992

ASSIGNMENTS

III Bomber Command, 1 Jun 1942
Second Air Force, 18 Jun 1942
II Bomber Command, 26 Jun 1942
15 Bombardment (later, 15 Bombardment Training; 15 Bombardment Operational Training)
Wing, 30 Nov 1942
Eighth Air Force, 2 Jun 1943
VIII Bomber Command, 4 Jun 1943
4 Bombardment Wing, 4 Jun 1943
3 Bombardment Division, 13 Sep 1943
13 Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy), 14 Sep 1943
3 Air Division, 18 Jun 1945
1 Air Division, 12 Aug 1945
3 Air Division, 28 Sep 1945
VIII Fighter Command, 1 Nov-Dec 1945
49 Bombardment Wing, Very Heavy (later, 49 Air Division, Bombardment), 29 May 1947-27
Jun 1949
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jan 1956
817 Air Division, 1 Feb 1956
12 Strategic Aerospace Division, 25 Jun 1966
14 Strategic Aerospace Division, 30 Jun 1971
12 Strategic Missile (later, 12th Air) Division, 1 Aug 1972
14 Air Division, 30 Sep 1976-15 Mar 1983
Eighth Air Force, 1 Jul 1990-26 Jul 1991
Third Air Force, 1 Feb 1992
United States Air Forces in Europe, 1 Nov 2005

Air Command Europe, 18 Nov 2005
Third Air Force (Air Forces Europe), 1 Dec 2006

ATTACHMENTS

402 Provisional Combat Wing Bombardment (Heavy), 6 Jun-12 Sep 1943
7 Air Division, 29 Dec 1957-1 Apr 1958

COMMANDERS

Unkn, 1 Jun-Nov 1942
Col Darr H. Alkire, 14 Nov 1942
Col Howard M. Turner, 26 Apr 1943
Col Harold Q. Huglin, Jun 1943
Col Neil B. Harding, 1 Jul 1943
Lt Col John M. Bennett, Jr., 30 Mar 1944 (acting)
Col Robert H. Kelly, 19 Apr 1944
Lt Col John M. Bennett Jr., 28 Apr 1944 (acting)
Col Thomas S. Jeffery, Jr., 7 May 1944
Col Frederick J. Sutterlin, 2 Feb 1945
Lt Col John B. Wallace, 23 Jun 1945
Col Harry F. Cruver 1 Aug 1945 - Dec 1945
Unkn, 29 May 1947-7 Jun 1949
Col James W. Chapman, Jr., 1 Jan 1956
Brig Gen Walter E. Arnold, 25 Apr 1956
Col Ariel W. Nielsen, 4 Aug 1956
Col Gordon F. Goyt, 1 Sep 1957
Col Charles L. Wimberly, 23 Oct 1957
Col Winton R. Close, 15 Nov 1957
Col Charles L. Wimberly, 1 Apr 1958
Col Winton R. Close, 26 May 1958
Col Roland W. Bergamy, 29 Jun 1959
Col Delmore P. Wood, 23 Jul 1959
Col Richard D. Reinbold, 16 Sep 1960
Col Wallace Wall, Jr., 2 Jul 1962
Col Raymond E. Buckwalter, 8 Jul 1965
Col James S. Howard, 21 Sep 1965
Unkn, 1 Apr-24 Jun 1966
Col William D. Kyle, Jr., 25 Jun 1966
Col Marion C. Mixon, 15 Aug 1966
Col Raymond L. Haupt, 31 Jul 1970
Col Donald S. White, 29 Jun 1972
Col Charles B. Stratton, 7 May 1974
Col Lyman M. Kidder, 11 Jul 1976
Col John J. Tobin, 30 Sep 1976
Col Robert D. Beckel, 4 Jan 1978

Col Stanley O. Klepper, 10 Aug 1978
Col Lawrence F. McNeil, 18 Jun 1980
Col William G. Dolan, Jr., 19 Feb 1981
Col Anthony L. St. Amant, 22 Apr 1982-15 Mar 1983
Col Thomas E. Kuenning, Jr., 1 Jul 1990
Col John J. Politi, 4 Jan-26 Jul 1991
Col Jonas L. Blank, Jr., 1 Feb 1992
Col David E. Pope, 30 Nov 1992
Col James W. Morehouse, 3 Oct 1994
Col Christopher A. Kelly, 2 May 1996
Col Jeffrey B. Kohler, 4 Jun 1997
Col Glenn F. Spears, 28 Jul 1998
Col Bruce E. Burda, 20 Apr 2000
Col Donald Lustig, 20 Jul 2001
Col Richard T. Devereaux, 16 Jul 2003
Col Michael S. Stough, 6 Jun 2005
Brig Gen Eden J. Murrie, 22 Jun 2007
Col Chad T. Manske, 9 Sep 2009

