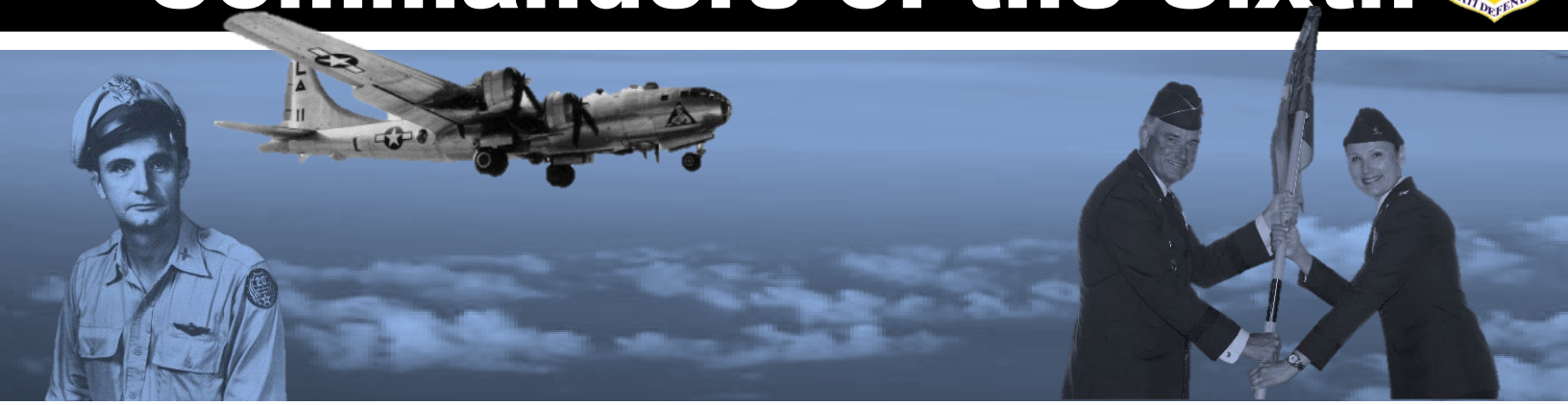


Commanders of the Sixth



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 Kevin Eley 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.

Major Raycroft Walsh

14 Mar 1921 – 21 Mar 1921

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

Major Roy M. Jones

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur G. Fisher

Colonel James A. Mars

Major Leo G. Heffernan

Lieutenant Colonel Lewis H. Brereton

Lieutenant Colonel Junius H. Houghton

Lieutenant Colonel Richard H. Ballard

03 Aug 1923 – 10 Jul 1926

10 Jul 1926 – 24 Aug 1926

24 Aug 1926 – 23 Aug 1929

Aug 1929 – Jul 1931

04 Jul 1931 – 07 Dec 1931

07 Dec 1931 – 20 Jun 1935

20 Jun 1935 – 18 Jul 1936

18 Jul 1936 – 31 Dec 1936

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

Lieutenant Colonel William O. Butler

Lieutenant Colonel Vernon L. Burge

31 Dec 1936 – 09 Jun 1939

22 Jun 1939 – 29 Aug 1939

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

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin J. House

Major Samuel M. Connell

30 Aug 1939 – 1940

Sep 1940 – Feb 1941



WAR IN THE PACIFIC

Panama Canal – Nebraska – Tinian

1937 - 1948

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

Lieutenant Colonel William R. Sweeley

Colonel Henry K. Mooney

Unknown

None (not manned)

Mar 1941 – Sep 1941

15 Sep 1941 – 20 Jan 1943

20 Jan 1943 – 01 Nov 1943

01 Apr 1944 – 18 Apr 1944

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

Major William E. Taylor

Lieutenant Colonel Howard D. Kenzie

Colonel Kenneth H. Gibson

Lieutenant Colonel Theodore W. Tucker

Colonel John P. Kenney

Colonel Frank P. Sturdivant

19 Apr 1944

28 Apr 1944

17 Jun 1944

31 Aug 1945

29 Aug 1946

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 1963

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
Colonel Ray M. Watkins
Colonel Leslie W. Brockwell
Colonel Melford W. Lewis
Colonel Doyle E. Reynolds
Colonel Joe L. Church
Colonel William J. Campbell
Colonel Donald M. Griffin
Colonel Jimmy S. Lassetter
Colonel John A. Dale
Colonel William R. Perry
Colonel Benjamin F. Schneider, Jr
Colonel Mark J. Heller
Colonel James W. Morrow, Jr
Colonel Thomas W. Young

25 Mar 1967 – 11 Jul 1967
11 Jul 1967 – 04 Jun 1969
04 Jun 1969 – 23 Jun 1970
23 Jun 1970 – 05 Jun 1972
05 Jun 1972 – 6 Dec 1973
06 Dec 1973 – 11 Jul 1974
11 Jul 1974 – 07 Oct 1975
07 Oct 1975 – 28 May 1976
28 May 1976 – 04 Oct 1977
04 Oct 1977 – 26 Nov 1979
26 Nov 1979 – 20 Jul 1981
20 Jul 1981 – 29 Jul 1983
29 Jul 1983 – 03 Oct 1984
03 Oct 1984 – 14 Jul 1986
14 Jul 1986 – 18 Nov 1987

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

Colonel James L. Holmes, Jr
Colonel George R. Warner
Colonel William G. Manire, Jr
Colonel James E. Andrews
Lieutenant Colonel Danny G. Sprouse

18 Nov 1987 – 10 Mar 1989
10 Mar 1989 – 18 Jun 1990
18 Jun 1990 – 13 Jun 1991
13 Jun 1991 – 30 Jul 1992
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

Brigadier General James N. Soligan

Brigadier General Arthur F. Diehl III

28 Jun 1996 – 21 Nov 1997

21 Nov 1997 – 30 Jun 1999

30 Jun 1999 – 01 Aug 2001

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

Brigadier General Wayne W. Hodges

Brigadier General David M. Snyder

Colonel Margaret H. Woodward

Colonel Robert D. Thomas

Colonel Lawrence M. Martin, Jr.

Colonel Lenny J. Richoux

Colonel Scott V. DeThomas

Colonel Daniel H. Tulley

Colonel April D. Vogel

Colonel Stephen P. Snelson

01 Aug 2001 – 10 Jan 2003

10 Jan 2003 – 03 Feb 2005

03 Feb 2005 – 26 Mar 2007

26 Mar 2007 – 08 Sept 2008

08 Sep 2008 – 09 Jul 2010

09 Jul 2010 – 27 Jul 2012

27 Jul 2012 – 08 Aug 2014

08 Aug 2014 – 07 Jul 2016

08 Jul 2016 – 28 Jun 2018

29 Jun 2018 – 20 May 2020

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

Colonel Benjamin S. Robins

Colonel Benjamin R. Jonsson

Colonel Adam D. Bingham

Colonel Edward V. Szczepanik

Colonel Kevin H. Eley

20 May 2020 – 04 Aug 2020

04 Aug 2020 – 28 Jul 2022

29 Jul 2022 – 02 Aug 2024

02 Aug 2024 – 10 Jul 2026

10 Jul 2026 – Present