9th AIR REFUELING SQUADRON

MISSION

LINEAGE
9th Photographic Squadron constituted, 19 Jan 1942
Activated, 1 Feb 1942
Redesignated 9th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 9 Jun 1942
Redesignated 9th Photographic Squadron (Light), 6 Feb 1943
Redesignated 9th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 13 Nov 1943
Inactivated, 4 Dec 1945

9th Air Refueling Squadron, Medium constituted, 24 Jul 1951
Activated, 1 Aug 1951
Discontinued and inactivated, 15 Dec 1965
Redesignated 9th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, 12 Dec 1969
Activated, 1 Jan 1970
Inactivated, 27 Jan 1982
Activated, 1 Aug 1982

9th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron and 9th Air Refueling Squadron, Heavy, consolidated, 19 Sep 1985

Redesignated 9th Air Refueling Squadron, 1 Sep 1991

STATIONS
Mitchel Field, NY, 1 Feb 1942
Bradley Field, CT, 10 Mar 1942
Felts Field, WA, 16 Apr–18 May 1942
Karachi, India, 24 Jul 1942 (flight at Kunming, China, Nov 1942–12 Jul 1943, with detachment thereof operating from Kweilin, China, Feb–12 Jul 1943)
Chakulia, India, 30 Nov 1942 (detachment operated from Dinjan, India, 18 Mar–Jul 1943)
Pandaveswar, India, 3 Jan 1943 (detachment operated from Dinjan, India, Sep 1943–20 May 1944)
Barrackpore, India, 29 Oct 1943 (detachment operated from Tingkawk Sakan, Burma, 16 Aug–30 Nov 1944, and from Myitkyina, Burma, 27 Nov–5 Dec 1944 another detachment operated from Chittagong, India, 9 Oct–21 Dec 1944)
Myitkyina, Burma, 5 Dec 1944
Piardoba, India, 1 May 1945
Malir, India, Oct–14 Nov 1945
Camp Kilmer, NJ, 3–4 Dec 1945
Davis-Monthan AFB, AZ, 1 Aug 1951
Mountain Home AFB, ID, 1 May 1953–15 Dec 1965
Beale AFB, CA, 1 Jan 1970–27 Jan 1982
March AFB, CA, 1 Aug 1982
Travis AFB, CA, 1 Sep 1994

DEPLOYED STATIONS
Benguerir AB, French Morocco, 18 Apr–16 Jul 1955
Elmendorf AFB, AK, 2 May–1 Jul 1956

ASSIGNMENTS
First Air Force, 1 Feb 1942
Tenth Air Force, 29 Mar 1942
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Sector, 30 Oct 1943
Tenth Air Force, 7 Mar 1944
8th Photographic (later, 8th Reconnaissance) Group, 25 Apr 1944
Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater, Oct–4 Dec 1945
9th Bombardment Group, 1 Aug 1951
9th Bombardment (later, 9th Strategic Aerospace) Wing, 16 Jun 1952–15 Dec 1965
456th Strategic Aerospace (later, 456th Bombardment) Wing, 1 Jan 1970
17th Bombardment Wing, 30 Sep 1975
100th Air Refueling Wing, 30 Sep 1976–27 Jan 1982
22nd Bombardment (later, 22nd Air Refueling) Wing, 1 Aug 1982
22nd Operations Group, 1 Sep 1991
722nd Operations Group, 1 Jan 1994
60th Operations Group, 1 Sep 1994

ATTACHMENTS
Flight attached to Fourteenth Air Force, 10 Mar–12 Jul 1943
5306th Photographic and Reconnaissance Group [Provisional], 30 Oct 1943–17 Jan 1944, and to
Tenth Air Force, 17 Jan–6 Mar 1944
43rd Bombardment Wing, 1 Aug–3 Sep 1951
36th Air Division, 4 Sep 1951–14 Jan 1952
303rd Bombardment Wing, 15 Jan 1952–30 Apr 1953
5th Air Division, 18 Apr–16 Jul 1955
SAC Liaison Team, 2 May–1 Jul 1956

