

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



### MISSION

#### LINEAGE

390<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron (Medium) constituted, 4 Mar 1942

Activated, 20 Mar 1942

Redesignated 390<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium, Sep 1944

Inactivated, 27 Jan 1946

90<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 6 Nov 1953

Activated, 18 Jan 1954

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Nov 1962

390<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron, Medium with the 90th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium,  
consolidated and redesignated 90<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy on 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 90<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron, and converted to provisional status, 12  
Jun 2002

#### STATIONS

Gowen Field, ID, 20 Mar 1942

McChord Field, WA, 20 Mar 1942-15 Mar 1943

New Caledonia, 15 Apr 1943  
Fiji Islands, 23 Apr 1943  
Guadalcanal, 11 May 1943  
Russell Islands, 22 Oct 1943 (operated from Stirling Island, 8 Mar-8 May 1944 and 17 Jun-24 Jul 1944)  
Hollandia, New Guinea, 7 Aug 1944  
Sansapor, New Guinea, 23 Aug 1944 (operated from Morotai, 24 Feb-20 Mar 1945)  
Puerto Princesa, Palawan, 21 Mar 1945-27 Jan 1946  
Castle AFB, CA, 18 Jan 1954  
Forbes AFB, KS, 5 Aug 1955-15 Nov 1962

### **DEPLOYED STATIONS**

Sidi Slimane AB, French Morocco, 24 Apr-16 Jul 1955  
Benguerir, French Morocco [later, Morocco], 6 May-13 Jul 1956

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

42<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Group, 20 Mar 1942-27 Jan 1946  
93<sup>rd</sup> Bombardment Wing, 8 Jan 1954  
90<sup>th</sup> Strategic Reconnaissance Wing, 5 Aug 1955  
40<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing, 20 Jun 1960-15 Nov 1962  
Air Mobility Command to activate or inactivate at any time after 12 Jun 2002

### **ATTACHMENTS**

5<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 24 Apr-16 Jul 1955  
5<sup>th</sup> Air Division, 6 May-13 Jul 1956

### **WEAPON SYSTEMS**

B-18, 1942  
A-29, 1942  
B-26, 1942-1943  
B-25, 1942-1945  
KC-97, 1954-1962  
B-18A  
B-25D

### **COMMANDERS**

LTC Eugene Nall, 20 Mar 1942  
Cpt John W. Osborn, 23 May 1942  
LTC Strother B. Hardwick Jr., 19 Aug 1942  
LTC George A. Bosch, by Sep 1943  
Maj Joe D. Wheeler, 15 Jan 1944  
1LT James R. Halstead, 19 May 1944 (temporary)  
1LT Milton S. McDowell, 29 May 1944 (temporary)  
Maj Richard J. Carmody, 16 Jul 1944

Cpt Gordon M. Dana, 27 Nov 1944  
Cpt Robert S. Moyna, 2 May 1945 (temporary)  
Maj Gordon M. Dana, 14 May 1945  
Cpt Robert P. O. Sletten, 24 Jun 1945  
Cpt Thomas F. X. Cakert, 7 Oct 1945  
Unkn, Nov 1945-27 Jan 1946  
LTC Vance H. Larrabee, 18 Jan 1954  
Maj Allen F. McKay, Aug 1955  
LTC Daniel L. Sjodin, Nov 1955  
Maj William R. Harry, Jan 1956  
LTC William T. Lett, Jun 1957  
LTC William R. Harry, Oct 1958  
Maj Donald R. Baxter, 2 Oct-15 Nov 1962  
Col. David Brooks  
LTC Dennis Hayward

## **HONORS**

### **Service Streamers**

None

### **Campaign Streamers**

World War II  
Antisubmarine, American Theater  
China Defensive  
New Guinea  
Northern Solomons  
Bismarck Archipelago  
Western Pacific  
Leyte  
Luzon  
Southern Philippines  
China Offensive

### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers**

None

### **Decorations**

Distinguished Unit Citation  
Balikpapan, Borneo, 23-30 Jun 1945

Philippine Presidential Unit Citation (WWII)

### **EMBLEM**

390 Bombardment Squadron, Medium Over and through a light pastel blue green disc, a

caricatured, black wolf holding a yellow dagger with red handle in the mouth, a revolver being fired, proper, in the right hand, and a large gray cannon fired at the muzzle, proper, under the left arm, while standing on top of twin, light red, aircraft engine nacelles, in flight toward dexter, banded together by a large yellow rope and supporting a blue aerial bomb, banded white. (Approved, 8 Mar 1945)



90<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Squadron, Medium emblem (Approved, 5 Apr 1957)

#### **MOTTO**

#### **NICKNAME**

#### **OPERATIONS**

Antisubmarine patrols, Mar 1942-Mar 1943; combat in South and Southwest Pacific, 25 Jun 1943-22 Jul 1944 and 3 Sep 1944-14 Aug 1945.

Trained for and conducted aerial refueling missions for Strategic Air Command bombardment and strategic reconnaissance units flying B-47 and RB-47 aircraft, 1954-1962.

90 Air Refueling Squadron returned from deployment to Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland. 1954

On 1 Apr 1955, 90 Air Refueling Squadron departed for three month long temporary duty at Sidi Slimane, Morocco. Wing Completed Operation Long Haul; participated in Operation Fly Trap and Parade Ground.

On 28 Feb 56, The 90 AREFS became combat ready.

90 Air Refueling Squadron Supported Earnest Harmon Task Force And Road Block, Power House And Iron Can Operations. 1956

On 25 Apr 56, A KC-97G aircraft belonging to the 90 AREFS crashed.

90 Air Refueling Squadron deployed 21 aircraft to Thule AB On 13 May 57 for 45 day temporary duty deployment.

90 Air Refueling Squadron flew 12 test hop sorties in 16 flying hours. 1959

90 Air Refueling Squadron participated in Operation Quick Start Echo. 1961

90 Air Refueling Squadron sent six kc-97 aircraft and seven crews on Reflex Action to Frobisher Air Base, Canada. 1961

90 Air Refueling Squadron was recalled from Reflex Actions At Frobisher Air Base, Canada And directed to curtail Reflex Actions on 15 Aug 62 in anticipation of inactivation on 15 Nov 62.

90 Air Refueling Squadron Participated In Operation Reflex Action, Operation Short Punt., Operation Card Game And Fish Barrel.

90 Air Refueling Squadron operations in Operation Buckboard deployment to Lajes AB, Azores.

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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.