

22nd AIR REFUELING WING



MISSION

LINEAGE

22nd Bombardment Wing, Medium, established, 28 Jul 1948
Activated, 1 Aug 1948
Redesignated 22nd Bombardment Wing, Heavy, 15 Mar 1963
Redesignated 22nd Air Refueling Wing, Heavy, 1 Oct 1982
Redesignated 22nd Air Refueling Wing, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS

Smoky Hill AFB, KS, 1 Aug 1948
March AFB, CA, 10 May 1949
McConnell AFB, KS, 1 Jan 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

RAF Station Upper Heyford, England, 7 Dec 1953-5 Mar 1954

ASSIGNMENTS

Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Aug 1948
12th Air Division, 10 Feb 1951
47th Air (later, 47th Strategic Aerospace; 47th Air) Division, 1 Jan 1962
14th Strategic Aerospace Division, 31 Mar 1970

47th Air Division, 30 Jun 1971
12th Strategic Missile (later, 12th Air) Division, 1 Aug 1972
47th Air Division, 1 Oct 1985
14th Air Division, 23 Jan 1987
Fifteenth Air Force, 1 Jul 1988
Eighteenth Air Force, 1 Oct 2003

ATTACHMENTS

301st Bombardment Wing, 1 Aug 1948-9 May 1949
1st Fighter Wing, 10 May-30 Jun 1949
7th Air Division, 5 Sep-4 Dec 1951 and 7 Dec 1953-5 Mar 1954
3rd Air Division, 1 Apr-5 Jul 1957

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-29, 1949, 1950, 1950-1953
F-86, 1949-1950
KC-97, 1952-1962
B-47, 1953-1963
B-52B, 1963-1966
B-52C, 1967-1971
B-52D, 1966
B-52E, 1968-1970
EC-135, 1963-1970
KC-135, 1963-1967, 1967-1972, 1972-1989
KC-10, 1982-1994
C-21, 1992-1993
C-12, 1993-1995
KC-135, 1994

COMMANDERS

Col Leslie G. Mulzer, 1 Aug 1948
Col Joe W. Kelly, 3 Jan 1949
Col Joseph H. Davidson, 10 May 1949
Col George McCoy, Jr., 14 Jun 1949
Col William L. Lee, 19 Aug 1949
Col Wiley D. Ganey, 4 Jan 1950
Col Howell M. Estes, Jr., 5 Jul 1950
Col Wiley D. Ganey, 10 Nov 1950
Col James V. Edmundsen, 10 Feb 1951
Col John B. Henry Jr., 14 Mar 1952
Col Ernest C. Eddy, c. 17 Dec 1952
Col Selmon W. Wells, 8 Jan 1953
Col John B. Henry, Jr., 16 Mar 1953
Col William F. Coleman, 9 Jul 1954

Col Lloyd H. Dalton, Jr., 20 Oct 1954
Col Pinkham Smith, 11 Feb 1956
Col Leon Stann, 20 Aug 1957
Col Edward W. Scott, Jr., 30 Aug 1957
Col William F. Savoie, 29 Apr 1960
Col George Pfeiffer, Jr., Nov 1961
Col John F. Harvey, 15 Jun 1965
Col Mitchell A. Cobeaga, 3 Jan 1967
Col Robert L. Bennett, 10 Mar 1967
Col Edward G. Butler, May 1967
Col Mitchell A. Cobeaga, 1 Oct 1967
Col Lester E. Gunter, 31 Jul 1968
Col Lawrence W. Steinkraus, 28 Apr 1969
Col Glenn R. Sullivan, 16 Jan 1970
Col Michael Perrone, 31 May 1972
LTC Samuel Tyson, 13 Jun 1972
Col Donald A. Jensen, 3 Jul 1972
Col Michael Perrone, 16 Dec 1972
Col Jerome F. O'Malley, 1 Jun 1973
Col Ernest J. Stirman, 25 Sep 1973
Col Guy D. Perham, 1 Apr 1974
Col Harry L. Brown, 28 Feb 1975
Col Stanford E. Brown, 4 Aug 1975
Col Lawrence E. Pennington, 12 Jan 1977
BG Hansford T. Johnson, 26 Apr 1979
Col Charles C. McDonald, 23 Feb 1981
Col Donald L. Ashley, 26 Jul 1982
Col Terry D. Murphy, 22 May 1984
Col Ronald J. Tribo, 19 Jul 1985
Col James R. Brown, 30 Jan 1987
Col James S. Savarda, 27 Aug 1987
Col Paul F. Gill, 5 Dec 1988
Col William P. Cobb, 29 Mar 1991
BG Albert D. Jensen, 30 Mar 1992
Col Stephen R. Lorenz, 19 Jul 1993
MG Charles H. Coolidge, Jr., 3 Jan 1994
Col Lawrence H. Stevenson, 12 Aug 1996
Col Michael C. Gould, 16 Apr 1998
Col John F. Gaughan II, 29 Jan 1999
Col Frederick F. Roggero, 21 Apr 1999
Col Ronald R. Ladnier, 22 Jun 2001
Col Michelle D. Johnson, 14 Jun 2002
Col Cathy C. Clothier, 24 Jun 2004
Col Donald J. Halpin, 21 Feb 2006

Col Jamie Crowhurst
Col Josh Olson

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

None

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

Grenada, 1983

Decorations

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Apr-1 Oct 1967 and 1 Feb-1 Mar 1968

