

756 AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

756 Bombardment Squadron, Heavy constituted, 19 May 1943
Activated, 1 Jul 1943
Inactivated, 28 Aug 1945
Redesignated 756 Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, 11 Mar 1947
Activated in the Reserve, 19 Apr 1947
Redesignated 756 Bombardment Squadron, Medium, 26 Jun 1949
Ordered to Active Service, 1 May 1951
Inactivated, 16 May 1951
Redesignated 756 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium, 6 May 1954
Activated in the Reserve, 1 Jun 1954
Redesignated 756 Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Oct 1966
Redesignated 756 Tactical Airlift Squadron, 29 Jun 1971
Redesignated 756 Military Airlift Squadron, 1 Jul 1986
Redesignated 756 Airlift Squadron, 1 Feb 1992
Redesignated 756 Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Oct 2003

STATIONS

Alamogordo AAFld, NM, 1 Jul 1943
Kearns, UT, 2 Sep 1943
Davis-Monthan Field, AZ, 22 Sep 1943
Westover Field, MA, 1 Nov 1943-2 Jan 1944
Giulia Airfield, Italy, 12 Feb 1944-c. 2 Aug 1945
Sioux Falls AAFld, SD, c. 14-28 Aug 1945
Long Beach AAFld, CA, 19 Apr 1947

Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 27 Jun 1949
Barksdale AFB, LA, 10 Oct 1949-16 May 1951
Andrews AFB, MD, 1 Jun 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

459 Bombardment Group, 1 Jul 1943-28 Aug 1945
459 Bombardment Group, 19 Apr 1947
Tenth Air Force, 26 Jun 1949
Fifteenth Air Force, 21 Jul 1949
Second Air Force, 1 Apr 1950-16 May 1951
First Air Force, 1 Jun 1954
459 Troop Carrier Group, 26 Jan 1955
459 Troop Carrier Wing, 14 Apr 1959
909 Troop Carrier (later, 909 Military Airlift; 909 Tactical Airlift) Group, 17 Jan 1963
459 Tactical Airlift (later, 459 Military Airlift; 459 Airlift) Wing, 1 Sep 1975
459 Operations Group, 1 Aug 1992

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-24, 1943-1945
Unkn, 1947-1951
C-46, 1954-1957
C-119, 1957-1966
C-124, 1966-1971
C-130, 1971-1986
C-141, 1986
KC-135, 2003

COMMANDERS

Maj Daulton B. Lee, Jul 1943
Maj Frank B. Knepper, Jr.
Maj Clifford R. Opper, Jul 1944
Maj Harrison R. Christy Jr., Mar 1944
Maj Walter E. Black, Aug 1944
Maj Harrison R. Christy, Oct 1944
Capt Ward E. Benkelman, Dec 1944
Maj Connor
Capt Strong 16 May 1945
Unkn, 19 Apr 1947-16 May 1951
Unkn, 1 Jun-23 Jul 1954
Maj George A. Amsler (acting), 24 Jul 1954
Lt Col Gordon W. Becker, Sep 1954
Lt Col Bruce G. Sundlun, 25 Nov 1957
Lt Col Frank J. Parrish, Jan 1962
Col James H. Lawrence, Oct 1963

Lt Col Frank J. Parrish, Oct 1965
Lt Col Elmer E. Wachter, Dec 1969
Lt Col William C. Fotheringham, 30 Jun 1971
Lt Col Richard R. Drake, Sep 1971
Lt Col Robert Roig, Sep 1972
Lt Col Richard C. McMahon, Dec 1975
Col Jere J. Danaher, Jun 1977
Col John R. O'Rosky, 12 Sep 1978
Lt Col Horace M. Davis, 26 Nov 1980
Lt Col David R. Harrington, 1 Jun 1982
Lt Col Bernard A. Borandi, 17 Feb 1984
Lt Col David C. Gilliom, by Dec 1986
Lt Col Charles W. Beattie, 1 Aug 1989
Lt Col Daniel L. Boesz, unkn
Lt Col Louis C. Cusimano, 29 Jan 1993
Lt Col Frederick K. Lange, 8 Sep 1995
Lt Col John M. Allen, 4 Oct 1997
Col Michael T. Branham, 4 Aug 01
Lt Col Robert N. Maddox, 26 Oct 03
Lt Col Thomas E. Lohr; 9 Jan 2005

HONORS

Service Streamers

Campaign Streamers

Air Offensive, Europe

Rome-Arno

Normandy

Northern France

Southern France

North Apennines

Rhineland

Central Europe

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Panama, 1989-1990

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Bad Voslau, Austria, 23 Apr 1944

