

Col. Thomas D. Torkelson

100th Air Refueling Wing Commander

Colonel Thomas D. Torkelson is the commander of the 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom, supporting four USAF MAJCOM flying programs and more than 16,800 military, civilian, dependent, and retiree personnel. With 15 KC-135 aircraft, the wing is the only permanently assigned air refueling operation in the European theater.

Colonel Torkelson received his commission in 1992 after graduating from the United States Air Force Academy. As a command pilot, his flying career includes service as an instructor and evaluator in both the KC-135R and the C-21A. Colonel Torkelson deployed to U-Tapao, Thailand, in the immediate aftermath of September 11, 2001, where he participated in the initial air bridge bringing first-strike bombers into the Afghan theater. He also acted as Commander of the 351st Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron during Operation Unified Protector in 2011, standing up NATO's forward operating tanker base at Istres, France.



Sqn. Ldr. Rick Fryer

Royal Air Force Commander

Squadron Leader Richard (Rick) Fryer is the Royal Air Force Station Commander for RAF Mildenhall. As Station Commander, Squadron Leader Fryer is responsible for advising the 100th Air Refueling Wing commander and partner unit commanders on all aspects of United Kingdom policy, protocol and regulations. Squadron Leader Fryer is vested with the status, disciplinary powers and responsibilities as Commanding Officer, and is Head of Establishment for all RAF personnel and Ministry of Defence civilians employed at RAF Mildenhall.



Promoted to squadron leader in 1989, he was appointed as DSATCO RAF Wildenrath, completing the balance of this tour from 1990, after the 'fall' of the Berlin Wall, as SATCO, finally closing the airfield in August 1992, following the reunification of Germany. Thereafter he served as SATCO RAF Coltishall before undertaking staff duties at HQ Military Air Traffic Operations. Posted to the Directorate of Reserve Forces in the RAF PMA in 1998, he moved 'sideways' upon disbandment of the Directorate, to head the Reserve Forces Personnel Policy area until 2002.

Returning to an in-branch appointment in early 2002, Squadron Leader Fryer was posted to RAF Cottesmore as Squadron Leader Operations followed, in August 2004, by a posting to RAF Wyton as Squadron Leader Operations and OC Force Development Squadron.

RAF Mildenhall - Fast Facts

Assigned Aircraft:

KC-135R, MC-130J, CV-22 and RC-135

Size of Installation: 1,162 acres

Length of Runway: 9,221 Feet

Population:

About 3,100 U.S. military and 3,000 Family Members

About 800 Civilians (MOD, LNDH, NAF and U.S.)



Did you know?

In Fiscal Year 2014, the 100th Air Refueling Wing flew 1,575 missions totaling 8,296 hours – which means we were in the air for more than 345 days. During these missions the 100th ARW refueled 5,463 U.S. and coalition aircraft with 58.2 million pounds of fuel.

A gas station pump operating for 24 hours wouldn't pump as much fuel as a KC-135R pours through its boom in eight minutes.

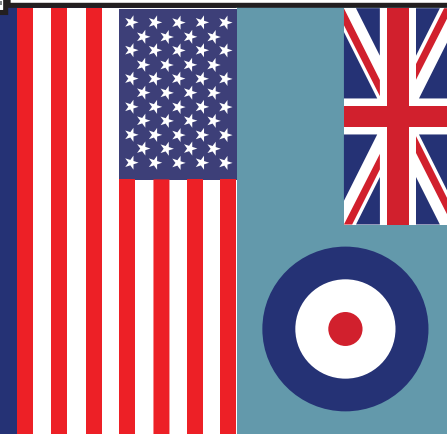
Enough material is contained in the tires of the KC-135R landing gear to produce 100 car tires.

If you would like to contact RAF Mildenhall by phone or mail, please direct your questions and comments to:

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Visit the RAF Mildenhall web site at:
www.mildenhall.af.mil

Royal Air Force MILDENHALL



Since Oct. 16, 1934, when it officially opened, RAF Mildenhall has been at the center of aviation for the air forces of the United Kingdom and the United States. During World War II, RAF Mildenhall was home to British Wellington, Stirling and Lancaster bombers flying combat missions to Europe. In more than 8,000 sorties, nearly 28,000 tons of bombs were dropped over Germany by RAF Mildenhall bombers.

After World War II, Mildenhall crews returned repatriated prisoners of war to their homelands and ferried supplies to help rebuild war-ravaged Germany.



The United States Air Force presence here dates back to 1950, when the outbreak of the Korean War precipitated the deployment of B-29s to RAF Mildenhall.

Since then, the base has been home to many missions and aircraft, including the U-2, SR-71, C-130 and EC-135. KC-135 Stratotankers have maintained a permanent presence here since 1976.

Proud heritage...

What makes today's RAF Mildenhall different from other U.S. Air Force bases is the diversity of the units assigned here. With units from four different major commands, we have a wide variety of missions occurring simultaneously and requiring constant coordination and teamwork. Due to this unique relationship, we refer to ourselves as **"Team Mildenhall."**

Bold horizons



100th Air Refueling Wing RAF Mildenhall's current host wing and the only permanent U.S. air refueling wing in the European theater, was activated on Feb. 1, 1992. The wing provides a critical air refueling "bridge," allowing Expeditionary Air Forces to deploy around the globe on a moment's notice.

488th Intelligence Squadron (Air Combat Command)
- The 488th IS is responsible for a variety of missions that support tactical war-fighters and national-level decision makers. The squadron provides tactical intelligence support to the U.S., NATO and allied forces.

727th Air Mobility Squadron (Air Mobility Command)
- The 727th AMS provides air mobility support for Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia. The squadron operates the only aerial port for all passengers and cargo entering and leaving the United Kingdom and directs the operation of aircraft providing air mobility support in-country.

352nd Special Operations Wing (Air Force Special Operations Command) - EUCOM's air component for special operations. Under the operational control of Special Operations Command Europe, the group conducts infiltration, exfiltration, and resupply operations in hostile or denied territory under night, adverse weather conditions in support of Secretary of Defense - directed contingency operations.moment's notice.

95th Reconnaissance Squadron (Air Combat Command)
- The 95th RS operations, maintenance, intelligence and administrative personnel provide European and Mediterranean reconnaissance, real-time intelligence, information warfare and combat support to national-level leadership and war-fighting commanders, while responding to various 55th Wing missions worldwide. They execute missions using RC-135 aircraft and support the OC-135 Open Skies and WC-135 Constant Phoenix missions while in theater.

UK Component of United States Air Forces in Europe
- As a forward detachment of USAFE in the United Kingdom, USAFE-UK provides Higher Headquarters staff support for U.S. Air Force units within the UK. Additionally, USAFE-UK provides direct support to EUCOM, NATO, USAFE, and U.S. government agencies with thorough planning and partnering with the UK. Finally, USAFE-UK serves as the single point of contact for her majesty's government on all U.S. military matters in the United Kingdom.