WEAPON SYSTEMS
F–4, 1942–1944
F–5A, 1943–1945
F–5B
F–5E
P–38F
B–25C, 1943–1945
F–7B
F–13A
KB–29M, 1951–1954
KC–10A, 1982

COMMANDERS
2Lt Vincent P. Keenan (Acting), 20 Jan 1942
Cpt Edwin Kessler, 28 Feb 1942
Cpt Dale L. Swartz, 10 Mar 1942
Cpt Edwin Kessler (Acting), 12 Apr 1942
Cpt Dale L. Swartz, 16 Apr 1942
Cpt Edwin Kessler, 18 May 1942
Col Jerald W. McCoy, 1 Aug 1942
Maj Dale L. Swartz, 4 Jan 1943
Maj Henry E. Miller Jr., 7 Dec 1943
Cpt John E. Buffin, 17 Jun 1944
Maj Paul Turner Jr., 27 Jun 1944
Maj MacArthur Gorton Jr., 25 Jan 1945
Cpt Walter R. Thompson, 21 Mar 1945
Maj MacArthur Gorton Jr., 31 Mar 1945
Maj Paul H. Ponder Jr., 15 May 1945
Cpt Joseph P. Lezon Jr., 25 Aug–4 Dec 1945
LTC Russell F. Ireland, 1 Aug 1951
Maj Jack N. Fancher, 11 Oct 1951
LTC John B. Stokes, 2 Nov 1951
Maj C. C. Gifford, May 1953
Maj Edward H. Dvorak, Sep 1953
LTC Max W. Rogers, 19 Mar 1954
LTC William B. Becklund, 1 Sep 1958
LTC Donald S. Seeley, 27 Apr 1959
LTC William B. Becklund, Sep 1960
LTC Roy J. Sousley Jr., Jul 1962
LTC Carl E. Rice, Sep 1964-15 Dec 1965
LTC Clarence W. Thomas, 1 Jan 1970
LTC Richard D. Jenkins, 4 Jan 1971
LTC Allan J. Surridge, 1 Apr 1971
LTC William C. Walker, 15 Aug 1971
LTC Louis C. Wagner, 9 Oct 1971
LTC James G. Dunham, 6 Jun 1972
LTC Joe H. Snow, 3 Mar 1973
LTC Douglas A. Jewett, 1 Feb 1974
LTC William R. Borlowski, 1 Sep 1976
LTC Melvin U. Edens, 20 Sep 1977
LTC Curtis R. Archer Jr., 8 Oct 1978
LTC Larry D. Sykes, 30 Nov 1979
LTC Donald E. Brice, 1 Aug 1980
LTC Donald E. Bruce, 1 Aug 1982
LTC Joseph M. Hudson, 19 Nov 1982
LTC Stephen L. Toles, 12 Aug 1984
LTC Arthur J. Lichte, 26 Jun 1986
LTC Thomas Dooley, 1 Jul 1988
LTC James N. Christian, 23 Mar 1990
LTC Leo A. Brownyard, 28 Mar 1991
LTC Bernard H. Fullenkamp, 27 May 1992
LTC Ronald D. Jones, 2 Jun 1993
LTC Paul J. Selva, 1 Sep 1994
LTC Daniel A. Hale, 24 Apr 1995
LTC Michelle D. Johnson, 18 Jun 1996
LTC Richard Trasker, 18 Jun 1998
LTC Martin J. Wojtysiak, 11 Jun 1999
LTC Mark Simon, 21 Jun 2000
LTC Bruce A. Van Skiver, 21 Jun 2001
LTC Marshall T. Morrison, 30 Jun 2003
LTC Kurt W. Meidel, 16 Jun 2005
LTC Matt J. Lloyd, 7 Jun 2007
LTC Johnny L. Barnes II, 10 Apr 2009

HONORS
Service Streamers
None
Campaign Streamers
World War II
New Guinea
Central Pacific
India-Burma
Central Burma
China Defensive

Armed Forces Expeditionary Streamers
None

Decorations
Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards
1 Jan 1957–31 Jan 1958
1 Aug 1982–30 Jun 1983
1 Jul 1987–30 Jun 1989
1 Jul 2010-30 Jun 2012

EMBLEM

9th Photographic Squadron
9th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron emblem: On a light blue disc with narrow black border a cartooned obese Indian, proper, standing on a white cloud and peering with eyes shielded by right hand, wearing a headdress and neckband of red and white design, a yellow arm band, buckskin trousers with red “apron” and buckskin moccasins with red tops. He is grasping the black spout and hose of a red gasoline pump, with white markings, which stands behind him on the cloud. The Indian is an amusing reminder of the unit’s location of activation; Tucson, Arizona. The gas tank and hose is indicative of this unit’s primary mission. The blue sky and cloud symbolize the fact that the squadron’s mission is airborne. The “hand-on-brow” represents the searching of the rendezvous equipment, and the overall blue background coincides with the squadron colors. (Approved, 2 Dec 1954)
9th Air Refueling Squadron second emblem: On a disc Azure, an inner border Gules, an elliptical globe of the last, fimbriated and gridlined Argent, issuing from the sinister base of the globe a contrail enwrapping the globe terminating beneath a delta ascending to dexter of the third, delta detailed of the second, all within a narrow border Yellow. Attached above the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “UNIVERSAL” in Yellow letters. Attached below the disc, a Yellow scroll edged with a narrow Blue border and inscribed “9TH AIR REFUELING SQ” in Yellow letters. 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 globe symbolizes the world-wide capability of the unit. The aircraft is representative of the entire Squadron--its crews and aircraft accomplishing the unit’s mission. The motto is “Universal,” indicative of the world-wide mission.

