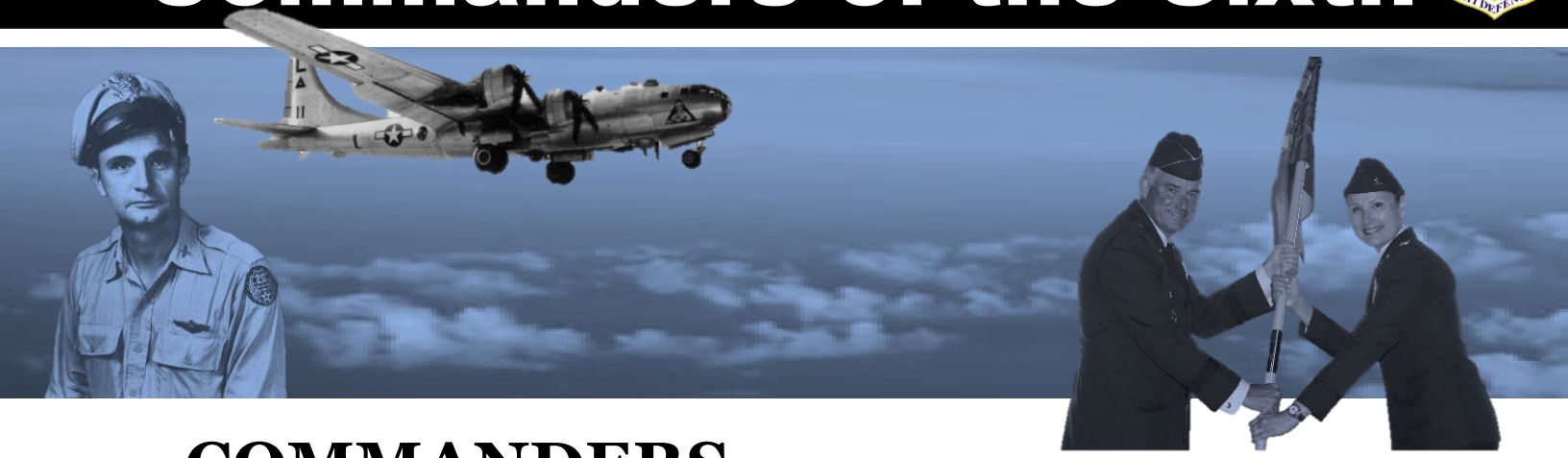
Commanders of the Sixth



COMMANDERS

Brief History of the 6th: The 6th Air Refueling Wing is the direct descendant of the 6th Bombardment Wing, which activated at Walker Air Force Base, New Mexico in 1951. There have been many changes to the wing's designation and location since then, which are reflected below.

A gap in the history of the 6th between 1951 and 1948 separates the current wing from its namesake predecessor, the 6th Bombardment Group, which served in the Pacific during World War II. The Air Force inactivated the old 6th during the mass demobilization following the war on Okinawa in October 1948.

Prior to that, the 6th Bombardment Group traced its roots back to the 3rd Observation Group, which was part of the fledgling aviation section of the U.S. Army following the First World War. The 3rd Observation Group was established on 30 September 1919 at France Field, Panama Canal Zone although it was not activated until two years later.

Today, the 6th Air Refueling Wing is the host wing at MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. It is part of Air Mobility Command's Eighteenth Air Force.

