

HISTORY OF GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE
AND THE
319TH AIR BASE WING



History Office
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRAND FORKS AIR FORCE BASE (1954 – 2010)

The 1950s, our beginning

During the early 1950s, as the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union continued, the US Air Force announced plans to build an Air Defense Command (ADC) fighter-interceptor base in eastern North Dakota. The Defense Department chose Grand Forks as the site for the new installation in 1954, and the citizens of Grand Forks donated money toward the purchase of 5,400-acres of land 15 miles west of the city. Contractors began construction of the base with grubbing operations for the 12,350-foot runway on 5 February 1956. During that same month, the Air Force announced it would build up Grand Forks AFB to support Strategic Air Command (SAC) bombers and tankers as well as ADC fighter-interceptors.

On 8 February 1957, the ADC activated the 478th Fighter Group (FG) at Grand Forks Air Force Base. This unit would serve as the host unit for a fighter-interceptor squadron, an air defense sector operation and SAC units. In December 1957, the US Air Force activated the Grand Forks Air Defense Sector of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD). This sector became operational with the semi-automatic ground environment (SAGE) system on 15 December 1959 enabling the Grand Forks Air Defense Sector to cover the air space of three US states and one Canadian province.

In the meantime, SAC activated the 4133d Strategic Wing (Provisional) as a tenant unit at Grand Forks AFB on 1 September 1958. The command expected to equip the unit with bombers and tankers within a few years.

The 1960s, how it all began

In 1960, the Air Force stationed the first flying units at Grand Forks AFB. Strategic Air Command organized the 905th Air Refueling Squadron (AREFS-Heavy) at Grand Forks on 1 February 1960. The 905 AREFS-H acquired its first KC-135A Stratotanker on 6 May 1960. Earlier that same week, on 1 May, ADC transferred the 18th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (FIS) and its F-101B Voodoos, from Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan, to Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota. On 28 December 1960, ADC activated the 478th Fighter Wing (FW) (Air Defense) at Grand Forks, replacing the 478th Fighter Group. Besides operating the base, the 478 FW controlled the F-101 operations of the 18 FIS.

On 1 January 1962, SAC transferred the 30th Bombardment Squadron (BMS) (Heavy) from Homestead AFB, Florida, to Grand Forks Air Force Base, North Dakota, assigning it to the 4133d Strategic Wing. The 30 BMS acquired its first B-52H Stratofortress on 29 April 1962.

On 1 February 1963, SAC organized the 319th Bombardment Wing (BMW) (Heavy) at Grand Forks AFB. The 319 BMW replaced the inactivated 4133d Strategic Wing. Strategic Air Command then assigned the 905 ARS and the newly organized 46th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), equipped with B-52H bombers, to the 319 BMW. The 30th Bomb Squadron was inactivated that same day and ADC handed command and control of Grand Forks AFB to SAC. The Air Force also inactivated the Grand Forks Air Defense Sector and 478 FW in 1963. Despite the change of operational control, the 18 FIS continued to operate from Grand Forks AFB. For a

very brief period (1 July 1963 to 21 October 1964), the 319 BMW took over responsibilities as the host unit at Grand Forks AFB.

Numerous organizational changes occurred at Grand Forks in 1964. Strategic Air Command activated the 804th Combat Support Group to assume duties as the host unit on 19 August and stationed the 4th Air Division (later, Strategic Aerospace Division) at Grand Forks on 1 September. In November, the command organized the 321st Strategic Missile Wing (SMW) while construction began on a Minuteman II missile complex. The 321 SMW became operational with the Minuteman II in December 1966.

The 1970s, success and fond farewells

Grand Forks experienced several major changes during the 1970s. The first was the inactivation of the 18 FIS on 15 April 1971. SAC transferred the 4th Strategic Aerospace Division to Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming, on 30 June 1971. The command tasked the 321 SMW to assume command over the 804th Combat Support Group and host unit responsibilities on 1 July 1971. ADC then stationed the 460th Fighter Interceptor Squadron at Grand Forks AFB on 30 July 1971 as part of its Air Defense mission: a squadron of F-106 Delta Darts stood alert at Grand Forks AFB. The 804th Combat Support Group was later inactivated on 31 July 1972. During this period, construction began for the 321 SMW to upgrade to Minuteman IIIs; the upgrade was completed on 8 March 1973.

In 1974, the 460 FIS captured first place at the William Tell Air-to-Air Competition at Eglin AFB, Florida. Shortly afterward, the ADC inactivated the squadron as part of a major restructure of its air defense system.

The 1980s, changes abound

The 1980s brought further changes to Grand Forks AFB. In 1983, the 319 BMW upgraded its venerable B-52Hs to re-engined B-52G bombers. The modification also included updated offensive avionics and provided the bomber force a longer operating range. On 4 December 1986, the B-52Gs left Grand Forks AFB and were replaced by the newer and more capable B-1B Lancer in 1987. On 16 June 1988, SAC stationed the 42d Air Division (AD) at Grand Forks AFB. The 42 AD assumed host support responsibility in lieu of the 321 SMW.

The 1990s a new beginning

In 1991, SAC again made significant organizational changes at Grand Forks AFB. It inactivated the 42 AD on 9 July and assigned host responsibilities to the 319 BMW. On 1 September, the 319th Bombardment Wing became the 319th Wing and the 321st Strategic Missile Wing was redesignated as the 321st Missile Wing.

On 1 June 1992, the United States Air Force instituted a realignment of its Major Commands (MAJCOMS). In turn, this realignment consolidated weapons systems and missions within the service. Tactical Air Command (TAC) became Air Combat Command (ACC), Military Airlift Command (MAC) was renamed Air Mobility Command (AMC), and SAC was absorbed into the new Air Force Space Command (AFSC). The MAJCOM changes and weapons systems consolidation transformed Grand Forks AFB as well. With the combination of Combat Air Forces within ACC, Grand Forks AFB and its 319th Wing was transferred to the newly

established ACC. The 319th Wing became the 319th Bomb Wing. The Wing's KC-135R tankers, assigned to the 905 ARS, were reassigned to the 305th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom AFB, Indiana, an AMC base. On 1 July 1993, the 905 ARS was reassigned to the 43d Air Refueling Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. The 905 ARS continued to operate from Grand Forks AFB during both wing reassignments. The Air Force reassigned the 321st Missile Wing from ACC to Air Force Space Command (AFSC) on 1 July 1993; the Wing was re-designated the 321st Missile Group (MG) on 1 July 1994.

Meanwhile, on 1 October 1993, the 319th Bomb Wing was renamed the 319th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) and reassigned to AMC. During the transition to AMC, the Air Force realigned the 906th, 911th and 912th Air Refueling Squadrons to the 319 ARW. The 905 ARS, already operating from Grand Forks AFB, was also reassigned to the 319 ARW. Additionally, the 46th Bomb Squadron joined ACC's newly activated 319th Bomb Group at the base.

Ending an era of over 30 years of heavy bomber operations at Grand Forks, the last B-1B Lancer departed the base on 26 May 1994. Air Combat Command inactivated the 319th Bomb Group on 16 July 1994.

The base's 321 MG also underwent change during the MAJCOM transition and in its dictate under the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). In 1995, the Air Force announced it would remove the 150 Minuteman III missiles from the Grand Forks AFB missile fields and inactivate the 321 MG. On 2 July 1998, the 321 MG inactivated. All of its Minuteman III missiles were shipped to other locations and the silos placed in caretaker status. On 6 October 1999, the missile silos began to be imploded as required by START. Missile site 00-oscar was sealed and transferred to the State of North Dakota as a historical exhibit.

The most memorable event during 1997 for the base was weather related. The 1996-97 winter was particularly harsh even by North Dakota standards. Record numbers of blizzards--six in all--dumped a corresponding record amount of snow, over 100 inches, on Grand Forks AFB and the surrounding communities, culminating in the spring with the worst flood in geographic dimensions in recorded history. Members, from both the 321 MG and 319 ARW, stationed at Grand Forks AFB were instrumental in protecting the city from rising waters and sheltering over 6000 victims when the rising river finally burst.

The next century of Grand Forks AFB

On 24 August 2001, the last missile silo was imploded in accordance with START. In turn, Grand Forks AFB was designated a "Formerly Declared Facility" under the auspices of START in 2002.

In late 2004, the Grand Forks AFB runway was closed for repairs. From June through November, flight operations were flown from Fargo International Airport, North Dakota and Fairchild AFB, Washington. Although temporarily relocated, all four KC-135 air refueling squadrons continued to meet all Air Force and Department of Defense missions.

On 13 July 2004, a new commissary opened on Grand Forks AFB. The grand opening of the new building culminated many months of construction. The total cost of the new building exceeded 10 million dollars.

On 25 April 2005, President George W. Bush authorized another round of base realignments and closures (BRAC). BRAC 2005 directed the realignment of 319 ARW KC-135 aircraft to other Air Force Units. In turn, nine 319 ARW units were scheduled for realignment or inactivation by 31 December 2010. BRAC 2005 recommended Grand Forks AFB remain an active installation and be considered for future Air Force missions.

The 911 ARS was the first squadron at GFAFB affected by the 2005 BRAC recommendation. The 911 ARW was inactivated on 30 Jun 2007. The unit inactivation marked the end of 13 years of outstanding air refueling operations at GFAFB.

In early-2009, The Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) became a tenant organization at GFAFB. CBP brought its Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program to the base. Its Predator UAV program is one part of CBP's mission to secure America's borders, stop illegal commerce, and prevent terrorist attacks.

In March 2009, the University of North Dakota (UND) and Grand Forks AFB mutually agreed to allow the university to install and operate a UAS training simulator program that will train and educate tomorrow's UAS pilots, engineers, and support staff. The UND Center for Excellence should become operational sometime in 2011.

On 1 Oct 2009, the 906 ARW was transferred to the Air National Guard. The squadron became an active duty associate unit. The base held a mission complete ceremony on 19 June 2009 to recognize the squadron's 15 years of outstanding air refueling operations at GFAFB.

The 319 ARW said good-bye to the 912 ARS on 1 October 2010. The squadron was transferred to March Air Reserve Base, CA. The squadron, like its predecessor the 906 ARS, became an active duty associate unit. The base held a mission complete ceremony on 20 March 2009 to recognize the squadron's 15 years of outstanding air refueling operations at GFAFB.

