

97th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON



MISSION

LINEAGE

20th Reconnaissance Squadron (Light) constituted, 20 Nov 1940

Activated, 15 Jan 1941

Redesignated 97th Bombardment Squadron (Light), 14 Aug 1941

Redesignated 97th Bombardment Squadron, Light, 20 Aug 1943

Inactivated, 31 Mar 1946

97th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 2 Feb 1949

Activated, 1 Mar 1949

Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Mar 1964

Redesignated 97th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, and activated, 8 Oct 1964

Organized, 23 Oct 1964

97th Bombardment Squadron, Light and 97th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy consolidated,
19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 97th Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

Inactivated, 1 Apr 1992

Activated, 1 Oct 1992

STATIONS

McChord Field, WA, 15 Jan 1941

Fresno AB (later, Hammer Field), CA, 11 Aug 1941

Will Rogers Field, OK, 15 Feb 1942

Greensboro Aprt, NC, 16 Jul 1942
Langley Field, VA, 6–27 Oct 1942
Casablanca, French Morocco, 7 Nov 1942
Mediouna, French Morocco, 18 Nov 1942
Thelepte, Tunisia, 27 Dec 1942
Youks-les-Bains, Algeria, 15 Feb 1943
Canrobert, Algeria, 21 Feb 1943
Thelepte, Tunisia, 31 Mar 1943
Souk-el-Arba, Tunisia, 30 Apr 1943
Grombalia, Tunisia, 1 Jun 1943
Takali Airdrome, Malta, 23 Jul 1943
Torrente Comunelli, Sicily, 12 Aug 1943
Catania, Sicily, 19 Aug 1943
Grottaglie Airdrome, Tarranto, Italy, 24 Sep 1943
Vincenzo Airfield, Foggia, Italy, 17 Oct 1943
Vesuvius Airfield, San Guisepe, Italy, 8 Jan 1944
Capodichino, Italy, 22 Mar 1944
Vesuvius Airfield, San Guisepe, Italy, 26 Apr 1944
Ponte Galeria, Italy, 12 Jun 1944
Grossetto, Italy, 28 Jun 1944
Poretto, Corsica, 15 Jul 1944
Salon, France, 7 Sep 1944
Follonica, Italy, 19 Sep 1944
Rosignano Afld, Italy, 9 Oct 1944
Grossetto, Italy, 6 Dec 1944
Pisa, Italy, 31 Mar–25 Jun 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 11 Jul 1945
Seymour Johnson Field, NC, 14 Jul 1945
Lake Charles AAFld, LA, 9 Sep 1945–31 Mar 1946
Biggs AFB, TX, 1 Mar 1949
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Sep 1957–15 Mar 1964
Blytheville (later, Eaker) AFB, AR, 8 Oct 1964–1 Apr 1992
Malmstrom AFB, MT, 1 Oct 1992
Fairchild AFB, WA, 1 Apr 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS

Upper Heyford, England, 15 Mar–11 Jun 1952
Mildenhall England, 1952-2 Jun 1952
Ernest Harmon AFB, Newfoundland, 21 Nov–20 Dec 1954 and 31 May–10 Jul 1955
RAF Greenham Common, England, 1 May–9 Jul 1956
Goose AB, Labrador, Apr–1 Sep 1957

ASSIGNMENTS

General Headquarters Air Force (later, Air Force Combat Command), 15 Jan 1941

47th Bombardment Group, 14 Aug 1941–31 Mar 1946
97th Bombardment Group, 1 Mar 1949
97th Bombardment Wing, 16 Jun 1952
4061st Air Refueling Wing, 1 Sep 1957
9th Bombardment (later, 9th Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 15 Jul 1961
28th Bombardment Wing, 1 Jul 1962–15 Mar 1964
Strategic Air Command, 8 Oct 1964
97th Bombardment Wing, 23 Oct 1964
97th Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991–1 Apr 1992
43rd Operations Group, 1 Oct 1992
453rd Operations Group, 1 Apr 1994
92nd Operations Group, 1 Jul 1994

ATTACHMENTS

17th Bombardment Group, 15 Jan–7 May 1941
47th Bombardment Group, 8 May–13 Aug 1941
97th Bombardment Wing, 12 Jul 1950–15 Jun 1952
Fifteenth Air Force, c. 31 May–10 Jul 1955
341st Combat Support Group

WEAPON SYSTEMS

B-18, 1941–1942
B-24, 1941–1942
DB-7, 1942
A-20, 1942–1945
A-26 (later, B-26), 1945–1946
B-29, 1950
KB-29, 1950–1954
KC-97G, 1954
KC-135A, 1964
KC-135R
KC-135T
A-20B
A-20C
A-20K
A-26C
KB-29A

COMMANDERS

Maj Frank R. Hodges, #1954
LTC C. B. Longshore, #1964

HONORS

Service Streamers

None

Campaign Streamers

World War II

Antisubmarine, American Theater

Algeria-French Morocco

Tunisia

Sicily

Naples-Foggia

Anzio

Rome-Arno

Southern France

North Apennines

Po Valley

Air Combat, EAME Theater

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers

None

Decorations

Distinguished Unit Citation

Po Valley, 21–24 Apr 1945

Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards

1 Jun 1955–1 Sep 1957

2 Jul–3 Nov 1957

1 Jul 1975–30 Jun 1977

1 Jul 1977–30 Jun 1978

1 Jul 1978–30 Jun 1980

1 Jul 1980–30 Jun 1982

1 Jul 1986–30 Jun 1988

EMBLEM



On a medium blue disc, border yellow orange, a caricatured gray and white rabbit with forepaws folded across chest, seated on red aerial bomb with yellow-orange tail fins, all falling toward dexter base. (Approved, 9 Aug 1944)

Azure the constellation Ursa Major (seven mullets of eight Or) bendwise sinister enfiling a double eliptoid contrail bendwise Gules issuant from a pair of flight symbols ascending bendwise Red to dexter of Blue, all within a diminished bordure of the first. (Approved, 9 Dec 1994; replaced emblems approved, 10 Sep 1965, 2 Nov 1955 and 9 Aug 1944)

MOTTO

PRO POTENTIA INTER ASTRA—For Strength Among the Stars

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

Antisubmarine patrols, Dec 1941–Jan 1942. Combat in MTO, 28 Dec 1942–30 Apr 1945. Air refueling operations, 1951–1964 and 1964.

On 1 September 1950, the 97th Air Refueling Squadron, Biggs Air Force Base, Texas, received

97 AREFS flew 93 sorties in direct support for Operation Desert Storm. 1990

97 AREFS deployed to Persian Gulf and supported 801 Bombardment Wing (Provisional) and 802 Air Refueling Wing (Provisional). 1991

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.

Unit yearbook. *Blythville AFB, AR, 1964.*

Unit yearbook. *810th Air Division, Biggs AFB, TX. 1954.*