

# 340<sup>th</sup> EXPEDITIONARY AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



## MISSION

### LINEAGE

340<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron constituted, 24 Sep 1942

Activated, 30 Sep 1942

Inactivated, 10 May 1946

340th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium Constituted as the on 3 October 1952

Activated on 20 October 1952

Discontinued and inactivated 15 October 1962

340<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron and 340th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium consolidated, 19 Sep 1985.

Consolidated unit designated 340th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy

Redesignated 340<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, 12 Dec 2001

Activated, 2003

### STATIONS

Mitchel Field, NY, 30 Sep 1942

Bradley Field, CT, 30 Sep 1942

Westover Field, MA, 30 Oct 1942

Hillsgrove, RI, 23 Jan 1943

Westover Field, MA, 26 Apr-9 May 1943

Port Moresby, New Guinea, 23 Jun 1943

Finschhafen, New Guinea, 13 Dec 1943

Saidor, New Guinea, 13 Mar 1944

Wakde, 26 May 1944  
Noemfoor, 24 Aug 1944  
Tacloban, Leyte, 30 Nov 1944  
Tanauan, Leyte, 14 Dec 1944  
San Marcelino, Luzon, 4 Feb 1945  
Florida-blanca, Luzon, c. 15 May 1945  
Ie Shima, 9 Jul 1945  
Kanoya, Japan, 9 Sep 1945  
Itami, Japan, 20 Oct 1945-10 May 1946  
Castle AFB, CA, CA, 3 Oct 1952  
Sedalia AFB (later Whiteman AFB), MO, 18 Jan 1954-15 Oct 1963  
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar 2001

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Lakenheath RAF, England, 15 Sep 1955-3 Nov 1955  
Thule AB, Greenland, 29 Oct 1956-30 Dec 1956

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing (Medium) 16 JAN 54.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

348<sup>th</sup> Fighter Group, 30 Sep 1942-10 May 1946  
340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing 3 Oct 1952  
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1953  
340<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 18 Jan 1954 – 15 Oct 1962  
340<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing, 2001  
376<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Wing,

### **ATTACHMENTS**

93d Bombardment Wing

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

P-47, 1942-1945  
P-47B  
P-47C  
P-47D  
P-51, 1945  
P-51D  
KC-97  
KC-135  
KB-29P  
KC-97F, 1953  
KC-97G

## COMMANDERS

### HONORS

#### Service Streamers

None

#### Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Japan

China Defensive

New Guinea

Bismarck Archipelago

Western Pacific

Leyte

Luzon

Ryukyus

China Offensive

#### Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

### Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations

New Britain, 16-31 Dec 1943

Philippine Islands, 24 Dec 1944

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

### EMBLEM



340<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron emblem: Over and through a white disc, border light blue, a caricatured figure in flight togs and helmet brown, goggles white, wearing a long, flowing red cape extended to the rear, seated on a yellow lightning bolt flashing through space, emitting orange speed lines, and shooting a “tommy” gun proper. (Approved, 27 Mar 1943)



340<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron emblems

340<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron emblem: On a disc Argent, a fighter pilot in uniform, cap and boot Brün detailed Sable, his face Proper, goggles of the third, highlight and strap of the first, armed with a Tommy gun of the third emitting a discharge Or, riding a lightning flash bendwise sinister throughout of the last, all within a narrow border Blue. Attached below the disc, a White scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed "340 EARS" 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 fighter pilot riding the lightning flash is symbolic of the original 340th Fighter Squadron, activated on 30 September 1942 during World War II.

## **MOTTO**

## **NICKNAME**

## **OPERATIONS**

Combat in Southwest and Western Pacific, 30 Jul 1943-15 Aug 1945.

Based at Castle AFB, CA had total strength of forty officers and seventy six enlisted personnel. 1953

Participated in Operation Blue Cross, a mission to supply air refueling support for strike units of the 308 BW during a unit simulated combat mission uscm. 1956

Aircraft deployed to Lajes AFB, Azores to fly support missions for 16 Air Force 3 Jan 61 As part of Operation Short Punt.

Plans made to inactivate 340 AREFS at Whiteman AFB, MO Oct 62. KC-97 to be phased out. 1962

2010 Boomers Spread Thin: The 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, a KC-135 tanker unit operating from an air base in Southwest Asia, is currently the only unit refueling US military aircraft over Iraq. Further, it conducts about half of all aerial refuelings over Afghanistan. "[With] the amount of infrastructure we have here, based on the size of the operation, it's pretty amazing we're able to sustain it," said Lt. Col. Michael Frymire, 340th EARS commander. He added, "The volume of work all these folks do is just unbelievable." The unit has more than 30 KC-135s right now and nearly 50 aircrews, said Frymire. The squadron's airmen are a mix of active duty, Air National Guard, and Air Force Reserve personnel. Frymire credited the members of the 340th Aircraft Maintenance Unit for doing "amazing" work in keeping the KC-135s mission-ready.

Al Udeid Refueling Squadron Hits Milestone While flying their KC-135 tankers over Iraq and Syria, airmen of the 340th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron out of al Udeid AB, Qatar, reached a milestone with the data link system called Roll-on Beyond Line of Sight Enhancement, or ROBE. Crews of the squadron have now flown 40,000 hours with ROBE in support of US military operations in Southwest Asia, according to a release. ROBE enables real-time air-to-ground and air-to-air communications between platforms that wouldn't otherwise be able to connect due to line-of-sight limitations. The tankers serve as a data-relay hub that allows ground troops and aircraft to connect to command centers in real time. "I think the ROBE will continue to be a valuable tool to support future conflicts, and I think it's a big part of how the KC-135 can continue to help support troops on the ground," said Capt. Schuyler Henry, a pilot with the 340th EARS. ROBE is transportable and can be carried on any KC-135 that has preinstalled node connections.

2015

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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.