On 4 Dec 2010, the last, 905 ARS-assigned KC-135 with tail number 60-0319, departed Grand Forks AFB. The aircraft, on loan to the 319 ARW, was transferred back to the 22d Air Refueling Wing at McConnell AFB, Kansas. This final departure ended 53 years of flying and fifty years of air refueling operations (for the 905 ARS) at Grand Forks AFB.

On 31 December 2010, the Air Force inactivated six operational units assigned to the base: 319th Operations and Maintenance Groups; 905 ARS; and the 319th Maintenance Operations, Aircraft Maintenance, and Maintenance Squadrons. The 319th Operations Support Squadron was realigned to the 319th Air Refueling Wing. Grand Forks AFB retained an active runway and aircraft tower operations.

In late-December 2010 personnel assigned to Detachment 1, 9th Reconnaissance Wing (9 RW) began arriving at GFAFB. Their arrival signaled the operational status of the unit's Global Hawk

(UAS) mission that will operate from GFAFB. The arrival of personnel and equipment to support the UAS mission marked the fulfillment of the BRAC 2005 recommendation for “future” operations at GFAFB. Detachment 1 received its first commander on 23 May 2011. The first Global Hawk UAS arrived at GFAFB on 2 June 2011. Eventually, Detachment 1 will become the 9th Reconnaissance Group (9 RG) and have two operational squadrons: a flying squadron and a maintenance squadron. The two squadrons should become operational in late 2011 or early 2012.

**CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS – GRAND FORKS AFB
(1954 – 2011)**

1954 -- The Department of Defense chose Grand Forks as the site for a new installation.

5 Feb 1956 -- Contractors begin construction of the base.

8 Feb 1957 -- Air Defense Command (ADC) activated the 478th Fighter Group at Grand Forks AFB as the host unit for the base.

1 Sep 1958 -- Strategic Air Command (SAC) activated the 4133d Strategic Wing (Provisional) as a tenant unit at Grand Forks AFB.

15 Dec 1959 -- The Grand Forks Air Defense Sector of the North American Air Defense Command became operational with the Semi-Automatic Ground Environment System.

1 May 1960 --The 18th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron (FIS) was stationed at Grand Forks AFB with its F-101B Voodoos.

6 May 1960 -- The 905th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) (Heavy), a unit assigned to the 4133d Strategic Wing, received its first KC-135A Stratotanker.

28 Dec 1960 -- The 478th Fighter Wing was activated under the ADC and became the host unit for the base.

29 Apr 1962 -- The 30th Bombardment Squadron, a unit assigned to the 4133d Strategic Wing, received its first B-52H Stratofortress.

1 Feb 1963 -- Strategic Air Command organized the 319th Bombardment Wing (BMW) (Heavy) at Grand Forks AFB. The 319 BMW became the host wing as the 4133 Strategic Wing inactivated and command of the base transferred from the ADC to SAC.

19 Aug 1964 -- Strategic Air Command activated the 804th Combat Support Group (CSG) as the host unit at Grand Forks AFB.

1 Sep 1964 -- Strategic Air Command stationed the 4th Air Division, later named 4th Strategic Aerospace Division, at Grand Fork AFB.

1 Nov 1964 -- The 321st Strategic Missile Wing (SMW) was organized at Grand Forks AFB and construction began on its Minuteman II missile complex.

Dec 1966 -- The 321 SMW became operational with the Minuteman II missile.

15 Apr 1971 -- Air Defense Command inactivated the 18 FIS.

30 Jun 1971 -- The 4th Strategic Air Division transferred to Francis E. Warren AFB, Wyoming.

1 Jul 1971 -- The 321 SMW assumed host unit duties from the 804 CSG.

30 Jul 1971 -- Air Defense Command stationed the 460th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron, with F-106 Delta Darts, at Grand Forks AFB.

8 Mar 1973 -- The 321st Strategic Missile Wing completed an upgrade to Minuteman III missiles.

1974 -- The ADC inactivated the 460 FIS.

1986-1987 -- The 319th Bombardment Wing converted from the B-52G Stratofortress and KC-135A Stratotanker to the B-1B Lancer and KC-135R Stratotanker.

16 Jun 1988 -- Strategic Air Command transferred the 42nd Air Division (AD) to Grand Forks as the host support unit for the base.

9 Jul 1991 -- Strategic Air Command inactivated the 42 AD and appointed the 319th Bombardment Wing as the host unit for the base.

1 Sep 1991 -- The 319th Bombardment Wing was redesignated as the 319th Wing. The 321st Strategic Missile Wing was redesignated as the 321st Missile Wing (MW).

1 Jun 1992 -- The Air Force inactivated Strategic Air Command and reassigned Grand Forks AFB to Air Combat Command. The 319th Wing was redesignated as the 319th Bomb Wing. The 905 ARS was functionally reassigned to Grissom AFB, Indiana, although it continued to operate from Grand Forks AFB.

1 Jul 1993 -- The 321 MW was reassigned to Air Force Space Command.

1 Oct 1993 -- The Air Force redesignated the 319th Bomb Wing as the 319th Air Refueling Wing, reassigned it to Air Mobility Command, and reassigned the 905th Air Refueling Squadron to the wing.

1994 -- As part of restructuring at Grand Forks, the Air Force assigned the 906th, 911th, and 912th Air Refueling Squadrons to Grand Forks AFB.

26 May 1994 -- The last B-1B Lancer departed from Grand Forks AFB, marking the end of over 30 years of bombers at Grand Forks.

1 Jul 1994 -- Air Force Space Command redesignated the 321 MW as the 321st Missile Group (MG).

1 Oct 1995 -- The Clinton Administration approved the Base Realignment and Closure IV committee's recommendation to remove 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles from the Grand Forks Air Force Base missile complex and inactivate the 321 MG.

April 1997 -- After a harsh winter, the Grand Forks area suffered a devastating flood. Members of the Grand Forks Air Force Base were called into action, first to help protect the town from the rising waters and later to house the victims of the disaster.

2 Jul 1998 -- The 321 MG inactivated after 34 years of service at Grand Forks AFB.

6 Oct 1999 -- The first missile silo was imploded in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

24 Aug 2001 -- The last missile silo was imploded in accordance with the START Treaty.

June 2004 -- Grand Forks AFB closed its runway for repairs. Wing flying operations were temporarily moved to Fargo International Airport, ND and Fairchild AFB, WA. The runway reopened in November; flying operations resumed at GFAFB at that time.

25 Apr 2005-- President George Bush authorized a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission. The Commission recommended Grand Forks AFB for realignment. Its KC-135 operations would be transferred to other installations and units would be inactivated. Additionally, the Commission recommended the base receive a “future” mission – an Unmanned Aerospace Vehicle (UAS) mission.

30 Jun 2007 -- The 911 ARS is inactivated. The squadron’s inactivation ends its 13 years of air refueling operations at Grand Forks AFB.

2009 -- Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) became a tenant unit on the base. CBP began a Predator UAS mission that monitors the United States’ northern border.

March 2009 --The University of North Dakota (UND) and GFAFB forge an agreement that will allow the university to build and operate a UAS training simulator in Building 607. Pending a formal lease agreement, simulator operations are schedule to begin in late-2011 or early-2012.

1 Oct 2009 -- The 906 ARS is transferred to the Air National Guard as an active associate squadron. The squadron’s transfer ends its 15 years of air refueling operations at Grand Forks AFB.

1 Jan 2010 -- GFAFB begins the year with two air refueling squadrons, the 905 ARS and 912 ARS, and 12 aircraft. Aircraft and crews of the 905 ARS and other wing staff continued to fly a robust flying schedule throughout 2010.

1 Oct 2010 -- The 912 ARS is transferred to the Air Force Reserve as an active associate squadron. The squadron’s transfer ends its 16 years of air refueling operations at Grand Forks AFB.

Dec 2010 -- Detachment 1 of the 9th Reconnaissance Wing (Det 1, 9 RW) at Beale AFB, CA began assigning personnel and equipment at GFAFB after several years of planning between

AMC, ACC, and the 319 ARW. Det 1 will begin Global Hawk UAS flight operations in late-2011.

4 Dec 2010 -- The last KC-135 aircraft, tail number 60-0319, assigned to the 319 ARW departed GFAFB enroute for McConnell AFB, KS. Aircraft 60-0319, on loan to the 319 ARW, is transferred back to the 22d ARW. This final KC-135 flight marked the end of 50 years of 905 ARS air refueling operations at the base and the culmination of 53 years of flying operations that began in 1957.

31 Dec 2010 -- The 319th Operations (OG) and Maintenance (MX) Groups and their subordinate squadrons (905 ARS, 319 AMXS, 319 MOS, and 319 MXS) are inactivated. The 319 OSS, previously aligned under the 319 OG, is realigned under the 319 ARW.

23 May 2011 -- Det1, 9 RW, received its first commander, Lt Col Scott J. West.

2 Jun 2011-- The first Global Hawk aircraft assigned to Det 1 arrives at GFAFB.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 319TH AIR BASE WING (1942 – 2011)

As part of the Greatest Generation--World War II

The 319th Air Refueling Wing's history began when the US Army Air Forces constituted the 319th Bombardment Group (BG) (Medium) on 19 June 1942. One week later, on 26 June, the Army Air Forces activated the group at Barksdale Field, Louisiana. In July, the 319 BG began training with its newly acquired Martin B-26 Marauders. Shortly afterwards the group moved to Harding Field, Louisiana. In late August, the group began its move overseas.



B-26 Marauder (GFAFB Photo Archive)

The Army Air Forces planned for the 319 BG to deploy to England to acquire some combat experience before moving on to North Africa as part of the Twelfth Air Force. The group's advance and ground echelons set up operations at Royal Air Force (RAF) Shipdham and RAF Horsham St Faith, England, during September and October, but the air echelon had difficulties ferrying the B-26s across the Atlantic in time to meet up with its ground echelon before they deployed to North Africa.

On 8 November 1942, members of the 319 BG went ashore during Operation TORCH, the Allied invasion of North Africa. Once established, the 319 BG then set up operations at Tafaraoui Airdrome, Algeria, on 14 November 1942. Shortly afterwards, its air echelon arrived in North Africa with a mere twelve B-26s. The group later moved to Maison Blanche Airdrome, Algeria on 24 November 1942 to conduct operations in support of Allied forces.

