



# FACT SHEET

## U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet 171<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Squadron

Operating from Selfridge Air National Guard Base and flying the KC-135T Stratotanker, the 171<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Squadron provides global reach for the deployment of U.S. air power. The squadron has deployed Airmen and aircraft to locations around the globe on an ongoing basis since it began operating the KC-135 in April 2008.

A component of the 127<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Group and 127<sup>th</sup> Wing, the squadron is a part of the Michigan Air National Guard, supporting the mission of the Air Mobility Command. To accomplish its mission, the squadron works closely with the 191<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Squadron, the 191<sup>st</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 191<sup>st</sup> Maintenance Operations and Operations Support flights.



### Deployments

Recent major deployments by the 171<sup>st</sup> ARS and supporting units include:

- 2011-present: A series of ongoing, rolling mobilizations in support of Central Command
- 2010-present: Deployments in support of Pacific Air Command
- 2009-present: Deployments in support of Mobility Command's Tanker Airlift Control Center (TACC), including aeromedical evacuation duty.
- 2011: Operation Odyssey Dawn (Libya)

### History

Prior to taking on the KC-135 mission, the 171<sup>st</sup> ARS was known as the 127th Airlift Squadron and flew C-130 Hercules tactical cargo aircraft for about 15 years. The unit's final major deployment with the C-130 came when most of the squadron spent the last six months of 2006 in Afghanistan.

The 171st ARS traces its history back to World War II. In 1943, the 374th Fighter Squadron was created to fly the P-47 Thunderbolt in the European Command. In 1946, after the conclusion of the war, the unit was redesignated as the 171st and assigned to the Michigan Air National Guard. In the 1970s, operating as a Fighter Interceptor squadron, the unit flew the F-106 Delta Dart and picked up a distinctive nickname - the Michigan Six-Pack. The 171st flew fighter aircraft from the time of the unit's inception through 1994, when it made the transition to the C-130. The Six-Pack nickname - and the unit's black and yellow checkerboard tail markings - continue to be used by the Michigan ANG at Selfridge and can be seen in a distinctive design on the KC-135s stationed at the base.

The unit's aircraft, the KC-135 "T" model, is distinct in that it is capable of carrying two different types of fuel, the JP-8 used by the KC-135 and either additional JP-8 to transfer to a receiving aircraft or a different type of fuel, such as a synthetic blend, for transfer.