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr 1971-31 Mar 1973

1 Nov 1978-31 Oct 1980

1 Jan 1982-31 Dec 1983

1 Jan 1984-31 Dec 1985

1 Oct 1991-30 Sep 1993

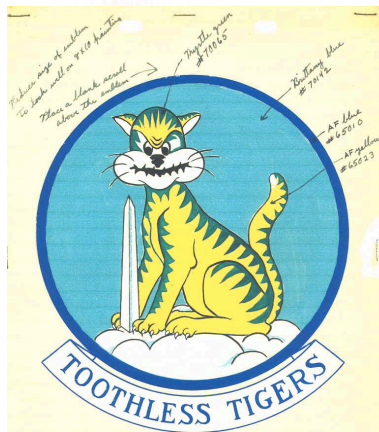
1 Oct 1993-30 Sep 1995

1 May 2002 – 30 Apr 2004.

Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm

1 Oct 1966-28 Jun 1971

EMBLEM



756 Troop Carrier Squadron, Medium



On a blue disc a yellow tiger detailed green with a red tongue and white fangs crouching on a white cloud detailed silver gray issuing from base emitting a white representation of the Washington Monument detailed silver gray and all within a narrow yellow border. Attached below the disc a blank blue scroll bordered yellow. **SIGNIFICANCE:** Blue alludes to the sky, the primary theater of operations for the Air Force. Yellow refers to the sun and the excellence required of Air Force personnel. Green is the Squadron's color. The tiger is symbolic of the Squadron. The aircrew are all combat rated "tigers" and like the tiger are strong, ready, and able. The tiger is guarding the Washington Monument, a symbol of American freedom. (Approved, 17 Aug 1984)

MOTTO

OPERATIONS

The original cadre were personnel that came from the 16 Bombardment Operational Training Wing with key personnel primarily coming from the 39 Bombardment Group. Additional personnel were furnished by the 339 Bombardment Group. The first men were assigned on 28 July 1943.

Key personnel attended the School of Applied Tactics at Orlando, Florida. They departed on 1 August and arrived in Orlando on 5 and 9 August. They left Orlando on 26 August with the air echelon and reached Salt Lake City on 31 August. The ground echelon departed Orlando on 31 September and arrived at Kearns on 2 September.

Combat in MTO and ETO, 2 Mar 1944-26 Apr 1945.

The ground echelon boarded the Liberty ship Robert H. Harrison at Newport News on 12 January and sailed in a convoy the following day. On 31 January, the ship passed Gibraltar and reached Augusto Harbor, Sicily, on 6 February. Docking at Taranto on 8 February, the unit disembarked two days later and moved to the staging area, there it remained until the 12th.

The air echelon arrived at Morrison Field, Florida, 4 January, and departed for Italy on the 9th. Following the South Atlantic West African route which ran by way of Waller Field, Trinidad, Belem and Natal, Brazil, Dakar, Senegal, Marrakech, French Morocco, Telergma, Algeria, and Massicault, Tunisia, the unit reached Cerignola, Italy on 3 February 1944.

The 756th Squadron entered into combat on 2 March 1944, when 14 of the unit's aircraft were numbered among the 36 planes representing the 459th Group in a strike against Velletri, Italy. By the end of March, 14 missions had been flown. The 756th aided in bombing airfields, marshalling yards, lines of communications and factories in Italy, Austria, and southern Germany and also made long-range strikes against the oilfields of Ploesti. It flew raids over Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary, and France, and supported ground action at Anzio and Cassino and in the Allied landings in southern France. The unit engaged in 242 missions, although on the last of these flown on 26 April against the Motor Transport Depot at Trivisio in northern Italy, the planes did not dump their bomb loads, because of adverse weather conditions.

A detachment, representing the organization, carried the records of the organization to Sioux Falls, while the majority of the personnel went on 30-day furloughs.

Enroute to the United States The 756th Squadron sailed on 2 August 1945, aboard the USS Victory, and landed at Hampton Roads, Virginia, on 13 August 1945.

The 756th Bombardment Squadron, Heavy, was redesignated as the 756th Bombardment Squadron, Very Heavy, allotted to the Organized Reserves, assigned to Air Defense Command, and authorized to be activated and organized at the earliest practicable date /pursuant to

authority contained in WD Ltr., AGAO-I Org Res (6 Mar li7) AFOOR (h33e)-M, dated 11 March 1911X/.

The 756th Bombardment Squadron, Vary Heavy, was activated at Army Air Field, Long Beach, California, effective 19 April 19117 /fcer GO No. 16, Hq., Fourth Air Force, dated 7 April 19117, pursuant to authority contained in the above-cited WD letter, dated 11 March 19112

Trained for and troop carrier and airlift operations beginning in Jun 1954 and in 1966 began flying airlift missions worldwide, including airlift support of contingency operations in Grenada (1983) and Panama (1989).

Also flew numerous humanitarian airlift missions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE UNIT HISTORIES

Created: 27 Feb 2023

Updated:

Sources

Air Force Historical Research Agency. U.S. Air Force. Maxwell AFB, AL.