The 319 BG moved to Telergma Airdrome, Algeria, on 12 December 1942. From there, the unit concentrated on attacking the shipping lanes between Sicily and North Africa to slow down the Axis movement of reinforcements and supplies to North Africa, but, on 27 February 1943, the Twelfth Air Force dispersed the 319 BG's few remaining B-26s to other units, and moved the group to Oujda Airdrome, French Morocco, for reorganization.

Finally built up to combat strength, the 319 BG returned to action in June 1943. The group, stationed at Sedrata Airdrome, Algeria, flew missions against Pantelleria and Sardinia along with striking enemy shipping. On 26 June, the 319 BG moved to Djedeida Airdrome, Tunisia, where it conducted numerous strikes against docks on the island of Sicily and the Italian peninsula.

The 319 BG moved from North Africa to Decimomannu Airdrome, Sardinia, and became part of Fifteenth Air Force on 1 November 1943. From this location the group flew numerous bombing missions against targets in central Italy and southern France. In early 1944, the group continued striking marshaling yards and bridges; however, the BG began flying more close air support missions to assist the Allied advance up the Italian peninsula. As part of this effort, it conducted missions against enemy targets near the Allied beachhead of Anzio. The 319 BG earned its first distinguished unit citation for its effective bombing of the Ostienne rail facilities in Rome on 3 March 1944 and on 11 March, the group earned a second distinguished unit citation for its excellent bombing accuracy while striking the main marshaling yards of Florence.

On 17 September 1944, the 319 BG began strategic bombing against targets in the Italian Po Valley. Strapped with the Marauder's limited range, Twelfth Air Force moved the group closer to the target area. This resulted in the 319 BG's relocation to Serragia, Corsica, on 21 September. The raids from Serragia concentrated on railroad bridges in the Po Valley. The group flew its last B-26 Marauder mission on 31 October. In all, the group flew 9,050 sorties on 417 missions, dropping over 12,600 tons of bombs, with the Marauder.

In late 1944, the 319 BG converted to North American B-25 Mitchell bombers. The group flew its first B-25 mission against railroad bridges in the Po Valley on 4 November. During the next 2 months, the group flew 1,463 sorties on 76 missions, dropping 2,111 tons of munitions on railroad bridges, communications lines and industrial sites in northern Italy and Yugoslavia. The 319 BG received orders to halt combat operations in Europe and prepare for redeployment to the Pacific on 31 December 1944.

On 2 February 1945, the US Army Air Forces redesignated the unit as the 319th Bombardment Group (BG) (Light). It was equipped with Douglas A-26 Invaders at Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina, in March, and shipped out to the Pacific in April 1945. The 319 BG established a base of operations at Kadena Airdrome on the Japanese island of Okinawa in early July 1945.



During the next few weeks the 319 BG flew 698 sorties on 22 missions, delivering 742 tons of bombs on Japanese targets at Shanghai, the Ryukyu Islands, Kyushu, Chusan, and Nagasaki. After the Japanese surrendered, the 319 BG returned to the United States where it inactivated on 18 December 1945.

The Interwar years

On 27 December 1946, the US Army Air Forces activated the 319th Bombardment Group (BG) (Light) as an AF Reserve unit at Mitchell Field, New York. The US Air Force transferred the group to Reading Municipal Airport, Pennsylvania, on 27 June 1949.

The US Air Force established the 319th Bombardment Wing (BMW) (Light) on 10 May 1949 and activated it with the AF Reserve at Reading Municipal Airport on 27 June 1949. The 319 BG then became part of the 319 BMW. The wing was inactivated on 2 September 1949.

Then, on 10 October 1949, the Air Force reactivated the 319 BMW, equipped with Douglas A-26 Invaders as a Reserve unit at Birmingham Municipal Airport, Alabama. The USAF ordered the wing to active duty service during the Korean Conflict, but inactivated it less than 3 weeks later, having transferred its personnel and aircraft to other units. On 18 May 1955, the US Air Force activated the newly redesignated 319th Fighter-Bombardment Wing (FBW) at Memphis Municipal Airport, Tennessee, as part of the AF Reserve. Assigned to the Aerospace Defense Command, the 319 FBW flew Republic F-84 Thunderjets before converting to North American F-86 Sabres in 1957. The Air Force again inactivated the wing on 16 November 1957.

The US Air Force activated the newly redesignated 319th Bombardment Wing (BMW) (Heavy) at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota, on 15 November 1962. On 1 February 1963, SAC organized the 319 BMW with the personnel and aircraft previously assigned to the 4133d Strategic Wing. The 319 BMW assumed the mission of training for Emergency War Order operations and setup alert forces with Boeing B-52H Stratofortresses and Boeing KC-135A Stratotanker aircraft. The following year, the wing took first place in the British Royal Air Force Bombing and Navigation Competition, earning the Blue Steel Trophy.



KC-135A (GFAFB Archive Photo)

The War in Southeast Asia and the Cold War

In Southeast Asia (1963 to 1974), the 319 BMW's mission expanded to include sending bomber and tanker aircrews on temporary duty assignments in support of B-52 and KC-135 operations. Tanker crews participated in refueling operations for Operation ROLLING THUNDER supplying fuel to both bombers and fighters. The bomber crews flew B-52Ds from bases in Guam, Okinawa and Thailand. The bomber crews participated in Operation ARC LIGHT in 1968 and Operations LINEBACKER I and II in 1972. In 1973, the 319 BMW replaced its "Hound Dog" air-to-ground missiles with Short Range Attack Missiles (SRAM) on its B-52 fleet.



B-52 (GFAFB Archive Photos)

As activities in Southeast Asia decreased, the 319 BMW focused its full efforts on training crews to fly strategic strike missions. The wing continued its record of outstanding performance, being selected as the best unit in Fifteenth Air Force and SAC, and received the Riverside and Omaha Trophies in 1978. The wing also earned the Dougherty SRAM Trophy during the SAC Bombing and Navigation Competition in 1978, the Mathis Trophy in 1980, and the Bartsch Trophy in 1982. Finally, the 319 BMW received an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its performance from mid-1977 to mid-1979. Strategic Air Command broadened the 319 BMW's mission by making it part of the newly formed Strategic Projection Force in 1980. SAC's intent behind the strategic quick-response conventional force was to give the President a quick reaction team he could turn to during national emergencies. The unit had the mission of providing massive firepower anywhere in the world on very short notice. In a demonstration of this power projection, the 319 BMW flew four, B-52H bombers on a 31-hour mission to deliver conventional bombs on a simulated runway target in Egypt during the joint Exercise Bright Star in 1981. The 15,000-mile flight was the longest non-stop bombing mission in SAC history.

After flying B-52H bombers for 20 years, the 319 BMW was updated with the B-52G bombers in 1983. This modification updated the offensive avionics Missile (ALCM) in 1984. During 1985, a 319 BMW B-52G, in a test called Global Cruise, launched an ALCM over northern Canada. The following year, the 319 BMW flew the first triple weapons drop ever by a SAC bomber when it delivered an inert ALCM, SRAM and gravity weapon during a Global Shield

exercise. During further SAC Bombing and Navigation Competitions, the 319 BMW earned the coveted Dougherty SRAM and Davis Trophies in 1985 and the Bartsch ECM Trophy in 1986.

In 1987, the 319 BMW converted to the Rockwell B1-B Lancer and Boeing's KC-135R Stratotanker. The first B1-B landed at Grand Forks AFB on September 1987 and the wing put its first Lancer on alert on 1 October 1988. In 1989, the 319 BMW deployed its Lancers and Stratotankers to Mountain Home AFB, ID supporting Exercise Mighty Warrior demonstrating the Wing's ability to operate at a forward operating location.



B1-B (GFAFB Archive Photo)



KC-135R (GFAFB Archive Photo)

In December of 1989, the wing flew combat air refueling missions in support of US forces during Operation JUST CAUSE, the invasion of Panama. Later, the 319 BMW's tankers provided aerial-refueling support during the deployment of US forces to the Middle East during the US/Coalition forces build up, Operation DESERT SHIELD in 1990, followed by supporting Allied aircraft engaged in combat operations during Operation DESERT STORM in 1991.

Immediately following the Persian Gulf War, the US Air Force began to make a series of changes reflecting plans for a smaller, more efficient Air Force. With the dismantling of the Soviet Union and the subsequent end of the Cold War, the service saw a need to be expeditionary in nature. In its organizational restructuring of SAC, the Air Force inactivated the 42d Air Division and reassigned the 319 BMW directly to Eighth Air Force on 9 July 1991. The wing became the host unit at Grand Forks AFB, resulting in a significant growth of assigned units and personnel. It added four new groups and associated personnel to support and manage KC-135R and B1-B aircraft operations and to strengthen its support to the 321st Missile Wing. To reflect the fact it was a composite wing, the 319th Bombardment Wing was redesignated as the 319th Wing on 1 September 1991.

In line with the changing international situation in 1991, President George H. Bush decided to reduce the US nuclear alert force. On 28 September 1991, the 319th Wing pulled its B1-B bombers and KC-135R tankers from quick-reaction alert force duty, ending nearly 30 years of such activity at Grand Forks AFB. Shortly afterwards, the 319th Wing acquired the secondary mission of training for conventional bombing operations.

With the inactivation of SAC on 1 June 1992, the 319th Wing was reassigned to the newly established ACC and redesignated the 319th Bomb Wing (BW). At this time, the wing's 905 ARW and its tankers were reassigned to the 305th Air Refueling Wing at Grissom Air Force

Base, Indiana, while remaining physically stationed at Grand Forks AFB. On 1 July 1993, the 905 ARS was again reassigned a new parent wing, the 43d Air Refueling Wing at Malmstrom AFB, Montana. Again, as in 1992, the 905 ARS continued to perform refueling operations from GFAFB.

In February 1993, ACC removed the wing's nuclear mission. In turn, the wing began planning and training for its B1-B conventional bombing operations mission so it could focus on world-wide and regional threats.