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-17, 1942-1945
Unkn, 1947-1949
B-47, 1956-1966
KC-97, 1956-1965
U-2, 1966-1976
WU-2, 1966-1969
DC-130, 1966-1976
CH-3, 1966-1976
Q-147 (later, AQM-34) drone, 1966-1976
KC-135, 1976-1983
Minuteman II, 1990-1991
KC-135, 1992

HONORS

Service Streamers

World War II
American Theater

Campaign Streamers

World War II
Air Offensive, Europe
Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland

Ardennes-Alsace
Central Europe
Air Combat, EAME Theater

Kosovo
Kosovo Air

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

Germany, 17 Aug 1943

Berlin, 4, 6, 8 Mar 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Combat "V" Device

1 Jul 1972-30 Jun 1973

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award

1 Jul 1968-30 Jun 1970

1 Apr 1993-31 Jul 1994

1 Aug 1994-31 Jul 1995

1 Aug 1995-31 Jul 1997

24 Mar 1999-10 Jun 1999

11 Jun 1999-10 Jun 2001

1 Oct 2003-30 Sep 2005

1 Oct 2005-31 Dec 2006

French Croix de Guerre with Palm

25 Jun-31 Dec 1944

EMBLEM



Gray, a base nebuly Azure bearing six mullets Argent arched to base supporting nine billets fesswise in chevron Sable and thereon two lions respectant Or langued Gules armed Black, the dexter grasping a palm branch bendwise sinister Vert and the sinister grasping a lightning flash surmounting bendwise of the sixth, all within a diminished bordure Yellow. Attached below the shield, a White scroll edged with a narrow Yellow border and inscribed "PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH" in Blue letters. **SIGNIFICANCE:** 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 lions, signifying honor and majesty, hold a lightning flash and a palm branch representing the organization's courage and adaptability in performing its mission through war and peace. The blocks represent the determination of subordinate units that assist in mission accomplishment, and the stars represent the wisdom the organization acquired in combat. The stylized clouds are a tribute to those who have served, signifying the retrospection with which the organization honors its rich heritage. (Approved, 22 Nov 1957)

100 Bombardment Wing emblem significance: Our emblem symbolizes our Wing's mission. The lions, signifying kingliness, nobility, and courage, hold a lightning flash and the palm of peace to represent SAC's striking power enforcing peace. The black blocks represent our squadrons and the white stars represent the major air battles of the 100 Bombardment Wing. The ultramarine and golden yellow are the official colors of the AF.

MOTTO

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

OPERATIONS

Trained with B-17s until it moved to England, May-Jun 1943, as a strategic bombardment organization. It flew its first combat mission for Eighth Air Force on 25 Jun 1943.

The 100 Bomb Group trained at Walla Walla Washington, Wendover Field-Utah, Sioux City-Iowa, and Kearney-Nebraska. It was at Kearny on April 20th that all 37 original crews took off on a practice mission for Hamilton Field, California, a distance of almost 1300 miles with very poor results. Col. Alkire shouldered this responsibility and was relieved of command of the 100 BG and assigned weeks later as Commanding Officer of the 449th Bomb Group, which would later fly with the 15th Air Force out of Italy.

On April 26, 1943 Colonel Howard Turner, assumed command of the Group and on May 1st the air echelon took off for Wendover Field, Utah for 20 days of advanced training in navigation, gunnery, bombing, formation flying while aircraft combat modifications were being done at Ogden Utah. With training completed, 35 crews flew to England on May 25, 1943 and arrived at Station 139, Thorpe Abbots, England on June 8, 1943. Three days later Col. Turner was

assigned to the First Air Division and was replaced by Col. Harold Huglin who made the following changes; Maj. Egan to 418th BS C.O., Capt. Flesher to Air Exec, Capt. Kidd to Operations Officer, and Capt. Ollie Turner to 351st BS C.O. The 100 Bomb Group (H), flying the B-17 would become combat operational beginning June 25, 1943. Any sense of adventure and bravado came to a halt on that first mission; three planes and 30 men were lost over Bremen.