MOTTO
UNIVERSAL

NICKNAME

OPERATIONS

The move of the 9th AREFS to Mountain Home AFB was accomplished in three phases in order to maintain the unit in operational status. The three phases consisted of: the advanced echelon which departed Davis-Monthan on April 6, 1953 and consisted of fourteen airman and two officers; the main body moved in two groups on the 17th and 27th of April; and the rear echelon moved so as to arrive not later than May 31, 1953 and consisting of five officers and
fifteen enlisted men. During the move, Major Charles C. Gifford, squadron commander, was in command of the main body; Major Robert E. Wolf was in command of the advanced echelon; and Major Cecil M. Peacock was in command of the rear echelon. There were many problems associated with the move to Mountain Home, but during the next year the 9th received the good news of being selected to receive the KC-97G. On September 15, 1954, the first KC-97G air refueling tankers were received to replace the older KB-29Ms.

From September 26, 1957 to January 15, 1958, fifteen tankers flew to Elmendorf AFB, Alaska in Operation REFLEX ACTION and five to Andersen AFB, Guam for Operation AIR MAIL.

From February 7, 1958 through March 14 of the same year the squadron deployed to the Fairchild Tanker Task Force. In July 1958 the KC-97Gs were refitted with new propellers and in the midst of the retrofit were configured for Emergency War Order (EWO) operations due to the Lebanon Crisis. In March 1959, PROJECT HOOKUP, heavyweight refueling, training began for the unit in preparation for B-47 refueling.

REFLEX ACTION deployments to Namao Royal Canadian Air Force Station were flown from August 1960 through June 1964. On August 24, 1960 the squadron was named the best KC-97 outfit in Fifteenth Air Force.

On 24 Jan 63, KC-97G assigned to 9 AREFS ran off runway after landing gear collapsed at Cold Lake, Canada.

On May 3, 1963 a 9th Bomb Wing B-47 collided with a squadron KC-97G during air refueling operations killing three crew members.

When the final days of 1964 threatened the west coast of the United States with massive flooding, the squadron conducted flood damage aerial surveys and transported fuel for flood rescue and recovery operations.

On 10 Nov 1965, the last KC-97 was removed from ground alert. It belonged to the 9th Air Refueling Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho.

On January 1, 1970 the squadron was again activated. Assigned to the 456th Strategic Aerospace Wing (later Bombardment Wing), the squadron flew KC-135Q in air-to-air refueling operations with SR-71, both from Beale AFB, California.

During Jan 87, 9 AREFS began qualifying KC-10 crews to perform SR-71 refueling.

The 9th was called upon to protect our national interests in Operations EL DORADO CANYON, JUST CAUSE, DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, and PROUD RETURN. Since 1992, the 9th has been vital to enforcing the no-fly zone over Iraq during Operation SOUTHERN WATCH by flying air refueling missions out of Al Dhafra Airbase, United Arab Emirates.
In December 1992, the 9th demonstrated another Air Force mission - humanitarian relief by delivering desperately needed food and supplies to Somalia in Operation RESTORE HOPE. Then with the reorganization of March AFB, California the 9th Air Refueling Squadron transferred to Travis AFB, California and was activated on 1 Sep 94.

KC-10 assigned to 9 air refueling squadron deployed to the UAE in support of operation southern watch/deny flight. 1995

The unit initialed operated out of temporary trailers until the construction of its new squadron building was completed. In 1995, the 9th played a critical role in Operation DENY FLIGHT by providing refueling support for NATO aircraft. In 1997 and 1998, it played a crucial role in Operation PHOENIX SCORPION I and II, the rapid movement of forces into Southwest Asia.

The 9th deployed to Diego Garcia and flew refueling missions over the Persian Gulf. Its latest conflict took them to Ramstein AB Germany to refuel coalition aircraft during the Bosnian War. And the 9th deploys four aircraft to Al Dhafra Airbase, United Arab Emirates to refuel US Navy and Marine aircraft supporting Operation Southern Watch.

Following the 11 Sep 2001 terrorist strikes on New York City and the Pentagon, the 9th Air Refueling Squadron flew several missions orbiting over San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Denver refueling F-16As and F/A-18Cs.