Colonel Edward V. Szczepanik is the current commander of the 6th Air Refueling Wing

PANAMA CANAL ZONE

France Field – Rio Hato AB –Albrook Field

1919 - 1940

3rd Observation Group (30 Sept 1919 – 13 Mar 1921)

Lieutenant Colonel Millard F. Harmon, Jr.	30 Sep 1919 – 22 Mar 1921

6th Group (Observation) (14 Mar 1921 – Jun 1922)

Lieutenant Colonel Millard F. Harmon, Jr.	14 Mar 1921 – 21 Mar 1921
Major Raycroft Walsh	22 Mar 1921 – Jun 1922

6th Group (Composite) (Jun 1922 – 24 Jan 1923)

Major Raycroft Walsh	Jun 1922 – 03 Aug 1923

6th Composite Group (25 Jan 1923 – 31 Aug 1937)

Major Follett Bradley	03 Aug 1923 – 10 Jul 1926
Major Roy M. Jones	10 Jul 1926 – 24 Aug 1926
Lieutenant Colonel Arthur G. Fisher	24 Aug 1926 – 23 Aug 1929
Colonel James A. Mars	Aug 1929 – Jul 1931
Major Leo G. Heffernan	04 Jul 1931 – 07 Dec 1931
Lieutenant Colonel Lewis H. Brereton	07 Dec 1931 – 20 Jun 1935
Lieutenant Colonel Junius H. Houghton	20 Jun 1935 – 18 Jul 1936
Lieutenant Colonel Richard H. Ballard	18 Jul 1936 – 31 Dec 1936

6th Bombardment Group (01 Sept 1937 – 05 Dec 1939)

Lieutenant Colonel William O. Butler	31 Dec 1936 – 09 Jun 1939
Lieutenant Colonel Vernon L. Burge	22 Jun 1939 – 29 Aug 1939

6th Bombardment Group, Medium (06 Dec 1939 – 11 Dec 1940)

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin J. House	30 Aug 1939 –1940
Major Samuel M. Connell	Sep 1940 – Feb 1941

WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Panama Canal – Nebraska – Tinian

1941 - 1948

6th Bombardment Group, Heavy (12 Dec 1940 – 01 Nov 1943):

Lieutenant Colonel William R. Sweeley	Mar 1941 – Sep 1941
Colonel Henry K. Mooney	15 Sep 1941 – 20 Jan 1943
Unknown	20 Jan 1943 – 01 Nov 1943
None (not manned)	01 Apr 1944 – 18 Apr 1944

6th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy (01 Apr 1944 – 18 Oct 1944):

Major William E. Taylor	19 Apr 1944
Lieutenant Colonel Howard D. Kenzie	28 Apr 1944
Colonel Kenneth H. Gibson	17 Jun 1944
Lieutenant Colonel Theodore W. Tucker	31 Aug 1945
Colonel John P. Kenney	29 Aug 1946
Colonel Frank P. Sturdivant	04 Dec 1946

WALKER AIR FORCE BASE

New Mexico

1951-1967

6th Bombardment Wing, Medium (2 Jan 1951 – 15 Jun 1952)

Colonel Thomas S. Jeffery, Jr	02 Jan 1951 – 15 Jan 1951

6th Bombardment Wing, Heavy (16 Jun 1952 – 30 Apr 1962)

Colonel William K. Martin	15 Jan 1951 – 20 May 1955
Colonel Glen W. Martin	20 May 1955 – 21 Sep 1956
Colonel Everett W. Best	21 Sep 1956 – 03 Jun 1957
Colonel Daniel V. MacDonald	03 Jun 1957 – 15 Aug 1957
Lieutenant Colonel Lewis R. Riley	15 Aug 1957 – 16 Sep 1957
Colonel Edwin C. Evans	16 Sep 1957 – 23 Sep 1957
Colonel Everett W. Best	23 Sep 1957 – 23 Feb 1960
Colonel Donald C. Hillman	23 Feb 1960 – 18 Jul 1962

6th Strategic Aerospace Wing (1 May 1962 – 24 Mar 1967)

Colonel Ernest C. Eddy	18 Jul 1962 – 15 Jul 1963
Colonel Floyd H. Haywood, Jr	15 Jul 1963 – 15 Apr 1965
Colonel Richard M. Hoban	15 Apr 1965 – 15 Jun 1965
Colonel Lester F. Miller	15 Jun 1965 – 09 Jul 1966
Colonel George P. Cole	09 Jul 1966 – 02 Sep 1966
Colonel Roland H. Worrell, Jr	02 Sep 1966 – 25 Mar 1967

EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE
Alaska
1967-1992

6th Strategic Wing (25 Mar 1967 – 31 Mar 1988)

Colonel Martin E. Plocher	25 Mar 1967 – 11 Jul 1967
Colonel Ray M. Watkins	11 Jul 1967 – 04 Jun 1969
Colonel Leslie W. Brockwell	04 Jun 1969 – 23 Jun 1970
Colonel Melford W. Lewis	23 Jun 1970 – 05 Jun 1972
Colonel Doyle E. Reynolds	05 Jun 1972 – 6 Dec 1973
Colonel Joe L. Church	06 Dec 1973 – 11 Jul 1974
Colonel William J. Campbell	11 Jul 1974 – 07 Oct 1975
Colonel Donald M. Griffin	07 Oct 1975 – 28 May 1976
Colonel Jimmy S. Lassetter	28 May 1976 – 04 Oct 1977
Colonel John A. Dale	04 Oct 1977 – 26 Nov 1979
Colonel William R. Perry	26 Nov 1979 – 20 Jul 1981
Colonel Benjamin F. Schneider, Jr	20 Jul 1981 – 29 Jul 1983
Colonel Mark J. Heller	29 Jul 1983 – 03 Oct 1984
Colonel James W. Morrow, Jr	03 Oct 1984 – 14 Jul 1986
Colonel Thomas W. Young	14 Jul 1986 – 18 Nov 1987

6th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing (1 Apr 1988 – 31 Aug 1992)

Colonel James L. Holmes, Jr	18 Nov 1987 – 10 Mar 1989
Colonel George R. Warner	10 Mar 1989 – 18 Jun 1990
Colonel William G. Manire, Jr	18 Jun 1990 – 13 Jun 1991
Colonel James E. Andrews	13 Jun 1991 – 30 Jul 1992
Lieutenant Colonel Danny G. Sprouse	31 Jul 1992 – 01 Sep 1992

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE
Florida
1994-Present

6th Air Base Wing (4 Jan 1994 – 30 Sept 1996):

Colonel Charles T. Ohlinger III	04 Jan 1994 – 28 Jun 1996

6th Air Refueling Wing (1 Oct 1996—31 Dec 2000):

Brigadier General John D. Becker	28 Jun 1996 – 21 Nov 1997
Brigadier General James N. Soligan	21 Nov 1997 – 30 Jun 1999
Brigadier General Arthur F. Diehl III	30 Jun 1999 – 01 Aug 2001

6th Air Mobility Wing (1 Jan 2001—29 Sep 2019):

Brigadier General Wayne W. Hodges	01 Aug 2001 – 10 Jan 2003
Brigadier General David M. Snyder	10 Jan 2003 – 03 Feb 2005
Colonel Margaret H. Woodward	03 Feb 2005 – 26 Mar 2007
Colonel Robert D. Thomas	26 Mar 2007 – 08 Sept 2008
Colonel Lawrence M. Martin, Jr.	08 Sep 2008 – 09 Jul 2010
Colonel Lenny J. Richoux	09 Jul 2010 – 27 Jul 2012
Colonel Scott V. DeThomas	27 Jul 2012 – 08 Aug 2014
Colonel Daniel H. Tulley	08 Aug 2014 – 08 Jul 2016
Colonel April D. Vogel	08 Jul 2016 – 29 Jun 2018
Colonel Stephen P. Snelson	29 Jun 2018 – 20 May 2020

6th Air Refueling Wing (30 Sep 2019—Present):

Colonel Benjamin S. Robins	20 May 2020 – 04 Aug 2020
Colonel Benjamin R. Jonsson	04 Aug 2020 – 29 Jul 2022
Colonel Adam D. Bingham	29 Jul 2022 – 02 Aug 2024
Colonel Edward V. Szczepanik	02 Aug 2024 – Present