Looking to the future, the US Air Force continued its worldwide restructuring process. Grand Forks AFB was identified in 1993 to become one of three super tanker bases. To accomplish this transformation, the 319th Bomb Wing was re-designated as the 319th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) and reassigned to Air Mobility Command (AMC) on 1 October 1993. The wing gained operational control of the 905 ARS and its KC-135R tankers; B1-B operations were transferred to the ACC's newly activated 319th Bomb Group at GFAFB. These operational realignments of aircraft changed the 319 ARW's mission to air refueling and airlift operations and ended its role in conventional bombing. Air Mobility Command bolstered the 319ARW's air refueling capabilities in 1994 with the transfer of the 906th Air Refueling Squadron from Minot AFB, North Dakota, and the reassignment of the 911 ARW and 912 ARW to GFAFB. With these resources in place, the 319 ARW deployed KC-135Rs to support tanker activities in Operations PROVIDE COMFORT in Turkey, SOUTHERN WATCH and VIGILANT WARRIOR in Saudi Arabia, DENY FLIGHT in Italy, UPHOLD DEMOCRACY in Haiti, and CONSTANT VIGIL in Panama between 1993 and 1995. The wing received its second Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its stellar performance during this period.

With its aerial refueling capability, the 319 ARW continued its vital role in the Air Force's "Global Reach, Global Power" mission. Throughout 1996, the wing deployed to RAF Mildenhall, England to support the European Task Force. The wing also supported the Joint Task Force Southwest Asia while deployed to Saudi Arabia and was instrumental in monitoring airspace over Bosnia-Herzegovina while deployed to Istres, France in support of Operation DECISIVE ENDEAVOR. In addition to supporting various missions in Europe and Southwest Asia during 1996, the wing also supported humanitarian missions around the globe. Personnel from the 319th Services Squadron's supported Operation SEA SIGNAL where they provided humanitarian assistance for Haitian immigrants/refugees fleeing their country's political strife and seeking political asylum in neighboring countries. In November, wing personnel deployed to support humanitarian efforts in Rwanda.

As if real-world missions were not enough, the wing participated in several operational readiness exercises in preparation of its 1996 AMC Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI). It completed its ORI in May 1996 with an "Outstanding" rating; the first "Super Tanker" base to do so. Later in the year, wing personnel participated in a large, joint American and British exercise testing the combat capabilities of over 53,000 service members from both countries.

Numerous deployments kept the 319 ARW busy in 1997. The wing once again deployed Airmen to England to support the European Tanker Task Force and to Turkey to support Operation NORTHERN WATCH.

The spring of 1997 brought an organizational change to the wing as it was realigned under the 15th Air Force. In July 1997, the wing received its third Outstanding Unit Award for outstanding performance

Beginning in 1998, the wing's 48 assigned KC-135R aircraft received upgrade avionics through the Air Force's Compass, Radar, and Global Positioning (Pacer CRAG) cockpit modification. Pacer CRAG upgrades were the most significant cockpit upgrades for KC-135s in a decade. The new avionics package eliminated the navigator from the aircraft's crew, substantially reducing the crew force across the Air Force. Later in 1998, the 321st Missile Group inactivated, ending more than 20 years of joint service between the 319th and 321st.

Wing personnel supported two major deployments toward the end of 1998: Operations DESERT FOX, a force build up in response to Iraqi hostility, and ALLIED FORCE, a NATO support operation in Kosovo to protect NATO personnel from Serbian aggression. The deployments to the Persian Gulf and Europe continued into 1999.

During the second and third quarters of 2000 the wing relocated its flying operations to MacDill AFB, FL. The temporary relocation was necessary so the base could complete a \$9 million upgrade to its runway. While at MacDill AFB, 319 ARW aircrews continued a steady flying and training schedule. Members of the 319 ARW continued to support Operations NORTHERN and SOUTHERN WATCH during 2000. Wing members also supported Operation JOINT FORGE, operating out of Istres, France, and Expeditionary Air Force Eight.

On 11 September 2001, terrorists attacked the United States using hijacked civilian airliners, turning them into suicide missiles. Airplanes struck the World Trade Center, in New York City, and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. A fourth hijacked airplane was brought down over Pennsylvania due to the actions of its crew and passengers as they thwarted hijackers' attempt to destroy another American landmark. In response to these attacks, the 319 ARW stood up a quick reaction alert force in support of homeland defense, a mission known as Operation NOBLE EAGLE (ONE). Later that month, the 319 ARW deployed aircraft and personnel in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), a mission aimed at finding and eliminating the terrorist organizations involved in the September 11th attacks. Support of all these operations continued throughout 2002.

The 319 ARW received its fourth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the time frame mid-2000 through mid-2002. This was the culmination of the wing's tremendous support for all the operations in that timeframe.

In 2002, some KC-135s received an upgrade that allowed them to refuel multiple aircraft. This upgrade, the multi-point refueling system (MPRS), allowed the KC-135s using pods attached to their wingtips to refuel Navy and NATO aircraft. MPRS allowed simultaneous refueling of Air Force aircraft during sister services and allied refueling missions. In addition to MPRS, aircraft and crews from the 319 ARW helped aircraft contractors test the Roll-on Beyond Line-of-Sight (ROBE) communications system that allowed the KC-135s to orbit and refuel over hot zones to relay information from many different sources, combine them into one stream, and upload it to

satellites eliminating line-of-sight limitations. The excellent support the contractors received from 319 ARW crews allowed them to deploy the ROBE system in October 2002, ahead of schedule.

The 319 ARW experienced a major realignment within the wing on 1 October 2002. The 319th Support Group (MSG) was redesignated the 319th Mission Support Group. The 319th Logistics Group became the 319th Maintenance Group. This realignment included the inactivation of the 319th Transportation Squadron (TRANS) and the redesignation of the 319th Supply Squadron to the 319th Logistics Readiness Squadron (LRS). The personnel from the 319 TRANS were transferred to the new LRS. The 319th Contracting Squadron and the 319 LRS were both realigned under the 319 MSG. Within the new Maintenance Group, the 319th Aircraft Generation Squadron became the 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 319th Logistics Support Squadron became the 319th Maintenance Operations Squadron.

In 2002, the 319 ARW again began to support operations in addition to ONE and OEF. Aircraft and personnel again deployed to Turkey in support of ONW. In late 2002, personnel and KC-135 aircraft were sent to support the build up for Operation Iraqi Freedom. Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) superseded ONW. In early 2003, with OIF coming to a close, 319 ARW personnel and their KC-135s returned home for a short rest period. However, the down time didn't last long. In August 2003, wing personnel participated in an AMC-directed Operational Readiness Inspection, garnering an "Excellent" rating. Finally, in an AMC realignment, the 319 ARW was transferred from 15th Air Force to 18th Air Force on 1 October 2003. As 2003 closed out, personnel from the 319 ARW supported OEF operations around the world.

During 2004 and 2005, personnel and aircraft from the 319 ARW and its subordinate units were actively engaged in supporting OPERATIONS Iraqi and Enduring Freedom in numerous locations around the globe. In late 2004, the Grand Forks AFB runway was closed for repairs. From June through November, flight operations were flown from Fargo International Airport, North Dakota and Fairchild AFB, Washington. Although temporarily relocated, all four KC-135 air refueling squadrons continued to meet all Air Force and Department of Defense missions. In addition to contingency operations support, Warriors of the North were actively supporting base operations and community events.

On 25 April 2005, President George W. Bush authorized another round of base realignments and closures (BRAC). BRAC 2005 directed the realignment of 319 ARW KC-135 aircraft to other Air Force Units. In turn, nine 319 ARW units were scheduled for realignment or inactivation by 31 December 2010. BRAC 2005 recommended Grand Forks AFB remain an active installation and be considered for future Air Force missions.

In 2006, 319 ARW units were still actively supporting OEF/OIF operations around the globe. During the period 11 to 18 June, the 319 ARW joined forces with the 60 Airlift Wing (AW) and the 446 AW and completed an ORI at Alpena CRTIC, Michigan. The ORI evaluated the combined efforts of all three units in initial response, employment, ability to operate and survive (ATSO), mission support and redeployment. The combined efforts of the three wings were rated "Excellent."

Shortly after returning from the ORI, the 319 ARW hosted “Thunder Over the Red River” air show on 22 July. This was the first air show for the base after an eight year absence. The USAF Thunderbirds were the star attraction. Approximately 40 thousand spectators witnessed the day-long event.

BRAC 2005 recommendations came to fruition in 2007. The 911 ARS was the first squadron at GFAFB affected under the auspices of the 2005 BRAC. The 911 ARS was inactivated on 30 Jun 2007. The unit inactivation marked the end of 13 years of outstanding air refueling operations at GFAFB.

Calendar year 2008 was a mirror image of 2007. The wing and its personnel actively supported OEF, other DOD-taskings, and local base support throughout the year. The 319 ARW began its preparation for a 2009 ORI during the period 8-10 December with an initial response/ATSO training event.

Much remained the same for the wing and its personnel as they started 2009. Operation Enduring Freedom still needed wing personnel and aircraft. Throughout the year, wing personnel also continued their preparation for the late-2009 ORI. It began in January as wing personnel completed three days of ATSO training. Then there was a local Operational Readiness Exercise (ORE) in March, and ORE at Alpena CRTIC, MI in May, another local ORE in July, and a second Alpena ORE in September. From 23 October through 1 November, 319 ARW personnel put their year-long training to work and completed an ORI at Alpena. Just as they did in 2006, the men and women of the 319 ARW garnered an “Excellent” rating, once again demonstrating their excellent work ethic and professionalism.

Effective 1 Oct 2009, the 906 ARS was transferred to Scott AFB, IL. The base held a mission complete ceremony for the unit on 19 June 2009 to recognize the squadron’s 15 years of outstanding air refueling operations at GFAFB.

The 319 ARW began 2010 with fewer aircraft and personnel. However, the wing was still actively engaged in world-wide and local support operations. The wing had aircraft, aircrews, and maintenance personnel supporting OEF from January through October. Support personnel supported OEF operations the entire year. In addition to meeting mission needs, the 319 ARW continued preparations for the drawdown of flying and aircraft maintenance operations and the relocation of nearly 400 personnel.

Hard work was also joined by remorse in 2010 as the 319 ARW said good-bye to the 912 ARS. On 1 October 2010, the 912 ARS was transferred to March Air Reserve Base, CA. The squadron, like its predecessor the 906 ARS, became an active duty associate unit. The base held a mission complete ceremony on 20 March 2009 to recognize the squadron’s 15 years of outstanding air refueling operations at GFAFB. Personnel throughout the base also prepared facilities and equipment for the arrival of the Global Hawk UAS mission programmed to arrive at GFAFB between 2010 and 2012.