25 Mar-1 May 1968

1 Jul 1969-30 Jun 1970

1 Sep 1970-30 Jun 1972

1 Jul 1978-30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1981-30 Jun 1983

1 Jul 1987-30 Jun 1989

1 Jul 1989-30 Jun 1991

1 Jun 1994-31 May 1996

1 Aug 1999-31 Jul 2000

1 Aug 2000-31 Jul 2001

1 Aug 2002-31 Jul 2004

1 Aug 2004-31 Jul 2005

1 Aug 2005-31 Jul 2006

1 Aug 2011-31 Jul 2012

Bestowed Honors

Authorized to display honors earned by the 22nd Operations Group prior to 1 Aug 1948

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

East Indies

Papua

Bismarck Archipelago

New Guinea

Leyte
Luzon
Southern Philippines
Western Pacific
Air Offensive, Japan
China Defensive
China Offensive
Air Combat, Asiatic-Pacific Theater

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citations
Papua, 23 Jul 1942-23 Jan 1943
New Guinea, 5 Nov 1943

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation

EMBLEM



Azure, a cougar's left gamb erased pale wise, claws to base. Blue shield with the gold cougar's gamb are in the colors of the Air Force and signifies armed power. (Approved for the 22nd Bombardment Group, 19 Jun 1941 and the 22nd Bombardment Wing, 28 Jun 1951)

MOTTO

DUCEMUS—We Lead

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Became operational on 1 Jul 1949. From 14 Nov 1949 to 20 Feb 1950, the 22nd Bombardment

Group was detached from the wing, which controlled only the attached fighters of the 1st Wing. The bomb group was detached again for combat in Korea, 4 Jul-31 Oct 1950, and during this period the wing controlled no aircraft.

The wing deployed at Mildenhall RAF Station, England, Sep-Dec 1951, and at Upper Heyford RAF Station, England, Dec 1953-Mar 1954. From Apr to Jul 1957, it deployed at Andersen AFB, Guam.

On October 1, 1957, SAC inaugurated the ground alert concept for a 15-minute nuclear reaction to an aggressor. Originally the plan called for one-third of the strike force to be ready for takeoff, and on July 15, 1961, this was increased to 50 per cent.

Supported Fifteenth Air Force's post-attack command and control system with EC-135s, Sep 1964-Mar 1970.

The 22d was a "super" wing, 1966-1971, with two bombardment and two tanker squadrons. From 10 Mar to 1 Oct 1967 the wing was reduced to a small "rear-echelon" non-tactical organization with all tactical resources and most support resources loaned to SAC organizations involved in combat operations in Southeast Asia. The wing continued to support SAC operations in the Far East and Southeast Asia through 1975, and from 10 Apr 1972 to 29 Oct 1973 again had all its bomber resources loaned to other organizations for combat and contingency operations.

KC-135 resources were also on loan from 10 Apr to Sep 1972; afterwards a few tankers returned to wing control. The wing maintained a strategic bombardment alert posture, 1973-1982, in 1978 it added conventional warfare missions, including mine-laying and sea reconnaissance/ surveillance. From 1982, the wing provided strategic air refueling and airlift in support of worldwide USAF and other DOD operations and training exercises.

In 1983, moved personnel and cargo in support of Chadian resistance to Libyan incursions and conducted airlift and refueling missions during rescue of US nationals in Grenada.

Provided specialized refueling support to SR-71 reconnaissance operations worldwide, 1985-1990. Supported F-117 deployments to Saudi Arabia and contributed aircraft and personnel to logistics efforts in support of the liberation of Kuwait, 1990-1991.

From the end of 1992 to 1994, the wing flew humanitarian airlift missions to Somalia. Provided air refueling in support of deployments to Haiti in 1994.

The wing provided air refueling to fighter planes patrolling American air space during Operation NOBLE EAGLE, and deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. With the kickoff of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, the wing deployed forces in support of the regime change in Baghdad. Post 9/11 operations and missions were joint efforts conducted with the 931st Air Refueling Group

and the 184th Air Refueling Wing, both stationed at McConnell Air Force Base.

When the F-35A Lightning II deployed to Europe for the first time April 15, it was made possible by the backbone of the aerial refueling fleet, the KC-135 Stratotanker.

“The mission of the 22nd Air Refueling Wing is to refuel the fight,” said Col. Albert Miller, the 22nd Air Refueling Wing commander. “This particular flight was a significant milestone of the F-35 program, and demonstrates the U.S. Air Force's global reach, something our total force team at McConnell (AFB) enables every day, making rapid, global mobility a reality.”

The F-35 deployed to Europe for the first time from the 388th and 419th Fighter Wings at Hill Air Force Base, Utah. The multi-role fighter is deployed to maximize training opportunities, affirm enduring commitments to NATO allies and deter any actions that destabilize regional security.

The KC-135 from McConnell AFB was just a first step in building an air bridge to deploy the Air Force’s newest weapon’s platform for a training exercise with U.S. allies in Europe. Multiple refueling aircraft from four different bases provided more than 400,000 pounds of fuel for the fighters’ flight from the U.S. to Europe.

“It was exciting being able to contribute to the mission directly,” said Capt. Ben Hessney, a 349th Air Refueling Squadron aircraft commander for the flight.

Hessney added that a large amount of effort went into planning the success of the mission.

While this effort was a historic one, Miller stressed the value aerial refueling adds to all joint flying missions.

“The tip of the spear is not thrown, but carried by a tanker,” he said. “The might of our Air Force is in our ability to deliver effects anywhere in the world in a matter of hours. It's the KC-135, and soon to be the KC-46 [Pegasus], which allows the United States to carry aid to our allies or deliver kinetic power to our enemies in a short amount of time.”

Air Force Order of Battle

Created: 28 Aug 2010

Updated: 25 Feb 2019

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.