From June 25, 1943 until April 20, 1945 the 100 Bomb Group would never go off operational status due to losses. The 100 did not stand alone at Thorpe Abbots. Throughout their stay they were assisted by support units: 1776 Ordnance Company, 18th Weather Detachment, 869th Chemical Company, 216th Finance Section, 592nd Postal Unit, 1285th Military Police, 2110 Fire Fighting Platoon, 1141st Quartermaster Company, 83rd Service Group, 456th Sub-Depot, 412th Air Service Group, 838th Air Engineering Squadron, 662nd Air Material Squadron, American Red Cross, and Royal Air Force Detachment. Throughout its stay at Thorpe Abbots, the Ground Echelon of the 100 was cited frequently for its excellent maintenance and preparation activity.

The 100 BG from June 1943 to January 1944 concentrated its efforts against airfields, submarine facilities and aircraft industries in France and Germany. During this time the Group was involved in the epic air battles over Regensburg-Aug.17, 1943 (for which it received its first Distinguished Unit Citation) and Black Week-October 8-14, 1943 (Bremen, Munster, Marienburg and Schweinfurt-nicknamed "Black Thursday" because the 8th Air Force lost 60 bombers). It led the bombing of Rjukan, Norway, which delayed the manufacture of heavy water for the German atomic bomb.

January through May 1944, the Group bombed enemy airfields, industries, marshalling yards, V-1 missile sites, including participation in the Allied campaign against enemy aircraft factories during Big Week, February 20-25, 1944. Participated in the first daylight raid against Berlin (March 4, 1944) and completed a series of attacks against Berlin March 6, 8, 1944 for which the 100 Bomb Group was awarded a second Distinguished Unit Citation. The Group also the loss of their beloved Col Harding who was relieved of command due to illness, and his replacement Colonel Robert H. Kelly who was shot down on his first mission April 28, 1944 one week after taking command.

In the summer of 1944 oil installations became the major target. The Group also engaged in support and interdiction missions, hitting bridges and gun positions in preparation for the Normandy invasion in June 1944. On June 6, 1944 D-Day, the Group flew 3 missions in support of the ground troops. Later that month the 100 participated in the First Russian Shuttle Mission. Led by new Group C.O. Colonel Thomas S. Jeffrey.

July through September 1944 saw the 100 BG strike at enemy positions in St. Lo and Brest and concentrated on the oil refineries at Merseburg, Ruhland, Politz and Hamburg and fly a Second Russian Shuttle Mission along with two low level supply drops to the French Maquis. The 100 Bomb Group Received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm for attacking heavily defended German installations and for dropping supplies to the French Forces of the Interior.

In October through December 1944, the Century Bombers attacked transportation, oil refineries and ground defenses in the drive against the Siegfried Line. They were involved in the December 24, 1944 mission to attack communication centers and airfields in the Ardennes sector during the Battle of the Bulge. On February 2, 1945, Colonel Frederick J. Sutterlin took command of the 100 Bomb Group and would remain there until after the end of the War. On Feb 3, 1945 the 100 Bomb Group led the entire third Air Division on a mission to "Big B" Berlin. Leading the group was Major Robert Rosenthal flying his 52nd Mission.

January to April 1945, the Group concentrated on marshalling yards, bridges, factories, docks, oil refineries and ground support (including the airborne assault across the Rhine in March 1945). By March 1945 the Luftwaffe was a limited but effective force and used both ME-262 and ramming techniques (April 7, 1945 Buchen mission) to try and thwart the 100 Bomb Group and the 8th Air Force's continual bombing. On April 20, 1945, the 100 Bomb Group flew its last combat mission to Oranienburg (Berlin) with no losses.

First Mission: 25 Jun 1943

Last Mission: 20 Apr 1945

Total Missions: 306

Total Credit Sorties: 8,630

Total Bomb Tonnage: 19,257.1 tons (137.8 tons supplies, etc.)

A/c MIA: 177

Other Op. Losses: 52

E/a Claims: 261 101 139

6 food missions May 45,435.1 tons

768 men KIA/MIA and 939 POW

The 100 did not have had the highest over-all loss rate of any group in the Eighth Air Force, it did have heavy losses during eight missions to Germany; earning the nickname "The Bloody Hundredth".