The 319 ARW hosted the “Thunder Over the Red River” air show on 20 May. The USAF Thunderbirds were the headlining act. More than 33,000 spectators attended the air show.

A Fond Farewell to Air Refueling and Flying Operations

As 2010 came to close, so too did a long and proud history of flying and air refueling operations on Grand Forks Air Force Base. The 319 ARW and its personnel celebrated this monumental milestone and somber occasion with a “Mission Complete” ceremony on 3 December. The ceremony, officiated by General Raymond Johns, Commander, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, recognized fifty years of excellence in air refueling operations at Grand Forks Air Force Base. General Johns stated during the ceremony, "Global power is the ability to hold a targeted risk, in any part of the world, to defend our nation and our freedom. We wouldn't be able to use the word global in front of vigilance, reach and power without the tanker. This year alone, the Stratotanker has off-loaded 127 million pounds of fuel in Afghanistan alone and you helped that." On 4 Dec 2010, the last, 905 ARS-assigned KC-135 with tail number 60-0319, departed Grand Forks AFB. The aircraft, on loan to the 319 ARW, was transferred back to the 22d Air Refueling Wing at McConnell AFB, Kansas. This final departure ended 53 years of flying and fifty years of air refueling operations (for the 905 ARS) at Grand Forks AFB.



(4 Dec 11 – Colonel John M. Flynn, 319 ARW/CV, salutes Lt General Vern M. Findley II, AMC Vice Commander, as aircraft number 60-0319, the last KC-135R assigned to the 905 ARS, prepares to depart Grand Forks AFB. The transfer of aircraft 60-0319 to the 22d Air Refueling Wing, McConnell AFB, Kansas, culminated 50 years of air refueling operations at Grand Forks AFB.)

Finally, on 31 December 2010, the Air Force inactivated six operational units assigned to the base: 319th Operations and Maintenance Groups; 905 ARS; and the 319th Maintenance Operations, Aircraft Maintenance, and Maintenance Squadrons. The 319th Operations Support Squadron was realigned to the 319th Air Refueling Wing. Grand Forks AFB still operates an active runway and aircraft tower operations.

The Beginning of a New Mission

On 7 January 2011, the 319 ARW was reassigned from 18 AF to the USAF Expeditionary Center at McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst Joint Base, NJ.

On 1 March 2011 the 319th Air Refueling Wing is redesignated as the 319th Air Base Wing (ABW) and remains assigned to the USAF Expeditionary Center.

**CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS – 319TH AIR BASE WING
(1942 – 2011)**

26 Jun 1942 -- US Army Air Forces activated the 319th Bombardment Group (BG) (Medium) at Barksdale Field, Louisiana.

12 Sep 1942 -- The 319 BG, equipped with B-26 Marauders, was posted in England under the Eighth Air Force.

11 Nov 1942 -- The 319 BG transferred to Algeria to fly B-26 missions for Twelfth Air Force. It later operated from Morocco, Tunisia, Sardinia, Corsica, and Italy and flew missions against the Axis Powers.

3 Mar 1944 -- The 319 BG earned a Distinguished Unit Citation for its role in a bombing mission on Rome, Italy.

11 Mar 1944 --The 319 BG earned a second Distinguished Unit Citation for its bombing effectiveness on Florence, Italy.

ca. Nov 1944 -- The 319 BG converted to B-25 Mitchell bombers.

25 Jan 1945 -- The 319 BG return to the United States to prepare for redeployment to the Pacific theater.

2 Feb 1945-- The US Army Air Force redesignated the unit as the 319th Bombardment Group (BG) (Light) and equipped with A-26 Invaders.

2 Jul 1945 -- The 319 BG is transferred to Okinawa and flies bombing missions against Japanese targets.

18 Dec 1945 -- The 319 BG was inactivated at Fort Lewis, Washington.

27 Dec 1946 -- The 319th Bombardment Group (Light) was activated as part of the Air Force Reserve at Mitchell Field, New York and is again equipped with A-26 Invaders.

10 May 1949 -- The 319th Bombardment Wing (BMW) (Light) was established at Reading Municipal Airport, Pennsylvania.

2 Sep 1949 -- The Air Force Reserve inactivated the 319 BMW.

10 Oct 1949 -- The 319 BMW was activated as part of the AF Reserve at Birmingham Municipal Airport, Alabama equipped once more with the A-26 Invaders.

10 Mar 1951 -- The 319 BMW is ordered to active service at Birmingham. Eighteen days later the Air Force inactivates the unit.

18 May 1955 -- The Air Force activated the 319th Fighter-Bomber Wing (FBW) as part of the AF Reserve at Memphis Municipal Airport, Tennessee. The wing is equipped with F-84 Thunderjets.

16 Nov 1957 -- The 319 FBW is inactivated.

15 Nov 1962 -- The Air Force activates the newly redesignated 319th Bombardment Wing (BMW) (Heavy) at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota.

1 Feb 1963-- Strategic Air Command (SAC) realigns personnel and aircraft from the 4133d Strategic Wing to the 319 BMW. Two operational squadrons, the 46th Bomb Squadron (with B-52H aircraft) and the 905th Air Refueling Squadron (ARS) (with KC-135A aircraft) begin peacetime (quick reaction) alert missions at Grand Forks AFB.

1969 -- The 319 BMW captured five bombing awards, including the Fairchild Best Overall Bomb Unit Trophy at SAC's Proud Shield Bomb Competition.

1978 -- The 319 BMW received SAC's Omaha "Best Wing" Trophy.

1979 -- The 319 BMW received an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its duty performance from 1 Jul 1977 to 20 June 1979.

1981 -- The 319 BMW flew four B-52H bombers on a 31-hour, 15,000 mile flight from Grand Forks AFB to Egypt to participate in Exercise Bright Star 81. Bright Star tested bomber crews' ability to drop conventional bombs on a simulated runway target.

1983 -- The 319 BMW changed from B-52H to B-52G bombers.

1987 -- The 319 BMW changed from B-52G to B-1B Lancers. The Wing's KC-135A aircraft were upgraded to KC-135R models.

Dec 1989 -- The 319 BMW flew KC-135R air-to-air refueling missions supporting Operation JUST CAUSE, America's invasion of Panama.

Aug 1990 to Jan 1991 -- The 319 BMW flew KC-135R air-to-air refueling missions supporting Operation Desert Shield, a United Nations military buildup in Southwest Asia after Iraq invades and occupies its neighbor Kuwait.

Jan 1991 to Feb 1991 -- The wing flew KC-135R air-to-air refueling missions supporting Operation Desert Shield, a United Nations mandate authorizing military force to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

9 Jul 1991 -- The 319 BMW becomes the host unit at Grand Forks AFB.

1 Sep 1991 -- SAC predestinates the 319 BMW as the 319th Wing (WG).

28 Sep 1991 -- The 319 WG stands down its peace-time quick reaction force.

28 - 29 Feb 1992 -- B1-Bs assigned to the 319th Wing broke 11 time-to-climb world records.

18 Mar 1992 -- Unit B-1Bs set a twelfth time-to-climb world record.

1 Jun 1992 -- The Air Force redesignated the 319th Wing as the 319th Bomb Wing and assigned it to the newly established Air Combat Command (ACC). The 905 ARS is reassigned to the 305th Operations Group at Grissom AFB, Indiana.

1 Feb 1993 -- Air Combat Command changed the 319th Bomb Wing's (BW) primary mission to conventional bombardment operations.

1 Oct 1993 -- The 319 BW is redesignated the 319th Air Refueling Wing (ARW) and realigned to the Air Mobility Command (AMC). The 319 ARW gains the 905 ARS and associated KC-135s under its headquarters. The B-1Bs formerly assigned to the 319 BW are transferred to ACC's new 319th Bomb Group established at Grand Forks AFB.

Jan - Apr 1994 -- The 905 ARS deployed to Pisa, Italy to support Operation DENY FLIGHT, NATO's mission of enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1 Feb 1994 -- The 906 ARS at Minot AFB, ND is transferred to the 319 ARW at Grand Forks AFB.

29 Apr 1994 -- The 319 ARW acquires the 911 ARS, giving the Wing a total of three tanker squadrons at Grand Forks AFB.

Jul to Nov 1994 -- The 905 ARS and 906 ARS deployed to Riyadh Air Base (AB), Saudi Arabia, to support Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (OSW), the United Nations coalition forces enforcement of a no-fly zone over southern Iraq.

Sep 1994 -- The 319 ARW supported Operation UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, the restoration of democracy to Haiti.

Oct 1994 -- The 319 ARW supported Operation VIGILANT WARRIOR, deploying unit personnel to Southwest Asia to deter an Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Nov -Dec 1994 -- The 906 ARS deployed to Pisa, IT and Istres, FR to support Operation DENY FLIGHT.

1995 -- The 319 ARW received its second AFOUA for its performance of duty from 1 Oct 1993 to 30 Jun 1995.

Jan 1995 -- 905 ARS personnel and aircraft deployed to Pisa, IT and Istres, FR to support Operation DENY FLIGHT.

Jan to Feb 1995 -- 911 ARS personnel and aircraft deployed to Riyadh AB, Saudi Arabia, supporting OSW.

Jan to Apr 1995 -- The 906 ARS supported Operation CONSTANT VIGIL, an anti-drug trafficking operation from Tucuman International Airport in Panama City, Panama.

Feb to Apr 1995-- 912 ARS personnel and aircraft deployed to Riyadh AB, Saudi Arabia to support OSW.

Nov to Dec 1995 -- 911 ARS personnel and aircraft deployed to Howard AFB, Panama, supporting Operation CONSTANT VIGIL.

Jan 1996 -- 319th Services Squadron (SVS) personnel deployed to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in support of Operation SEA SIGNAL, a humanitarian assistance mission to Haitian refugees.

1 Mar 1966 -- The 319th Comptroller Squadron is activated.

22 Mar 1966 -- GFAFB won the North Dakota Waste Education and Recycling Award, the AMC Recycling Program of the Year Award, and the Air Force Recycling Individual Excellence Award.

Mar to Aug 1966 -- 319 ARW personnel deployed to Istres, France in support of Operation DECISIVE ENDEAVOR, NATO's mission to monitor flying activities in the airspace over Bosnia-Herzegovina.

3 May 1996 -- Grand Forks AFB received the White House's "Closing the Circle Award" for its recycling programs.

24 May 1996 -- The 319 ARW received an "Outstanding" rating for its performance during an AMC-directed operational readiness inspection (ORI); the first super core tanker wing to perform such a feat.

21 Jun 1996 -- The 911 ARS received AMC's General Carl Spaatz Trophy for best air refueling squadron for 1995; GFAFB received the Environmental Protection Agency's Outstanding Achievement Award for pollution prevention, waste minimization and recycling.

Jun to Dec 1996 -- 319 ARW personnel participated in Joint Task Force Southwest Asia (from Saudi Arabia), where they helped monitor the no-fly zone over Iraq.

22 Nov 1996 -- 319 ARW deployed to Africa to support humanitarian relief efforts for Rwandan refugees.

24 Jan 1997 -- GFAFB received the Presidential Hammer Award for its base recycling programs.

31 Jan 1997 -- 319 ARW personnel deployed to Duluth, MN to support an Air National Guard F-16 crash investigation.

28 Mar 1997-- 912 ARS and 319th Aircraft Generation Squadron (AGS) personnel deployed to Howard AFB, Panama, in support of Operation CONSTANT VIGIL.

1 Apr 1997 -- The 319 ARW is realigned from 21st Air Force to 15th Air Force.

Jul 1997 -- The 319 ARW received its third AF Outstanding Unit Award for its performance from 1 July 1995 to 30 June 1997.

1 Jul 1997 -- The 319 Security Police Squadron (SPS) is redesignated the 319th Security Forces Squadron.

1 Aug 1997 -- 911 ARS and 319 AGS personnel deployed to Incirlik AB, Turkey, in support of Operation NORTHERN WATCH (ONW).

12 Dec 1997 -- 319 ARW personnel supported Operation PHOENIX SCORPION (from Saudi Arabia) in response to renewed Iraqi aggression.

1998 -- 319 ARW personnel and aircraft supported world-wide operations: NORTHERN WATCH in Turkey; SOUTHERN WATCH and PHOENIX SCORPION II in Saudi Arabia; CONSTANT VIGIL in Panama; and PHOENIX DUKE in Sicily.

29 May 1998 -- The 791st Missile Maintenance Squadron (MMS) is constituted as a tenant unit of the 319 ARW; to maintain missile launch and alert facilities in eastern North Dakota.

5 Jun 1998 -- the 905 ARS awarded AMC's General Carl Spaatz Trophy as the best refueling squadron for 1997.

30 Aug 1998 -- 319 ARW hosted the Friend and Neighbors Day air show; 70,000 people visited the base to watch the Air Force Thunderbirds and the Army Golden Knights demonstrations.

25 Sep 1988 -- The 319 ARW received Pacer CRAG (Compass, Radar, and Global Positioning System) modified KC-135s. The upgraded cockpit navigation system brought the aircraft in line with commercial standards of air navigation.

12 Nov 1998 -- 319 ARW members deployed to Southwest Asia to support a US forces build-up to counter renewed Iraqi aggression.

1 Dec 1998 -- The 791 MMS changes its mission to missile silo dismantlement.

12 Dec 1998 -- A 319 ARW Pacer CRAG aircraft was the first modified KC-135 to off-load fuel on an overseas mission.

1999 -- 319 ARW personnel and aircraft were constantly deployed to support world-wide missions: SOUTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia; JOINT FORGE in France; PHOENIX DUKE,

PHOENIX DUKE II, and PHOENIX BANNER in Spain. It also supported Operations ALLIED FORCE and JOINT GUARDIAN in Spain, Italy and England.

6 Oct 1999 -- The first missile silo in North Dakota (assigned to GF AFB) was imploded in accordance with Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).

2000 -- As the 21st century dawned, 319 ARW personnel and aircraft were fully engaged in world-wide missions: Operations SOUTHERN and NORTHERN WATCH in Saudi Arabia, NORTHERN WATCH in Turkey, and JOINT FORGE in France.

Jun to Aug 2000 -- 319 ARW refueling operations temporarily moved to MacDill AFB, Florida, while the runway at Grand Forks AFB closed for repairs.

6 Jul 2000 -- The 319th Dental Squadron inactivated. The 319th Aerospace Medicine Squadron was redesignated the 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron.

14 Jul 2000 -- The 791 MMS inactivated. It was instrumental in the dismantling of 100 launch facilities and ten missile alert facilities in 13 months.

24 Aug 2001 -- The last US (and GFAFB-assigned) missile silo was imploded in accordance with the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

11 Sep 2001 -- Terrorists, using commercial aircraft as bombs, attack the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. A fourth aircraft attack is foiled by its crew and passengers and crashes in a vacant field in Pennsylvania. GFAFB's KC-135R/T aircraft are placed on quick-reaction alert in support of America's Homeland Defense, a mission named Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

Sep 2001-- 319 ARW personnel and aircraft deploy to Southwest Asia to support Operation ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF), the military build-up of forces to prosecute the enablers of September 11, 2001 – America's War on Terror.

2002 -- A number of GFAFB KC-135s receive the multi-point refueling system (MPRS) that allowed the aircraft to refuel multiple receivers from wing-tip pods as well as refueling aircraft from an extended boom; Aircraft and crews were also instrumental in the test phase of the Roll-on Beyond Line-of-Sight (ROBE) communications system.

2002 -- The 319 ARW received its fourth AFOUA for outstanding performance for the period July 2000 to June 2002

Jan to Apr 2003 -- 319 ARW personnel and aircraft with the new MPRS deployed in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF), America's invasion of Iraq.

Aug 2003-- The 319 ARW received an "Excellent" rating for its participation in an AMC Operational Readiness Inspection.

1 Oct 2003 -- The 319 ARW is transferred from 15th Air Force to 18th Air Force.

2003 -- 319 ARW personnel and aircraft are continuously deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan in support of OEF and OIF.

Jun 2006 -- 319 ARW personnel, with partners from the 60 AW and 446 AW, participated in an ORI at Alpena CRTC, MI. The 319 ARW received an “Excellent” rating for its participation in final

Jun 2006 -- Flying operations are temporarily relocated to Fargo IAP, ND and Fairchild AFB, WA due to runway repairs. The runway reopened in November and flying operations returned to the base at that time.

22 Jul 2006 -- The 319 ARW hosts the “Thunder over the Red River” air show. The USAF Thunderbirds were the highlight of the event. Approximately 40 thousand spectators attended the air show.

30 Jun 2007 -- The 911 ARS is inactivated.

1 Oct 2009 -- The 906 ARS is transferred to the Air National Guard as an active associate squadron.

1 Nov 2009 -- 319 ARW personnel complete an ORI at Alpena CRTC, MI. The wing received an overall “Excellent” rating for its participation in five graded areas.

Jan 2010 -- Preparations for the final drawdown of air refueling operations are on-going. Additionally, the base continued a myriad of actions in its preparations for the arrival of personnel and UAS aircraft that would be assigned to the 9 RW’s Det 1.

20 May 2010 -- The 319 ARW hosts the “Thunder over the Red River” air show. The USAF Thunderbirds were the highlight of the event. Approximately 33 thousand spectators attended the air show.

1 Oct 2010 -- The 912 ARS is transferred to the Air Force Reserve as an active associate squadron.

3 Dec 2010 -- General Raymond Johns, AMC Commander, presided over the Wing’s “Mission Complete” ceremony that recognized the culmination of 50 years of air refueling and 53 years of flying operations at Grand Forks AFB. General Johns lauded the men and women (past and present) of the 319 OG and MXG and their outstanding contributions to the War on Terror and other contingency operations during the 53 years of flying operations.

4 Dec 2010 -- The last KC-135 aircraft, tail number 60-0319, assigned to the 319 ARW departs GFAFB enroute for McConnell AFB, KS. Aircraft 60-0319, on loan to the 319 ARW, is transferred back to the 22d ARW. This final KC-135 flight marked the end of 50 years of 905 ARS air refueling operations at the base and the culmination of 53 years of flying operations that began in 1957.

31 Dec 2010 -- The 319th Operations (OG) and Maintenance (MX) Groups and their subordinate squadrons (905 ARS, 319 AMXS, 319 MOS, and 319 MXS) are inactivated. The 319 OSS, previously aligned under the 319 OG, is realigned under the 319 ARW.

7 Jan 2011-- The 319 ARW is reassigned from 18th Air Force to the USAF Expeditionary Center.

1 Mar 2011 -- The 319 ARW is redesignated the 319th Air Base Wing (ABW) with continued assignment to the USAF Expeditionary Center.

LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE 319th AIR BASE WING

LINEAGE

Constituted as the 319th Bombardment Group (Medium) on 19 June 1942
Activated on 26 June 1942
Redesignated the 319th Bombardment Group (Light) on 2 February 1945
Inactivated on 18 December 1945
Activated in the Reserve on 27 December 1946
Established as 319th Bombardment Wing (Light) 10 May 1949
Activated in the Air Force Reserve on 27 June 1949
Inactivated on 2 Sep 1949
Activated in the Air Force Reserve On 10 October 1949
Ordered to Active Service on 10 March 1951
Inactivated on 28 March 1951
Redesignated as 319th Fighter-Bomber Wing on 12 April 1955
Activated in the Air Force Reserve on 18 May 1955
Inactivated on 16 November 1957
Redesignated and activated as 319th Bombardment Wing (Heavy) on 15 November 1962
Organized on 1 February 1963
Redesignated as 319th Wing on 1 September 1991
Redesignated as 319th Bomb Wing on 1 June 1992
Redesignated as 319th Air Refueling Wing on 1 October 1993
Redesignated as 319th Air Base Wing on 1 March 2011

319 ABW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

ASSIGNED AIRCRAFT

319th Bombardment Group

Martin B-26 Marauder	1942 – 1944
North American B-25 Mitchel	1944
Douglas A-26 Invader	1945

319th Bombardment Wing

Douglas A-26 Invader	1949 – 1951
AT-6	1949 – 1951
AT-7	1949 – 1951

319th Fighter-Bomber Wing

Republic F-84 Thunderjet	1955 – 1957
Lockheed T-33 Thunderbird	1955 – 1957
North American F-86 Sabre	1957