Date	Aircraft Lost
August 17, 1943	Nine aircraft lost at Regensburg
October 8, 1943	Seven aircraft lost at Bremen
October 10, 1943	Twelve aircraft lost at Munster
March 6, 1944	Fifteen aircraft lost at Berlin
May 24, 1944	Nine aircraft lost at Berlin
July 29, 1944	Eight aircraft lost at Merseburg
September 11, 1944	Twelve aircraft lost at Ruhland
December 31, 1944	Twelve aircraft lost at Hamburg

From Apr 1956-Feb 1966, it performed global strategic bombardment training, and later global air refueling from Aug 1956-Dec 1965. It deployed to Brize Norton RAF Station, England, Dec 1957-Apr 1958.

The wing moved without personnel or equipment to Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, in Jun 1966 and absorbed resources of the 4080th Strategic Wing. During the next ten years, it performed global strategic reconnaissance with U-2 and drone aircraft, Jun 1966-1976, using one overseas-based squadron (99th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron), and deployed operating locations as needed, 1972-1976.

Training was conducted at Davis-Monthan, most operational missions were conducted from deployments which were designated Operating Locations

On 1 July 1976, SAC decided to consolidate U-2 operations with that of the SR-71, under the 9th SRW at Beale. The 100 SRW designation was also transferred to Beale, becoming the 100 Air Refueling Wing in control of the KC-135Q fleet which supported SR-71 operations.

The wing transferred drone operations and associated DC-130 launchers and CH-3 recovery helicopters to Tactical Air Command in mid-1976, and transferred U-2 resources to 9th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing at Beale AFB, CA, Jul-Sep 1976. Not operational, 11 Aug-29 Sep 1976, while phasing down at Davis-Monthan AFB, it moved without personnel or equipment to Beale AFB on 30 Sep 1976 and absorbed resources of the 17th Bombardment Wing, Heavy.

At Beale AFB, the wing provided KC-135Q refueling support to USAF strategic and tactical forces, worldwide, Sep 1976-Mar 1983, but transferred its resources to the 9th SRW and inactivated on 15 Mar 1983. Redesignated as an Air Division at Whiteman AFB, MO, on 15 Jun 1990, it assumed host unit responsibilities and supported the 351st Strategic Missile Wing, which was responsible for Minuteman II missile operations, and the 509th Bombardment Wing (not operational).

On 1 Feb 1992, the 100 became host unit at RAF Mildenhall where it deployed aircraft and managed the European Tanker Task Force, a rotational force that provided air refueling to US and NATO aircraft in the European Theater until it ended in 1998. From 1998, with an increase in primary aircraft assigned, it continued to provide air refueling for forces engaged in contingency operations in Europe, such as DENY FLIGHT and ALLIED FORCE over the former Yugoslavia; aircraft movements; and local and NATO exercises. The wing supported three Geographically Separated Units (GSUs), at bases in the UK (RAF Croughton, RAF Molesworth, and RAF Fairford), and one in Stavanger, Norway at NATO's Joint Headquarters North. Supported deployed aircraft for contingency operations in Africa, such as RESTORE HOPE; and Southwest Asia; including Operations PROVIDE COMFORT, NORTHERN WATCH, ENDURING FREEDOM, and IRAQI FREEDOM.

3/20/2012 - ROYAL AIR FORCE MILDENHALL, England -- From nose to tail, Royal Air Force Mildenhall-based KC-135 58-0100 represents the 100 Air Refueling Wing like no other plane on the flightline here. In addition to the Square D proudly displayed on the 54-year-old aircraft's tail, a new historic emblem adorns the left side of the jet, just below the pilot's windows. It's the crest of the 100 Bomb Group -- the World War II predecessor to the 100 ARW.

The emblem was applied to the jet by Col. Christopher Kulas, 100 ARW commander, and Senior Airman William Hickey, 100 Maintenance Squadron, during a small ceremony March 14. Hickey, an aircraft structural maintenance journeyman, was part of the team that turned the historic artwork into a 1,024-square-inch vinyl decal that will stand up to the elements on the skin of the aircraft. Though the adhesive vinyl sticker may last a year or more, the artwork itself has already stood the test of time. "This emblem is much more than a simple sticker on the nose of an airplane," Kulas said. "It represents a long, hard-won history of success. The men and women working tirelessly to complete their mission on RAF Mildenhall today share a bond with the men who flew under this emblem in one of the greatest conflicts this world has ever seen, and this airplane now serves as a visual reminder of that bond." The graphic's bold colors stand out in vivid contrast to the gray of the KC-135 Stratotanker, but it's not the first time tail number 0100, as the crews who work on and in the aircraft refer to it, has sported the blazon, or at least a version of it. In the mid 1990s, soon after the 100 ARW first arrived at RAF Mildenhall, tail number 0100 was here, and in roughly the same spot as the artwork is today was a stylized version of it with a few modifications thrown in to better reflect the wing's current mission.