319th Bombardment Wing

Boeing B-52H Stratofortress	1963 – 1983
Boeing KC-135A Stratotanker	1963 – 1987
Boeing B-52G Stratofortress	1983 – 1986
Boeing KC-135R Stratotanker	1987 – 1992
Rockwell B-1B Lancer	1987 – 1993

319th Air Refueling Wing

Beechcraft C-12F Huron	1993 – 1995
Boeing KC-135R/T Stratotanker	1993 – 4 Dec 2010

319 ABW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

ASSIGNMENTS

319th Bombardment Group

Eighth Air Force	26 Jun 1942 - 13 Sep 1942
XII Bomber Command	14 Sep - May 1943
47th Bombardment Wing	Jun 1943 - 6 Jun 1943
2686th Medium Bombardment Wing (Provisional)	7 Jun 1943 - 23 Aug 1943
42d Bombardment Wing	24 Aug 1943 - 9 Nov 1944
57th Bombardment Wing	10 Nov 1944 - 31 Dec 1944
VII Bomber Command	27 Dec 1946 - 26 Jun 1949

319th Bombardment Wing

Ninth Air Force	27 Jun 1949 - 2 Sep 1948
Fourteenth Air Force	10 Oct 1949 - 28 Mar 1951

319th Fighter-Bomber Wing

Fourteenth Air Force	18 May 1955 - 16 Nov 1957
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319th Bombardment Wing

Strategic Air Command	15 Nov 1962 - 31 Jan 1963
810th Strategic Aerospace Division	1 Feb 1963 - 31 Sep 1964
4th Strategic Aerospace Division	1 Sep 1964 - 29 Jun 1971
47th Air Division	30 Jun 1971 - 14 Jan 1973
4th Strategic Missile (later, Air) Division	15 Jan 1973 - 21 Jan 1975
57th Air Division	22 Jan 1975 - c. Apr 1982
4th Air Division	c. Apr 1982 - 22 Jan 1987
57th Air Division	23 Jan 1987 - 15 Jun 1988
42d Air Division	16 Jun 1988 - 8 Jul 1991

319th Wing/Bomb Wing

Eighth Air Force	9 Jul 1991 - 30 Sep 1993
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319th Air Refueling Wing

Twenty-First Air Force	1 Oct 1993 - 30 Mar 1997
Fifteenth Air Force	1 Apr 1997 - 30 Sep 2003
Eighteenth Air Force	1 Oct 2003 - 6 Jan 2011
USAF Expeditionary Center	7 Jan 2011 - 28 Feb 2011

319th Air Base Wing

USAF Expeditionary Center

1 Mar 2011 – Present

319 ABW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

STATIONS

319th Bombardment Group

Barksdale Field, Shreveport, Louisiana	26 Jun 1942 - 7 Aug 1942
Harding Field, Baton Rouge, Louisiana	8 Aug 1942 - 21 Sep 1942
RAF Shipdham, England	22 Sep 3 Oct 1942
RAF Horsham St Faith, England	4 Oct 1942 - 22 Oct 1942
St Leu Airdrome, Algeria	11 Nov 1942 - 13 Nov 1942
Tafaraoui Airdrome, Algeria	14 No1942 - 23 Nov 1942
Maison Blanche Airdrome, Algeria	24 Nov 1942 - 11 Dec 1942
Telergma Airdrome, Algeria	12 Dec 1942 - 30 Dec1942
Oujda, French Morocco Mar	1943 - 24 Apr 1943
Rabat Sale, French Morocco	25 Apr 1943 - 31 May 1943
Sedrata, Algeria	1 Jun 1943 - 25 Jun 1943
Djedeida Airdrome, Tunisia	26 Jun 19439 Nov 1943
Decimomannu Airdrome, Sardinia	10 Nov 1943 - 20 Sep 1944
Serragia Airdrome, Corsica	21 Sep 1944 - 9 Jan 1945
Naples, Italy	9 Jan 1945 - 15 Jan 1
Bradley Field, Connecticut	25 Jan 1945 - 27 Feb 1945
Columbia Army Air Base, South Carolina	28 Feb 1945 - 27 Apr 1945
Kadena Airdrome, Okinawa	6 Jul 19 - 24 Jul 1945
Machinato Airdrome, Okinawa	24 Jul 1945 - 8 Sep 1945
Fort Lewis, Washington	17 Dec 1945 - 18 Dec 1945
Mitchell Field, New York	27 Dec 1946 – 26 Jun 1949

319th Bombardment Wing

Reading Municipal Airport, Pennsylvania	27 Jun 1949 – 2 Sep 1949
Birmingham Municipal Airport, Alabama	10 Oct 1949 – 28 Mar 1951

319th Fighter-Bomber Wing

Memphis Municipal Airport, Tennessee	18 May 1949 – 16 Nov 1957
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319th Bombardment Wing/319th Wing/ Bomb Wing/319th Air Refueling Wing/ 319th Air Base Wing

Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota	1 Feb 1963 - present
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319 ABW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

Currently Assigned Units

319th Air Base Wing	1Feb 1963 - present
319th Comptroller Squadron	1Mar 1996 - present
319th Operations Support Squadron	1Sep 1991 - present
319th Mission Support Group	1 Oct 2002 - present
319th Communications Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - present
319th Civil Engineer Squadron	1 Mar 1994 - present
319th Security Forces Squadron	1 Jul 1997 - present
319th Contracting Flight	31 Jan 1992 - present
319th Logistics Readiness Squadron	1 Oct 2002 - present
319th Force Support Squadron	8 May - present
319th Medical Group	1 Sep 1991 - present
319th Medical Support Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - present
319th Medical Operations Squadron	1 Oct 1994 - present

319 ARW Lineage and Honors Data (Continued)

PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED UNITS

Operational Components

319th Bombardment Group (Light)	27 Jun 1947 - 2 Sep 1949
319th Bombardment Group (Light)	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
319th Fighter-Bomber Group	18 May 1- 16 Nov 1957
46th Bombardment Squadron (Light)	16 Apr 1947 - 2 Sep 1949
46th Bombardment Squadron (Light)	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
46th Fighter-Bomber Squadron	18 May 1955 - 16 Nov 1957
46th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy)	1 Feb 1963 - 31 Aug 1991
46th Bomb Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 1 Oct 1993
50th Bombardment Squadron (Light)	16 Apr 1947 - 2 Sep 1949
50th Bombardment Squadron (Light)	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
50th Fighter-Bomber Squadron	8 Jun 1957 - 16 Nov 1957 5
1st Bombardment Squadron (Light)	9 Jul 1947 - 2 Sep 1949
51st Bombardment Squadron (Light)	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
59th Bombardment Squadron (Light)	9 Jul 1947Sep 1949
59th Bombardment Squadron (Light)	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
437th Bombardment Squadron (Medium)	26 Jun 1942 - 17 Dec 1945
438th Bombardment Squadron (Medium)	26 Jun 1942 - 13 Dec 1945
439th Bombardment Squadron (Medium)	26 Jun 1942 - 17 Dec 1945
440th Bombardment Squadron (Medium)	26 Jun 1942 - 17 Dec 1945
905th Air Refueling Squadron (Heavy)	1 Feb 1963 - 31 Aug 1991
905 th Air Refueling Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 31 May 1992
319th Operations Group	1Sep 1991 - 31 Dec 2010
905th Air Refueling Squadron	1 Oct 1993 - 31 Dec 2010
906th Air Refueling Squadron	1 Feb 1994 - 1 Oct 2009
911th Air Refueling Squadron	29 Apr 1994 - 30 Jun 2007
912th Air Refueling Squadron	1 Apr 1994 - 1Oct 2010

Support Units

319th Air Base Group	27 Jun 1949 - 2 Sep 1949
319th Air Base Group	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
319th Air Base Group	18 May 1955 - 16 Nov 1957
319th Combat Support Group	1 Jul 1963 - 1 Nov 1964
319th Support Group	1 Sep 1991 - 30 Sep 2002
319 th Maintenance and Supply Group	27 Jun 1949 - 2 Sep 1949
319th Maintenance and Supply Group	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
319th Maintenance and Supply Group	1May 1955 - 16 Nov 1957
319th Logistics Group	1 Sep 1991 - 30 Sep 2002
319th Medical Group	27 Jun 1949 - 2 Sep 1949
319th Medical Group	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951

319th Tactical Hospital	18 May 1955 - 16 Nov 1957
319th Aerospace Medicine Squadron	1 Oct 1994 - 6 July 2000
319th Airborne Missile Maintenance Squadron	1 Feb 1963 - 30 Jun 1974
319th Armament and Electronics Squadron	1 Feb 1963 - 11969
319th Avionics Maintenance Squadron	2 Apr 1969 - 31 Mar 1991
319th Civil Engineering Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 28 Feb 1994
319th Combat Defense Squadron	1 Feb 1963 - 1 Jul 1963
319th Security Police Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 30 Jun 199
319th Comptroller Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 1 Jul 1994
319th Dental Squadron	1 Oct 1994 - 6 July 2000
319th Logistics Support Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 30 Sep 2002
319th Maintenance Squadron	27 Jun 1949 - 2 Sep 1949
319th Maintenance Squadron	10 Oct 1949 - 22 Mar 1951
319th Field Maintenance Squadron	18 May 1955 - 15 Nov 1957
319th Field Maintenance Squadron	1 Feb 1963 - 29 Apr 1992
319th Maintenance Squadron	30 Apr 1992 - 1 Oct 1993
319th Maintenance Squadron, (Provisional)	1 Oct 1993 - Jun 1994
319th Munitions Maintenance Squadron	1 Oct 1972 - 30 Apr 1992
319th Organizational Maintenance Squadron	1 Feb 1963 - 30 Apr 1992
319th Aircraft Generation Squadron	1 May 1995 - 30 Sep 2002
319th Services Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 3 Sep 1992
319th Morale, Welfare, Recreation and Services Squadron	4 Sep 1992 - 28 Feb 1994
319th Supply Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 30 Sep 2002
319th Transportation Squadron	1 Sep 1991 - 30 Sep 2002
59th Munitions Maintenance Squadron	1 Feb 1963 - 30 Sep 1972
804th Medical Group	1 Jul 1963 - 1 Nov 1964
804th Combat Support Group	19 Aug 1964 - 31 Jul 1972
842d Combat Support Group	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Security Police Group	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Strategic Hospital	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Civil Engineering Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Comptroller Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Missile Security Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Mission Support Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Security Police Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Services Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Supply Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Transportation Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
842d Missile Security Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
2152d Communications Squadron	9 Jul 1991 - 31 Aug 1991
319th Maintenance Group	1 Oct 2002 - 31 Dec 2010
319th Maintenance Operations Squadron	1 Oct 2002 - 31 Dec 2010
319th Maintenance Squadron	1 Jun 1994 - 31 Dec 2010
319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron	1 Oct 2002 - 31 Dec 2010
319th Services Squadron	1 Jan 1994 - 30 May 2008