According to 100 ARW historian, the design for the emblem was first approved in March 1944, when the 100 BG was flying B-17s out of RAF Thorpe Abbots to bomb targets in Germany. It features a four-headed eagle, representing the four original squadrons of the group. In each of the eagle's talons is a bomb, representing the group's mission as a bombardment group. A blood-red shield of freedom in the center stands for the sacrifice of the young Airmen assigned to the "Bloody 100," as the group was nicknamed due to heavy losses in combat. Within the shield is a century plant, which only blooms once every hundred years. Behind it all is a blue background, symbolic of the clear skies the bombers flew in on perilous daytime bombing runs. When the stylized version of the artwork was painted on tail number 0100 in the '90s, the bombs in the eagle's talons were replaced by the end of a KC-135 boom, representing the new mission of the 100 ARW. Today, the eagle once again carries bombs, indicative that the 100 ARW is an active participant in armed conflict around the globe.

"It's great to have tail 0100 back in the 'Bloody Hundredth' as we celebrate our heritage year. Just as the 100 BG did 70 years ago, our Airmen are put in harm's way, and no one can deny that we are now, as we have been in the past, a warfighting unit," Kulas said. "These bombs, this blood-red shield and that clear blue sky remind us that we are continuing a legacy of selfless sacrifice in the name of peace." Keeping with the theme of heritage, other aircraft are scheduled to have historic nose art applied to them in the near future, though plans for how exactly it will be done are still in the works, Howell said. For now though, once more the emblem of the 100 Bomb Group and the Square D are together again in the skies over Europe, often with fighters off the wing, barreling headlong into whatever mission calls for the 100 ARW that day. "Though the mission has changed since the first time these two icons flew together, the dedication and resolve behind them has never been stronger," Kulas said.

Mildenhall Tankers Maintain Exceptionally High Op Tempo The 100 Air Refueling Wing at RAF Mildenhall, Britain, is on pace to reach 144 percent of its scheduled flying hours during the first six months of the year, Col. Kenneth Bibb told Air Force Magazine on June 9. "We're at an

exceptionally high operational tempo this year," said Bibb, who leads the wing, the Air Force's only permanently assigned aerial refueling unit in Europe. "To only have one flying squadron and one maintenance unit, it's an incredible pace to keep up with current operations, but it's also an exciting time to be part of the operation," he said. Of the wing's 15 KC-135s, two are deployed to Italy, two are in Spain, and one is operating in Poland. Unit airmen also just got back from Iceland, where they were supporting the Icelandic air policing mission. "We have some of the best airmen in the Air Force. They have a can-do attitude and they look for ways to say 'yes,'" said Bibb. "Right now, there are a lot of airmen doing more with less and making things happen, but yes, there is some stress that comes with that," he said. 2014

Operating Location 19 (OL-19)

After the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, the 100 SRW was tasked with regular reconnaissance missions over Cuba to monitor compliance with the informal agreement between the US and the USSR, that no offensive strategic weapons would be deployed there. In 1969, a single U-2R was deployed to OL-19, recently moved back to McCoy AFB, Florida from Barksdale AFB, Louisiana.

Operating Location 20 (OL-20) and Operating Location RU (OL-RU)

OL-20 was created at Bien Hoa AB, South Vietnam in February 1964. In October 1964, OL-20 expanded with the arrival of the wing's reconnaissance RPVs and DC-130 (CH-3s were based at Da Nang).

Operating Location 20

Redesignation of 100 SRW Operating Location (OL) 20 which controlled U-2 operations in Southeast Asia, and moved from Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam to U-Tapao Royal Thai Air Base, Thailand in July of 1970. Returned to the US in April of 1976 and became the operational U-2 squadron under control of the 9th SRW at Beale AFB. From 1976 to the present the unit has been designated the 99th Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron. The U-2R joined OL-20 in mid-1969. In July 1970, the unit moved to U-Tapao AB, Thailand and was redesignated OL-RU. In November 1972 it gained full squadron status as the 99th SRS.

USAF Unit Histories
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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.