319th Mission Support Squadron
319th Aerospace Medicine Squadron

1 Sep 1991 - 30 May 2008
6 July 2000 - 10 Sep 2008

319 ARW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

Commanders

319th Bombardment Group

Lt Col Alvord G. Rutherford	26 Jun 1942 - 12 Nov 1942
Maj David M. Jones	20 Nov 1942 - 26 Nov 1942
Lt Col Sam W. Agee Jr.	27 Nov 1942 - 4 Dec 1942
Maj Joseph A. Cunningham	5 Dec 1942 - 10 Jan 1943
Lt Col Wilbur W. Aring	11 Jan 1943 - 5 Jul 1943
Col Gordon H. Austin	6 Aug 1943 - 12 Aug 1943
Col Joseph R Holzapple	13 Aug 1943 - 18 Dec 1945

319th Bombardment Wing/Wing/Bomb Wing

None (unit not manned)	27 Jun 1949 - 2 Sep 1949
Brig Gen Henry L. Badham, Jr.	1 Oct 1949 - 13 Mar 1951
Col Wilson R. Wood	14 Mar 1951 - 28 Mar 1951
Brig Gen William F. Fry	18 May 1955 - 1 Apr 1956
Col Van D. Dowda	2 Apr 1956 - 4 Jul 1956
Col William J. Johnson, Jr.	5 Jul 1956 - 16 Nov 1957
None (unit not manned)	15 Nov 1962 - 31 Jan 1963
Col Allen B. Rowlett	1 Feb 1963 - 22 Sep 1963
Col Pete C. Sianus	23 Sep 1963 - 1 Mar 1965
Col Robert J. Ray	2 Mar 1965 - 13 Apr 1965
Col George H. McKee	14 Apr 1965 - 17 May 1966
Col William H. Cooper	18 May 1966 - 31 May 1967
Col Keith A. Whitaker	1 Jun 1967 - 19 Jan 1968
Col Lawrence W. Steinkraus	20 Jan 1968 - 3 Aug 1968
Col Samuel G. Taylor, Jr.	4 Aug 1968 - 3 Aug 1970
Col Robert C. Glenn	4 Aug 1970 - 16 Jun 1971
Col Lee R. Senter	17 Jun 1971 - May 1973
Col George D. Moore, Jr.	9 May 1973 - 23 May 1974
Col Burr V. Miller, Jr.	24 May 1974 - 5 May 1975
Col Donald D. Johnson, Jr.	6 May 1975 - 3 Apr 1977
Col John A. Brashear	4 Apr 1977 - 23 Aug 1978
Brig Gen Walter H. Poore	24 Aug 1978 - 19 May 1980
Col Wayne O. Jefferson, Jr.	20 May 1980 - 11 Aug 1981
Col Paul A. Maye	12 Aug 1981 - 7 Jul 1982
Col John S. Fairfield	8 Jul 1982 - 15 Feb 1984
Col Charles Kucere	16 Feb 1984 - 28 May 1985
Col John T. Jaeckle	29 May 1985 - 21 Jan 1987
Col Jerrold P. Allen	22 Jan 1987 - 9 May 1988
Col Robert Muldrow	10 May 1988 - 30 May 1989
Col Harvard L. Lomax	31 May 1989 - 19 Nov 1990

Col Joseph C. Kinego
Maj Gen Douglas K. Mang

20 Nov 1990 - 24 Nov 1991
14 Jul 1993 - 30 Sep 1993

319th Air Refueling Wing

Brig Gen James E. Andrews
Brig Gen Kenneth W. Hess
Brig Gen James A. Hawkins
Col Vern M. Findley
Col David S. Gray
Col Marshall K. Sabol
Col Mark F. Ramsay
Col William J. Bender
Col Diane R. Hull
Col John E. Michel
Col Donald L. Shaffer

1 Oct 1993 - 19 Nov 1995
20 Nov 1995 - 7 Jul 1997
8 Jul 1997 - 4 Jan 1999
5 Jan 1999 - 12 Mar 2000
13 Mar 2000 - 17 Sep 2001
18 Sep 2001 - 2 Sep 2003
3 Sep 2003 - 28 Mar 2005
29 Mar 2005 - 10 Jul 2006
11 Jul 2006 - 8 Jul 2008
9 Jul 2008 - 12 Nov 2009
13 Nov 2009 - 28 Feb 2011

319th Air Base Wing

Col Donald L. Shaffer

1 Mar 2011 - present

319 ARW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Campaign Streamers:

Air Combat, Europe-Africa-Middle	Rome-Arno
East Theater	Southern France
Algeria-French Morocco	North Apennines
Tunisia	Air Offensive, Japan
Sicily	Ryukyus
Naples-Foggia	China Offensive
Anzio	

Decorations:

Distinguished Unit Citation: Rome, Italy	3 March 1944
Distinguished Unit Citation: Florence, Italy	11 March 1944
French Croix de Guerre with Palm	April, May and June 1944
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 1977 - 30 June 1979
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 October 1993 - 30 June 1995
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 1995 - 30 June 1997
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 2000 - 30 June 2002
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 2002 - 30 June 2004
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 2004 - 30 Jun 2005
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 2005 - 30 June 2006
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007
Air Force Outstanding Unit Award	1 July 2007 - 30 June 2009

Proud Shield: Bombing and Navigation Competition Awards:

1969 - Fairchild Best Overall Bombardment Unit Trophy
1969 - Holloway Best Bombardment Unit, Navigation Trophy
1969 - Best Unit, Bombing Trophy
1969 - Best Crew, Bombing and Navigation
1969 - Best Unit, Bombing and Navigation (Single Mission)
1978 - Dougherty SRAM Trophy
1980 - Mathis Best Combined Score, High and Low Level Bombing Trophy
1982 - Bartsch ECM Trophy
1985 - Dougherty SRAM Trophy
1985 - Davis Most Improved Unit Trophy
1986 - Bartsch ECM Trophy
1989 - Dougherty SRAM Trophy
1989 - Davis Most Improved Unit Trophy
1989 - Best B-1B Crew
1992 - Meyer Best KC-135 Air Refueling and Orbit Exercise Trophy
1992 - Whitlock Best B-1B ECM Trophy

Giant Sword: Combat Weapons Loading Competition Awards:

1977 - Best Combined Load Crew
1985 - Best ALCM Load Crew
1989 - Best SRAM Load Crew
1989 – Best Overall B-1B Base

Air Refueling Awards and Trophies:

1995 - Air Force Outstanding Air Refueling Award
1995 - Air Mobility Command Spaatz Trophy for Best Air Refueling Squadron (911 ARS)
1996 - Best Tug/Trailer Pallet Load Team (Rodeo)
1997 - Air Force Doolittle Trophy
1997 - Air Force Mackay Trophy- Air Force Hoyt Award
1997 - Air Mobility Command Spaatz Trophy for Best Air Refueling Squadron (905 ARS)
1998 - Air Force Vern Orr Award
1998 - Air Mobility Command Spaatz Trophy for Best Air Refueling Squadron
1998 - Air Mobility Command Rodeo - Best Aerial Refueling Team and Best KC-135 Aircrew
2003 - Air Mobility Command Spaatz Trophy for Best Air Refueling Squadron (906 ARS)
2005 - Air Mobility Command Rodeo – Best Tanker Air Refueling Crew and Best A/R Team in General

Environmental Awards:

1995 - White House Closing the Circle Award
1995 – Environmental Protection Agency’s Outstanding Achievement Award, Pollution Prevention
1995 - Air Force Environmental Recycling Award
1998 - Presidential Hammer Award, Base Recycling Program
1999 - Secretary of Defense Environmental Recycling Award, Non-industrial
1999 - Air Force Thomas D. While Recycling Award, Non-industrial category
2000 - White House Closing the Circle Award; Model Facility Demonstration
2001 – Air Force General Edwin W. Rawlings Award for Environmental Excellence

Miscellaneous Awards:

1970 - British Royal Air Force Blue Steel Trophy
1975 - Best in the Strategic Air Command
1978 - Omaha Trophy (Strategic Air Command)
1982 - Best AFK in US Air Force
1996 - Air Force Outstanding Mission Support Squadron
1997 - Air Force Outstanding Comptroller Squadron
1 Jul 98 -30 Jun 00 - Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for the 319th Logistics Group, 319th Medical Group, 319th Support Group, 319th Comptrollers Squadron and 905th Air Refueling Squadron
2002 – Solano Trophy; Best Active Duty Wing in 15th Air Force
2000, 2001, 2005, 2007- AMC Major General Eugene L. Eubank Award
2005 – Abilene Trophy

319 ARW Lineage and Honors (Continued)

World Records:

B-1B Time-to-Climb (28-29 February 1992)

Weight Category (lbs)	Altitude (ft)	Time-to-Climb
215,000	10,000	1 minute, 13 seconds
215,000	20,000	1 minute, 42 seconds
215,000	30,000	2 minutes, 11 seconds
215,000	40,000	5 minutes, 1 second
225,000	10,000	1 minute, 19 seconds
225,000	20,000	1 minute, 55 seconds
225,000	30,000	2 minutes, 23 seconds
225,000	40,000	6 minutes, 9 seconds
335,000	10,000	1 minute, 59 seconds
335,000	20,000	2 minutes, 39 seconds
335,000	30,000	3 minutes, 47 seconds

B-1B Time-to-Climb (18 March 1992)

Weight Category (lbs)	Altitude (ft)	Time-to-Climb
335,000	30,000	3 minutes, 47 seconds

319th Air Base Wing Emblem



Emblem Significance: Blue and yellow are the colors of the Air Force. The mailed fist indicates the 319th Air Refueling Wing's part in "power for peace." The torch, held high with its brightly burning flame, signifies the readiness and ability of the wing to fulfill its mission in peace or war. The blue background alludes to the skies, the primary theater of operations.

Motto: Defensores Libertatis (Defenders of Freedom)